

GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU ALL TODAY AT THIS SPECIAL EVENT, AND TO HELP ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE DOING GREAT WORK IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD CANCER.

I'VE KNOWN THE RODRIGUEZ-TORRES FAMILY FOR SOME TIME, AND LIKE ALL OF US MIAMIANS, MY FAMILY FOLLOWED BELLA'S STORY AND INSPIRATIONAL BATTLE WITH CANCER FOR YEARS.

BELLA'S LIFE AND LEGACY HAS LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON THE WORLD, BUT EVEN MORE SO IN OUR COMMUNITY. THE WAY SHE CARRIED HER LIFE DESPITE ANY CHALLENGE SHE FACED INSPIRED SO MANY TO "LIVE LIKE BELLA."

PERHAPS BELLA'S GREATEST LEGACY WAS THAT SHE ALWAYS DEMONSTRATED GREATER CONCERN FOR OTHERS THAN WHAT SHE FACED IN HER OWN BATTLE WITH CANCER. IT'S THAT VERY SPIRIT THAT HAS INSPIRED THE "LIVE LIKE BELLA"

MOVEMENT, AND THE GREAT WORK THAT'S BEING DONE TO BATTLE CHILDHOOD CANCER.

THE RODRIGUEZ-TORRES FAMILY AND THE FOUNDATION HAVE CHOSEN TO TURN THE PAIN OF LOSING BELLA INTO MEANINGFUL PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD CANCER. AND TODAY, WE COME TOGETHER TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS CONTINUED EFFORT AND THE MANY WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TOWARD IT.

THE LIVE LIKE BELLA FOUNDATION HAS NOT ONLY DONE MANY IMPRESSIVE THINGS TO ADVANCE RESEARCH FOR CANCER IN THE LAST 3 YEARS, BUT THEY HAVE ALSO ASSISTED FAMILIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THEY'VE BEEN THERE FOR OTHER FAMILIES WHEN THEIR CHILDREN HAVE BEEN UNDERGOING TREATMENT. AND THEY'VE BEEN THERE DURING THOSE TRAGIC TIMES WHEN THOSE FAMILIES' CHILDREN HAVE PASSED AWAY FROM CANCER.

CREATING AWARENESS OF CHILDHOOD CANCER IS SO VERY IMPORTANT. AND IT'S IMPORTANT THAT

WE NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THESE VERY SOBERING FACTS:

EVERY 3 MINUTES, SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD, A CHILD IS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER.

EVERY DAY IN THE UNITED STATES, 46 CHILDREN ARE DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER. FOR PERSPECTIVE, JUST PICTURE TWO CLASSROOMS FILLED WITH CHILDREN.

AND EVERY DAY IN THE UNITED STATES, SEVEN CHILDREN DIE FROM CANCER. SADLY, IT'S THE #1 KILLER OF CHILDREN.

THAT'S WHY THE WORK OF THE LIVE LIKE BELLA FOUNDATION IS SO CRUCIAL, AND WHY WE MUST CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IT. DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE EACH HAVE OUR UNIQUE SET OF CHALLENGES AND CIRCUMSTANCES, SO MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY HAVE ALL COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THIS WORTHY CAUSE.

IN ADDITION TO WHAT I'VE MENTIONED, THERE'S CURRENTLY A DRAFT BILL TITLED "THE CHILDHOOD CANCER COLLABORATION ACT," ALSO KNOWN AS

“THE BELLA BILL,” WHICH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE CITY OF MIAMI PASSED RESOLUTIONS URGING CONGRESS TO PASS JUST LAST YEAR.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE NEED TO CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN HAVE A FAIR OPPORTUNITY AT NEW, INNOVATIVE AND LESS-TOXIC TREATMENTS FOR CANCER.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT MIAMI-DADE IS LEADING THE CHARGE FOR BECAUSE IT WILL BENEFIT GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

BELLA GAVE US ALL A GREAT EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW, AND I’M PROUD THAT WE’RE ALL WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHER CHILDREN BATTLING CANCER.

I KNOW OUR HOPE IS TO SEE THE DAY WHEN CHILDHOOD CANCER IS A TREATABLE AND CURABLE DISEASE.

NEXT SATURDAY, MAY 28TH, WE -- AND MANY AROUND THE WORLD -- WILL REFLECT ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF BELLA'S PASSING.

WHILE HER LOSS TO OUR COMMUNITY AND TO HER FAMILY IS VERY SIGNIFICANT, HER LEGACY LIVES ON THROUGH THE GREAT WORK OF THE LIVE LIKE BELLA FOUNDATION.

SO, IN RECOGNITION OF THIS, IT'S MY PLEASURE AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION...

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND MAY WE ALL LIVE LIKE BELLA!

