

THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION, JAY.

GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH ALL OF YOU TONIGHT FOR THE 76TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF HISTORY MIAMI.

I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL OF THE GOOD THAT THE MUSEUM DOES FOR OUR COMMUNITY. AND THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TO HONOR THE MUSEUM AND THE WORK THAT PEOPLE LIKE MR. PHILLIP HUDSON III HAVE DONE TO MOVE HISTORY MIAMI FORWARD.

MIAMI IS A RELATIVELY YOUNG CITY, BUT DESPITE OUR YOUTH, WE HAVE AN AMAZING HISTORY, DON'T WE? AND THIS AMAZING HISTORY DESERVES TO BE TOLD AND PRESERVED BY ALL OF US WHO CALL MIAMI HOME.

AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE INSTITUTIONS LIKE HISTORY MIAMI THAT ALLOW US TO KEEP MIAMI'S HISTORY ALIVE.

AS YOU ALL KNOW, IT WAS NOT FAR FROM HERE WHERE PEOPLE LIKE HENRY FLAGLER AND JULIA TUTTLE JOINED OTHERS TO START THE FOUNDATIONS OF WHAT MIAMI IS TODAY.

THAT'S AN IMPORTANT POINT.

WHEN WE LOOK OUTSIDE, WE CAN SEE JUST HOW FAR MIAMI HAS COME.

AND OUR GROWTH, ESPECIALLY IN DOWNTOWN MIAMI, HAS BEEN FUELED IN LARGE PART BY OUR COMMUNITY'S GREAT CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, LIKE HISTORY MIAMI.

AND WHILE IT'S IMPORTANT TO HONOR OUR PAST, AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FAMOUS MIAMIANS, LIKE HENRY FLAGLER AND JULIA TUTTLE, WE MUST ENCOURAGE ALL MIAMIANS TO COME TOGETHER TO TELL OUR STORY OF MIAMI AS IT EVOLVES AND BECOMES INCREASINGLY DIVERSE.

OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE ARE ALL IMPORTANT POINTS OF DEPARTURE IN OUR COMMUNITY'S STORY – AND SO IS OUR DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCE.

YOU KNOW, I'M REALLY IMPRESSED BY THE WORK THAT HISTORY MIAMI HAS DONE, AND THE GREAT COLLECTIONS OF STORIES YOU'VE CREATED SO WE MAY ALL ENJOY, AND LEARN FROM OUR HISTORY.

AND I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR HELPING US KEEP THE MIAMI STORY GOING FOR THIS GENERATION AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MIAMIANS.

I ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK MR. HUDSON FOR ALL THAT HE HAS DONE FOR OUR COMMUNITY DURING THE PREVIOUS EIGHT YEARS HE SERVED ON HISTORY MIAMI MUSEUM'S BOARD.

UNDER MR. HUDSON'S LEADERSHIP AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, THE MUSEUM MORE THAN DOUBLED ITS SIZE WITH THE EXPANSION INTO THE FORMER MIAMI ART MUSEUM, NOW KNOWN AS THE SOUTH BUILDING.

THAT EXPANSION CREATED 120 PERCENT MORE EXHIBITION SPACE, AND PROPELLED HISTORY MIAMI TO THE RANK OF THE LARGEST HISTORY MUSEUM IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

MR. HUDSON'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO HISTORY MIAMI MUSEUM'S VISION OF "EXPLORING OUR PAST TO INSPIRE OUR FUTURE" DEMONSTRATES HIS DEDICATION TO PRESERVING THE RICH HISTORY OF SOUTH FLORIDA.

FOR THESE REASONS AND MORE, IT'S MY HONOR TO PRESENT MR. HUDSON WITH THIS PROCLAMATION.

LET'S GIVE MR. HUDSON AND ALL OF HISTORY MIAMI A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR INVITING ME TONIGHT.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE INCOMING BOARD CHAIR, AND ALL OF YOU, TO PRESERVE AND TELL OUR MIAMI-DADE STORIES.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU, AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

THANK YOU.

