

**THANK YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION, COMMISSIONER LEVINE CAVA, AND MY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME.**

***GRACIAS A TODOS. MÈSI, TOUT MOUN.***

**BEFORE I BEGIN, I'M ASKING FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE RECENT TRAGEDIES THAT HAVE SHAKEN OUR COMMUNITY – SPECIFICALLY, THE SHOOTINGS AT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL PARK IN LIBERTY CITY, AND AT FORT LAUDERDALE AIRPORT IN BROWARD COUNTY.**

**LET'S TAKE A MOMENT, PLEASE.**

**THANK YOU.**

**VICE CHAIRWOMAN AUDREY EDMONSON, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER WHO REPRESENTS LIBERTY CITY, IS HERE WITH US THIS MORNING.**

**I WAS AT THE M.L.K. DAY PARADE THE MORNING BEFORE THE SHOOTING THAT HAPPENED IN THE PARK. SEEING OUR CHILDREN LAUGHING AND PLAYING TOGETHER JUST HOURS BEFORE THIS TRAGEDY, AND THEN HAVING THEIR HAPPINESS**

**TAKEN FROM THEM BECAUSE OF ANOTHER SENSELESS ACT OF VIOLENCE, IS UNACCEPTABLE.**

**I AM THE MAYOR OF ALL OF MIAMI-DADE, AND WHEN VIOLENCE STRIKES ONE OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, IT AFFECTS ALL OF US. AND YOU HAVE MY WORD, VICE CHAIRWOMAN EDMONSON, THAT WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO FIND A SOLUTION TO GUN VIOLENCE.**

**AND WE WILL OVERCOME THESE CHALLENGES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. BECAUSE, AS WE HAVE PROVED, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, WE HAVE A STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY.**

**AND IT REALLY IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE YOUR MAYOR.**

**AND IT'S ALSO A PRIVILEGE TO BE WITH ALL OF YOU HERE IN SOUTH MIAMI-DADE.**

**MAYOR PEGGY BELL, MY THANKS TO YOU AND THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR HOSTING US IN CUTLER BAY.**

**I'M HOPING EVERYBODY HAD A CHANCE TO ENJOY THE PHOTOS OF SOUTH DADE THAT OUR COMMUNICATIONS TEAM PUT TOGETHER. WEREN'T THEY BEAUTIFUL?**

**LET'S GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

**THOSE PHOTOS SHOW JUST HOW MUCH SOUTH DADE CONTINUES TO GROW AND WHAT A GREAT PLACE THIS IS TO LIVE, WORK, PLAY AND RAISE A FAMILY.**

**WE'RE IN COUNTY COMMISSIONER LEVINE CAVA'S DISTRICT THIS MORNING, AND I WANT TO THANK HER FOR ALL THE GREAT WORK SHE'S DONE FOR OUR SOUTH-DADE RESIDENTS.**

**YOU KNOW, PART OF SOUTH DADE IS ALSO IN COMMISSIONER MOSS'S DISTRICT. SO WE HAVE HIM -- ONE OF THE DEANS OF OUR COUNTY COMMISSION, WHO WAS FIRST ELECTED IN 1993 -- TO THANK AS WELL FOR ALL THE GREAT PROGRESS. INCLUDING THE SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER HE SPENT YEARS ADVOCATING FOR AS PART OF HIS PLAN TO REVITALIZE AFTER HURRICANE ANDREW.**

**I ACTUALLY WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK ALL OF OUR 13 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND 26,000 COUNTY EMPLOYEES.**

**I'D ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE ALL OF THE ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S 34 MUNICIPALITIES WHO ARE WORKING**

**ALONGSIDE US TO BUILD AN EVEN BETTER MIAMI-  
DADE -- AND AN EVEN BETTER SOUTH FLORIDA – FOR  
EVERY SINGLE ONE OF OUR 2.7 MILLION RESIDENTS.**

**ALL THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN THE LAST YEAR –  
AND ALL THAT WE WILL ACHIEVE TOGETHER IN THE  
NEW YEAR AHEAD -- WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE  
WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT.**

**I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE  
CONSULAR CORPS WHO ARE WITH US THIS  
MORNING. THANK YOU FOR REPRESENTING YOUR  
COUNTRIES IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**AND I'D LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS  
HELPED SET THE STAGE FOR THIS ADDRESS:**

**FATHER TRAN AND RABBI KAPLOUN -- THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR MOVING INVOCATIONS.**

**I ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO  
THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND THE  
CENTER'S STAFF FOR PROVIDING US WITH THIS  
BEAUTIFUL SPACE FOR TODAY'S STATE OF THE  
COUNTY ADDRESS.**

**SKIP, THANK YOU FOR SERVING AS OUR EMCEE,  
AND THANK YOU TO LORETTA MARSICANO FOR**

**THAT WONDERFUL RENDITION OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.**

**I HAVE SOME PRETTY TOUGH ACTS TO FOLLOW THIS MORNING. I WANT TO THANK THE STUDENTS FROM SOMERSET ACADEMY SOUTH HOMESTEAD ELEMENTARY AND PINE VILLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WHO LED US IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**AND I WANT TO GIVE A SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT TO THE STUDENTS FROM GUITARS OVER GUNS WHO HAVE PERFORMED FOR US THIS MORNING: VOCALIST SANTAMARIE AROCHO, RODY LAFRANCE ON GUITAR, AND JUNIOR PIERRE ON BASS.**

**GUITARS OVER GUNS IS A VERY SPECIAL PROGRAM THAT WAS STARTED IN 2008 AT NORTH MIAMI MIDDLE SCHOOL BY CHAD BERNSTEIN, AND OPERATES TODAY IN 10 COMMUNITY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SITES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.**

**THANK YOU TO CHAD AND GUITARS OVER GUNS, AS WELL AS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER JONO DE LEON -- WHO IS ALSO HERE WITH US THIS MORNING -- FOR MAKING MIAMI-DADE A BETTER PLACE FOR YOUNG**

**PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. LET'S GIVE THEM A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

**I THINK YOU ALL KNOW HOW IMPORTANT MY FAMILY IS TO ME, AND I'M SO BLESSED TO HAVE THEIR LOVE, THEIR SUPPORT AND THEIR PATIENCE.**

**MY WIFE OF 41 YEARS, LOURDES, OUR THREE CHILDREN, OUR SIX GRANDCHILDREN, MY SISTER, MY NIECES AND NEPHEWS, MY COUSINS... EVERYBODY WHO'S HERE...**

**I WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY IF IT WEREN'T FOR THEM. SO, MY THANKS TO MY FAMILY FOR ALLOWING ME TO SERVE THIS COMMUNITY AGAIN, AND FOR KEEPING ME GROUNDED.**

**FINALLY, I HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY FATHER, CARLOS, AND MY LATE MOTHER, MITZI. THIS IS MY FIRST STATE OF THE COUNTY WITHOUT HER.**

**THAT'S HARD ... BUT, I KNOW THAT SHE'S WATCHING US FROM ABOVE TODAY.**

**MOM, DAD, AND MY ENTIRE FAMILY: I LOVE YOU ALL VERY MUCH.**

**THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME TO BE YOUR MAYOR, AND I WANT TO THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE HONOR OF SERVING YOU FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS.**

**IT'S A NEW YEAR WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD OF US.**

**WE HAVE A NEW COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN – STEVE BOVO -- AND A NEW VICE CHAIRWOMAN – AUDREY EDMONSON ... WE ALSO HAVE COMMISSIONER JOE MARTINEZ BACK -- SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF DISTRICT 11.**

**MY FELLOW RESIDENTS, THE STATE OF OUR COUNTY IS STRONGER THAN IT'S BEEN IN THE PAST DECADE.**

**AND THE PROOF THAT WE'RE STRONGER IS IN ALL THAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER OVER THE LAST YEAR, AND ALL THAT WE'VE DONE – FOR ALL MIAMIANS.**

**ES UN HONOR PARA MI SERVIRLES COMO ALCALDE POR CUATRO AÑOS MÁS. ES UN NUEVO AÑO CON NUEVAS OPORTUNIDADES PARA TODOS.**

**Y EL ESTADO DEL CONDADO ES SÓLIDO!**

**OUR BUDGET IS SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND FORWARD-LOOKING. IN FACT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FIVE YEARS, WE WERE ABLE TO REWARD COUNTY EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR PAST SACRIFICES AND HARD WORK BY AWARDING A 4 PERCENT ACROSS-THE-BOARD COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT IN 2016.**

**MY THANKS TO DEPUTY MAYOR ED MARQUEZ AND BUDGET DIRECTOR JENNIFER MOON FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AS WE WORKED TO GET MIAMI-DADE'S FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER.**

**AT 5 PERCENT, OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS THE LOWEST IT'S BEEN SINCE I WAS FIRST ELECTED IN 2011. DOWN FROM AROUND 10 PERCENT, ACTUALLY.**

**AND ALTHOUGH LOCAL GOVERNMENT DOES HIRE PEOPLE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE, ITS MAIN PURPOSE IS TO HELP OUR RESIDENTS PROSPER ... WHICH INCLUDES CREATING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO GENERATE ECONOMIC GROWTH. WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL AT THIS, SO THE LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS SOMETHING ALL OF OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT CAN TAKE PRIDE IN.**

**THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS CREATED MORE THAN 168,000 JOBS SINCE 2011, AND OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS CONTINUED TO OUTPACE OUR POPULATION GROWTH ... WHICH IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT MIAMI-DADE IS A COMMUNITY BUSINESSES WOULD LIKE TO GROW IN.**

**AND THANKS IN PART TO THE WORK OF DEPUTY MAYOR JACK OSTERHOLT AND HIS TEAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES, OUR ECONOMY IS ABOUT TO GET EVEN STRONGER.**

**NBCUNIVERSAL TELEMUNDO ENTERPRISES IS MAKING OUR ECONOMY EVEN STRONGER BY BUILDING ITS \$250 MILLION GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS RIGHT HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. TELEMUNDO IS COMMITTING TO CREATING 150 NEW PERMANENT JOBS, IN ADDITION TO THE 800 THE COMPANY ALREADY EMPLOYS HERE, AND APPROXIMATELY 3,000 ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION JOBS.**

**FED-EX IS ALSO CONSTRUCTING A NEW BUILDING, JUST NORTH OF THE HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE**

**BASE. THAT FACILITY IS EXPECTED TO OPEN LATER THIS YEAR AND IS PROJECTED TO BRING A MINIMUM OF 50 NEW PERMANENT JOBS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATIONS.**

**MY THANKS TO BOTH OF THESE GREAT COMPANIES FOR INVESTING IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. AND I WANT TO GIVE A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALFREDO RICHARD FROM NBCUNIVERSAL TELEMUNDO ENTREPRISES FOR BEING WITH US TODAY AND REPRESENTING HIS COMPANY.**

**WE EXPECT TO MAKE ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THIS TYPE LATER ON THIS YEAR.**

**LA TASA DE DESEMPLEO ACTUAL DE 5 PORCIENTO ES LA MÁS BAJA DESDE QUE FUI ELECTO ALCALDE Y PIENSO QUE DEBEMOS SENTIRNOS MUY ORGULLOSOS.**

**PORQUE HEMOS PODIDO CREAR LAS CONDICIONES PARA QUE SE GENEREN UNOS CIENTO SESENTA Y OCHO MIL EMPLEOS EN EL SECTOR PRIVADO DESDE EL 2011.**

**ES UNA SEÑAL MÁS QUE MIAMI-DADE ES LA COMUNIDAD EN LA QUE MUCHOS NEGOCIOS QUIEREN CRECER.**

**COMPAÑIAS COMO FEDEX AQUÍ MISMO EN SOUTH DADE Y NBC UNIVERSAL TELEMUNDO ENTERPRISES EN CONJUNTO, CREARÁN CIENTOS DE NUEVOS EMPLEOS.**

**I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE BEACON COUNCIL, OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, FOR ALL THEY DO TO KEEP OUR LOCAL ECONOMY GOING STRONG.**

**AND WITH COMMISSIONER SOSA CHAIRING THE COUNTY'S NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE, I KNOW OUR ECONOMY WILL CONTINUE TO GROW EVEN STRONGER.**

**AND WHILE OUR ECONOMY IS STRONGER THAN IT'S BEEN IN QUITE SOME TIME, THIS YEAR HAS NOT BEEN WITHOUT ITS CHALLENGES.**

**IN CHINESE ASTROLOGY, 2016 MAY HAVE BEEN THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY ... BUT FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, IT WAS DEFINITELY THE YEAR OF THE MOSQUITO.**

**AS DEPUTY MAYOR ALINA HUDAK KNOWS ALL TOO WELL...**

**ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, WE WERE THE FIRST COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD ... LET ME REPEAT THAT ... THE FIRST COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF LOCAL TRANSMISSION OF THE ZIKA VIRUS.**

**NOT JUST ONCE, BUT FOUR TIMES -- IN WYNWOOD, SOUTH MIAMI BEACH, NORTH MIAMI BEACH, AND THE LITTLE RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE CITY OF MIAMI.**

**THAT'S NO SMALL FEAT. SO, I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE OUR ENTIRE TEAM AT MOSQUITO CONTROL, WHO WORKED DAY AND NIGHT DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE SEASON, TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE FROM THE SPREAD OF THE ZIKA VIRUS.**

**AND I ESPECIALLY WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES WHO WENT ABOVE AND**

**BEYOND TO PUT SERVICE ABOVE THEMSELVES THIS MOSQUITO SEASON: CHALMERS VAZQUEZ, LEE CASEY, PAUL MAURIELLO, AIMEE CABRERA AND GAYLE LOVE -- PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.**

**FIGHTING ZIKA WAS AN ALL-HANDS-ON-DECK EFFORT, SO I ALSO WANT TO THANK OUR SENIOR MANAGEMENT, STAFF FROM MULTIPLE OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS – LIKE WATER AND SEWER, TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS, AND PARKS – AND NUMEROUS CONTRACTORS FOR STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE. I ALSO WANT TO THANK OUR ENTIRE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR SUPPORTING THE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES NECESSARY TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE FROM THE SPREAD OF THE ZIKA VIRUS.**

**WE CAN BE PROUD THAT OUR MOSQUITO CONTROL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED. IN FACT, *THE NEW YORK TIMES* RECENTLY REPORTED, AND I QUOTE, THAT “MIAMI IS THE ONE PLACE THAT RESPONDED EFFECTIVELY...OTHERS WERE MEDIOCRE OR POOR.”**

**AND EVEN WITH THE CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY ZIKA, WE HAD A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR IN**

**TOURISM. THANKS TO THE EXCEPTIONAL EFFORTS OF BILL TALBERT AND HIS TEAM AT THE GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ALSO BROKE RECORDS FOR OVERNIGHT VISITORS, TOO – WELCOMING 15.8 MILLION PEOPLE TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**THAT’S A TWO PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.**

**I DO WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT DESPITE OUR SUCCESS IN BREAKING THE CYCLE OF LOCAL TRANSMISSION, WE MUST CONTINUE TO REMAIN VIGILANT. WE MAY BE IN THE OFF SEASON, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN OUR WORK IS OVER.**

**FAR FROM IT.**

**WE’RE GOING TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION TO EXPLORE NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL. AND ARE HOPEFUL THAT A VACCINE WILL BE DEVELOPED IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS OR SO.**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY’S TWO LARGEST ECONOMIC ENGINES -- MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND**

**PORTMIAMI -- BOTH HAD RECORD-BREAKING YEARS ONCE AGAIN.**

**UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DIRECTOR EMILIO GONZALEZ, M.I.A. WELCOMED 44.5 MILLION TRAVELERS, AND BROKE RECORDS FOR AIR PASSENGER TRAFFIC FOR THE SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR.**

**M.I.A. ALSO ADDED 10 NEW AIRLINES AND WELCOMED THE FIRST NON-STOP PASSENGER TRIP FROM ASIA TO MIAMI.**

**AND NOT TO BE OUTDONE, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DIRECTOR JUAN KURLA, PORTMIAMI NOT ONLY WELCOMED NEARLY 5 MILLION MULTI-DAY CRUISE PASSENGERS – THAT’S A WORLD RECORD, BY THE WAY -- BUT WE ALSO FINISHED OUR DEEP DREDGE PROJECT.**

**ALSO, ROYAL CARIBBEAN WILL INVEST APPROXIMATELY \$200 MILLION IN A NEW TERMINAL THAT WILL ALLOW US TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW GENERATION OF MEGA-CRUISE SHIPS. AND MSC CRUISES WILL BE BRINGING THEIR SECOND SHIP TO MIAMI-DADE IN DECEMBER. A BEAUTIFUL, WORLD-**

**CLASS CRUISE SHIP. AND THEY PLAN TO BRING A THIRD SHIP IN 2019.**

**ALL THIS MEANS EVEN MORE JOBS AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESIDENTS!**

**THE RECORDS AT OUR PORTS WEREN'T THE ONLY RECORD-BREAKING NUMBERS MIAMI-DADE HAD LAST YEAR.**

**THANKS TO OUR SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, CHRISTINA WHITE, AND HER TEAM, WE SHATTERED RECORDS IN ELECTIONS. WE HAD THE BIGGEST VOTER TURNOUT IN COUNTY HISTORY DURING THIS PRESIDENTIAL-ELECTION YEAR – MORE THAN 997,000 VOTERS – CLOSE TO ONE MILLION VOTERS - - COUPLED WITH MINIMAL WAIT TIMES AT THE POLLS AND THE QUICKEST PROCESSING OF ELECTIONS RESULTS – EVER.**

**INDEED, THE \$7 MILLION MIAMI-DADE INVESTED TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT CAME FROM THE ELECTIONS ADVISORY GROUP WAS MONEY WELL SPENT. SO, LET'S GIVE CHRISTINA**

**WHITE AND HER TEAM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL WORK IN ELECTIONS.**

**ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE'VE BEEN FACING IN OUR COMMUNITY IS TRAFFIC. AND THAT'S WHY DIRECTOR ALICE BRAVO AND HER TEAM, WORKING ALONG WITH OUR PARTNERS AT THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION, HAVE LED THE CHARGE ON THE S.M.A.R.T. PLAN TO DEVELOP SIX RAPID-TRANSIT CORRIDORS OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS AND, FRANKLY, IS DEMANDING. COMMISSIONER MONESTIME WAS CHAIR OF THE M.P.O. WHEN THE RAPID-TRANSIT CORRIDORS WERE APPROVED, AND I WANT TO THANK HIM FOR HELPING OUR COMMUNITY MOVE THIS LONG-OVERDUE PROJECT FORWARD.**

**WE ALSO LAUNCHED APPS AND SOLUTIONS LIKE EASY PAY, AND A TRANSIT TRACKER APP THAT MAKES USING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION EVEN MORE CONVENIENT. AND WE MODERNIZED OUR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CENTER.**

**BUT, MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY REDUCED COMMUTE TIMES ALONG SOME OF OUR BUSIEST CORRIDORS BY RE-TIMING**

**OUR EXISTING LIGHTS TO RESPOND TO TRAFFIC PATTERNS.**

**FOR EXAMPLE, THE AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME DURING PEAK HOURS HAS BEEN REDUCED BY ABOUT 25 MINUTES TOTAL – NORTH AND SOUTH BOUND, MORNING AND EVENING -- ALONG THE SEGMENT OF U.S. 1 FROM SOUTHWEST 152ND STREET TO SOUTHWEST 16<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE.**

**THAT'S MORE THAN A 15 PERCENT DECREASE IN TRAVEL TIME FOR THE AVERAGE COMMUTER – WHICH MEANS A SAVINGS OF NEARLY TWO HOURS A WEEK. AND THAT'S BEFORE WE WILL INSTALL ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY THAT WILL AUTOMATICALLY RE-TIME OUR TRAFFIC LIGHTS ALONG OUR BUSIEST CORRIDORS.**

**THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY HAS ALREADY BEEN INSTALLED ON NORTHWEST 36<sup>TH</sup> STREET BETWEEN 71<sup>ST</sup> AND 84<sup>TH</sup> AVENUES, AND WE HAVE A 10 PERCENT REDUCTION ALONG THAT CORRIDOR RIGHT NOW. THESE SIGNALS ARE EQUIPPED WITH TECHNOLOGY THAT WILL COMMUNICATE WITH AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES OF THE FUTURE. AND THAT FUTURE WILL PROBABLY BE HERE IN THE**

**NEXT THREE TO FIVE YEARS. I HAVE DIRECTED OUR DEPARTMENT TO BEGIN INSTALLING THE NEW ADAPTIVE SIGNALS AROUND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.**

**BECAUSE REGARDLESS OF THE INVESTMENTS WE MAKE IN OUR PUBLIC TRANSIT, THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN MIAMI-DADE WILL STILL BE DRIVING. SO WE NEED TO INVEST IN THIS. AND WE'RE GOING TO FAST TRACK IT.**

**AND WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE LOOKING INTO EVEN MORE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES TO GIVE MIAMI-DADE RESIDENTS AS MANY MOBILITY OPTIONS AS POSSIBLE.**

**IN FACT, TODAY, AT THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WILL BE NAMED THE LEAD METRO AREA FOR A NEW MOBILITY INNOVATION COLLABORATION WITH MICROSOFT AND THE CITY INNOVATE FOUNDATION.**

**THAT IS BIG NEWS, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO USE TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUTES IN OUR COUNTY.**

**AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO PREFER TO COMMUTE BY BIKE OR ON FOOT, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS BEEN INVESTING IN MAKING OUR ROADS AND GREENWAYS MUCH MORE FRIENDLY FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS. U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANTHONY FOXX RECENTLY RECOGNIZED THE COUNTY WITH THE SAFER PEOPLE, SAFER STREETS AWARD.**

**COMMISSIONER MOSS HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY, WHILE ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO WALK, BIKE OR USE PUBLIC TRANSIT. AND I ALSO WANT TO THANK COMMISSIONER SUAREZ FOR THE WORK HE'S DONE TO IMPROVE BICYCLE SAFETY ON THE RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY.**

**UNO DE LOS MAYORES RETOS QUE TENEMOS ACTUALMENTE EN MIAMI-DADE ES EL TRÁFICO. ES POR ESO QUE HEMOS EMPEZADO A TOMAR LOS PASOS NECESARIOS PARA RESOLVER POCO A POCO ESTE PROBLEMA. COMO POR EJEMPLO, EN EL 2016 LANZAMOS LA APLICACIÓN DE EASY PAY Y EL TRANSIT TRACKER APP. TAMBIÉN MODERNIZAMOS NUESTRO CENTRO DE CONTROL DEL TRÁFICO Y EMPEZAMOS A SINCRONIZAR LOS SEMÁFOROS PARA**

**REDUCIR EL TIEMPO DE VIAJE. EN US-1 DURANTE HORA PICO, REDUCIMOS EL TIEMPO DE VIAJE UNOS 25 MINUTOS EN AMBAS DIRECCIONES. CASI 2 HORAS A LA SEMANA. TAMBIEN INSTALAMOS SEMAFOROS INTELIGENTES EN VIAS CONGESTIONADAS COMO LA 36 CALLE.**

**A LOT MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE. WE KNOW THAT. AND IT WILL REQUIRE CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERS.**

**WE ALSO NEED TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THEY'RE ALSO COMING UP WITH INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION. SO, WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO GET THE BIGGEST BANG FOR OUR BUCK. BECAUSE THE VAST MAJORITY SPENT ON TRANSPORTATION – ON GAS, CARS – IS SPENT BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.**

**OUR RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW THAT THEIR COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING ITS WORK TO EXPAND MOBILITY OPTIONS IN MIAMI-DADE AND TO IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.**

**AND SPEAKING OF IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE, OUR RESIDENTS IN THE LIBERTY CITY AND**

**BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITIES KNOW THAT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HOUSING MICHAEL LIU IS LEADING OUR WORK TO REDEVELOP LIBERTY SQUARE. AND I'M HAPPY TO REPORT THAT RESIDENTS WHO VOLUNTEERED ARE ALREADY BEING MOVED TO TEMPORARY UNITS INSIDE LIBERTY SQUARE TO MAKE WAY FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENT.**

**I WANT TO THANK JORGE PEREZ AND ALBERT MILO FROM RELATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP FOR PARTNERING WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IN THIS EFFORT.**

**WE KEPT OUR PROMISE TO OUR RESIDENTS. AND I KNOW VICE CHAIRWOMAN EDMONSON, WHOSE DISTRICT BOTH COMMUNITIES ARE IN, SHARES MY EXCITEMENT IN BEING ABLE TO REAFFIRM THAT WE WILL BREAK GROUND ON THE NEW LIBERTY SQUARE LATER THIS YEAR.**

**AND WHAT'S EVEN BETTER IS THAT THE RESIDENTS OF LIBERTY SQUARE AND AREA RESIDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD THEIR NEW COMMUNITY ... BECAUSE UP TO 30 PERCENT OF THOSE CONSTRUCTION JOBS, AND 75 PERCENT OF**

**PERMANENT JOBS, ARE GOING TO PUBLIC-HOUSING AND LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**SPECIAL OUTREACH AND JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS FOCUSING ON LIBERTY SQUARE RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN IN PLACE SINCE LAST SUMMER TO ENSURE THAT THESE JOB COMMITMENTS ARE MET.**

**NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF OUR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND I THANK YOU.**

**AND SPEAKING OF HOUSING, I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE COMMISSIONER JORDAN FOR CHAMPIONING THE EFFORT TO BRING MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS TO THE HARD-WORKING RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**IT'S AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR MIAMI-DADE AS OUR POPULATION AND OUR NEEDS CONTINUE TO GROW.**

**THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY HAS BEEN ANOTHER CHALLENGE FOR US, AND I'M PROUD OF HOW FAR WE'VE COME IN 2016.**

**UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DEPUTY MAYOR RUSSELL BENFORD, AND POLICE DIRECTOR JUAN**

**PEREZ AND OUR COMMAND STAFF, WE PUT 132 MORE OFFICERS ON THE STREET THAN WE HAD LAST FISCAL YEAR.**

**WE ACTUALLY GRADUATED AND DEPLOYED 256 POLICE OFFICERS IN FISCAL YEAR 2015-16.**

**BUT POLICE ISN'T THE ONLY DEPARTMENT IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY STAFFING UP TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE. LAST WEEK, I WAS HONORED TO ATTEND THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR 40 NEW FIREFIGHTERS WITH CHIEF DAVE DOWNEY, AND AM PROUD TO SAY THAT MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE PLANS TO HIRE AN ADDITIONAL 50 THIS YEAR -- MAKING OUR COMMUNITY EVEN SAFER.**

**AND SPEAKING OF MEASURES TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY EVEN SAFER, WE ALSO EQUIPPED MORE THAN 1,200 POLICE OFFICERS WITH BODY-WORN CAMERAS LAST YEAR. WE CAN BE PROUD THAT MIAMI-DADE POLICE IS THE LARGEST POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE COUNTRY TO DEPLOY BODY-WORN CAMERAS – CAMERAS THAT WILL ALLOW OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT TO BETTER PROTECT AND SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.**

**AND I KNOW THAT COMMISSIONER HEYMAN – A LIFE-LONG ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY -- IS ESPECIALLY PROUD OF THE WORK WE’VE DONE THIS YEAR TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE A SAFER COMMUNITY. THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER, FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP.**

**LA SEGURIDAD EN NUESTRA COMUNIDAD ES OTRA PRIORIDAD PARA NOSOTROS. ES POR ESO QUE HEMOS AUMENTADO EL NÚMERO DE POLICÍAS Y BOMBEROS. ADEMÁS, DENTRO DE NUESTROS ESFUERZOS EN PROTEGER LA COMUNIDAD SE ENCUENTRA NUESTRA CONSTANTE LUCHA PARA ELIMINAR LA VIOLENCIA JUVENIL.**

**BUT EVEN WITH ALL THAT GOOD WORK TO IMPROVE OUR PUBLIC SAFETY, YOUTH VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO BE A KEY CONCERN FOR ALL OF US. AND WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS. IN FACT, GOVERNOR SCOTT RECOGNIZED MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR HAVING THE LARGEST DECREASE IN JUVENILE ARRESTS IN FLORIDA IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR.**

**WE HAD A 12 PERCENT DECREASE IN JUVENILE CRIME IN MIAMI-DADE. AND ONE OF THE PROGRAMS I’M VERY PROUD OF IS OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY**

**SAFETY INITIATIVE. WE WANT TO CONTINUE THAT TREND WITH THAT PROGRAM.**

**AS PART OF THIS INITIATIVE, OUR POLICE OFFICERS ARE WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH OUR JUVENILE SERVICES AND PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENTS TO MENTOR AT-RISK YOUTH IN THEIR HOMES, STEER THEM AWAY FROM CRIME, BRING NEEDED SUPPORT TO THEIR FAMILIES, TRAIN THEM FOR JOBS, AND KEEP THEM ENGAGED IN HEALTHY AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES THROUGH PROGRAMS LIKE “FIT 2 LEAD.”**

**BECAUSE OF THE HARD WORK OF JACK KARDYS AND HIS TEAM, FIT 2 LEAD HAS BECOME A NATIONAL MODEL FOR PARK-BASED PROGRAMS SERVING AT-RISK YOUTH. AND SOME OF OUR FIT 2 LEAD PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS AND HIGH-SCHOOL INTERNS ARE HERE WITH US TODAY...**

**MANAGER OF RECREATION PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ERIC HANSEN, CHIEF OF HEALTH AND FITNESS RENAE NOTTAGE, PARK INTERNSHIP PROGRAM COORDINATOR CAITLIN ALFONSO....**

**AND FOUR OF OUR PARK INTERNS:**

**JESUS GONZALES, WHO IS INTERNING FOR US AT WEST PERRINE PARK.**

**JARRID HALL, AN INTERN AT MODELLO PARK...**

**ASHANTI PATERSON, AN INTERN AT DEERWOOD PARK...**

**AND JAQUAN WAGNAC, WHO IS INTERNING FOR US AT OLINDA PARK.**

**INTERNS AND STAFF, COULD YOU ALL PLEASE STAND TO BE RECOGNIZED? LET'S GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR WHAT THEY ARE DOING FOR OUR COMMUNITY.**

**ANOTHER GREAT INITIATIVE THAT OUR COMMUNITY LAUNCHED IN 2016 TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF YOUTH VIOLENCE IS "TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN." MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, THE CHILDREN'S TRUST AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM OUR COMMUNITY TO CREATE NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLANS THAT WILL ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF YOUTH VIOLENCE.**

**THESE ACTION PLANS ARE DATA-DRIVEN. FOR EXAMPLE, RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH YOUTH**

**VIOLENCE INCLUDE STUDENT ABSENTEEISM, BEHAVIORAL ISSUES AND POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.**

**IF WE CAN IDENTIFY STUDENTS WHO HAVE THESE RISK FACTORS AND GIVE THEM EXTRA SUPPORT SERVICES, LIKE TRUANCY PREVENTION AND THERAPY PROGRAMS, WE CAN PREVENT THEM FROM GETTING CAUGHT UP IN GUN VIOLENCE ... PREVENT THEM FROM PICKING UP A GUN THEMSELVES, OR BECOMING A VICTIM OF ONE.**

**AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE PLAN TO DO.**

**WE KNOW THERE IS NO QUICK FIX TO YOUTH VIOLENCE. BUT WE HAVE A PROGRAM IN PLACE TO STOP THE VIOLENCE BEFORE IT HAPPENS.**

**AND WE'RE DEVELOPING THESE PROGRAMS WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS AND NEIGHBORS OF AT-RISK CHILDREN, POLICE OFFICERS, CLERGY, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**LA SEGURIDAD DE NUESTROS NIÑOS DEBE SER ABSOLUTAMENTE NUESTRA PRIORIDAD NÚMERO UNO COMO COMUNIDAD.**

**AND I WANT TO THANK SUPERINTENDENT ALBERTO CARVALHO, STATE ATTORNEY KATHERINE FERNANDEZ-RUNDLE, THE CHILDREN'S TRUST PRESIDENT AND CEO JAMES HAJ, JUVENILE SERVICES DIRECTOR MORRIS COPELAND, AND THE ENTIRE TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN COALITION FOR THE WORK THEY'RE DOING TO BUILD A SAFER MIAMI-DADE FOR ALL OF OUR CHILDREN. THANK YOU.**

**TRAINING MIAMIANS TO ENTER THE WORKFORCE CONTINUED TO BE ANOTHER PRIORITY FOR US IN 2016. THAT'S WHY I'M SO HAPPY THAT WE ARE CELEBRATING THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OUR EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE INITIATIVE.**

**SINCE ITS INCEPTION, EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE HAS PUT 557 RESIDENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY -- WHO LIVE IN NEIGHBORHOODS WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT -- TO WORK IN JOBS IN CONSTRUCTION, CULINARY MANAGEMENT, AND HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM.**

**THOSE CONSTRUCTION JOBS AT LIBERTY SQUARE THAT I MENTIONED EARLIER? EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE**

**GRADUATES ARE BEING TRAINED FOR THOSE JOBS SO THEY CAN BE HIRED ON SITE.**

**BECAUSE OF PROGRAMS LIKE EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE -- AND COMMUNITY LEADERS LIKE LEROY JONES -- WE WILL PROVIDE THE TRAINING AND WORK TO PLACE RESIDENTS IN JOBS.**

**ONE OF THOSE RESIDENTS IS HERE WITH US TODAY. ERROL SAWYER IS A YOUNG MAN FROM OVERTOWN WHO WAS ONE OF THE VERY FIRST GRADUATES OF EMPLOY-MIAMI DADE. RIGHT AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAM, ERROL WAS HIRED TO HELP BUILD PANORAMA TOWER ON BRICKELL AVENUE -- WHICH WILL BE THE TALLEST RESIDENTIAL BUILDING ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD, SOUTH OF NEW YORK.**

**AND BECAUSE HE HAS SHOWN SUCH PROMISE, ERROL IS CURRENTLY BEING TRAINED FOR AN EVEN BETTER POSITION IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.**

**ERROL AND LEROY, COULD YOU PLEASE STAND TO BE RECOGNIZED?**

**LET'S GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

**THANKS TO LEROY AND ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE NEIGHBORS AND NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION AND THE CIRCLE OF BROTHERHOOD, RESIDENTS LIKE ERROL ARE BUILDING A BETTER MIAMI-DADE FOR THEMSELVES, FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITY.**

**WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITIES LIKE MIAMI-DADE NOT ONLY OFFER GREAT PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK, THEY ALSO OFFER GREAT PLACES TO ENJOY.**

**AND THAT'S WHY, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SENIOR ADVISOR MICHAEL SPRING, WE CONTINUED TO INVEST IN OUR ARTS, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL OFFERINGS IN 2016.**

**RETIRING DIRECTOR JACK KARDYS, NEW DIRECTOR GEORGE NAVARRETE AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR MARIA NARDI CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTERPLAN. AMONG OUR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WE OPENED THE COUNTY'S FIRST DESIGNATED MINI WATER PARK NEAR HERE, WEST PERRINE PARK FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER.**

**WE ALSO SURPASSED THE ONE-MILLION VISITOR MARK AT ZOO MIAMI. AND WITH THE \$52 MILLION WE INVESTED IN OUR NEW ENTRY PLAZA AND OUR**

**FLORIDA: MISSION EVERGLADES EXHIBIT, I EXPECT THAT WE'RE GOING TO SEE MORE VISITORS THAN EVER IN 2017.**

**IF YOU HAVEN'T VISITED ZOO MIAMI RECENTLY, TAKE MY WORD FOR IT: BRING THE FAMILY DOWN AND CHECK OUT YOUR ZOO. YOU'LL HAVE A GREAT TIME.**

**IT'S A WORLD-CLASS ATTRACTION.**

**IN ADDITION TO THESE INVESTMENTS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF RETIRING DIRECTOR GIA ARBOGAST AND INTERIM DIRECTOR RAY BAKER, WE ALSO OPENED OUR 50TH BRANCH LIBRARY IN BAY HARBOR ISLANDS AND EXPANDED OPERATING HOURS THROUGHOUT OUR LIBRARY SYSTEM.**

**AND WE'RE ALSO WORKING ON EXPANDING OUR CULTURAL FACILITIES TO UNDERREPRESENTED AREAS OF OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE OPENING OF THE SANDRELL RIVERS THEATER IN LIBERTY CITY, AND WE'RE PREPARING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE WESTCHESTER CULTURAL ARTS CENTER IN TROPICAL PARK.**

**COMMISSIONER SOUTO HAS BEEN A BIG SUPPORTER OF OUR COMMUNITY'S PARKS AND**

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO ALL THAT HE'LL HELP US ACHIEVE AS CHAIR OF THIS NEW COMMITTEE.**

**I'M ESPECIALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE OPENING OF THE NEW FROST MUSEUM OF SCIENCE LATER THIS YEAR -- WHICH, WILL BY THE WAY, OPEN. WE WILL BRING ONE OF -- IF NOT THE MOST -- ADVANCED AND SPECTACULAR MUSEUMS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE NATION TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. I'M PROUD OF THE DECISION WE TOOK AS A COUNTY TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.**

**CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S PETS IS ANOTHER BIG PRIORITY IN MIAMI-DADE. AND BECAUSE OF ALEX MUÑOZ'S LEADERSHIP, 2016 MARKED THE OPENING OF THE NEW, WORLD-CLASS, STATE-OF-THE-ART PET ADOPTION AND PROTECTION CENTER IN DORAL.**

**IT'S ACTUALLY THE LARGEST AIR-CONDITIONED ANIMAL SHELTER IN THE COUNTRY, AND WE BELIEVE IT'S THE BEST ANIMAL SHELTER IN THE WORLD.**

**COMMISSIONER DIAZ HAS BEEN A LONG-TIME SUPPORTER AND ADVOCATE FOR ANIMALS IN OUR**

**COMMUNITY. AND HIS ONGOING SUPPORT WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING THIS MODEL FACILITY TO OUR COMMUNITY. AND I'M PROUD OF THE WORK WE DID IN 2015 – WHEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, WE WERE ABLE TO SAVE 90 PERCENT OF DOGS AND CATS. AND WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE WORKING TO SAVE EVEN MORE ANIMALS THIS YEAR.**

**THERE'S A SAYING THAT THE MORAL TEST OF GOVERNMENT IS HOW IT TREATS ITS MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS ... NAMELY, ITS CHILDREN, ITS ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. AND I THINK WE CAN BE PROUD OF THE WORK WE'RE DOING TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE BETTER FOR THOSE WHO NEED OUR HELP THE MOST.**

**UNDER THE DIRECTION OF LUCIA DAVIS-RAIFORD, OUR COMMUNITY ACTION AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT DELIVERED NEARLY 250,000 MEALS LAST YEAR TO LOW-INCOME, ILL AND HOMEBOUND MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHO HAVE DISABILITIES. THAT'S UP BY 66 PERCENT FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.**

**THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT ONLY BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN LEADING THE CHARGE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR ELDERLY RESIDENTS, BUT THEY HAVE ALSO HELPED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY BY DELIVERING MORE THAN 3 MILLION BREAKFASTS, LUNCHESES AND SNACKS TO THEM LAST YEAR THROUGH THE HEAD START PROGRAM.**

**WE ALSO OPENED A NEW VETERANS COURT IN MIAMI-DADE LAST WEEK TO PROVIDE MENTAL-HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE-ABUSE TREATMENT TO WAR VETERANS WHO NEED EXTRA HELP TO GET THEIR LIVES BACK ON TRACK. THEY GAVE THEIR ALL FOR THEIR COUNTRY, AND WE NEED TO PAY THEM BACK.**

**UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF LESTER SOLA, MIAMI-DADE'S LARGEST CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CONTINUES. OUR WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY INVESTED MORE THAN \$772 MILLION IN THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF THIS PROGRAM. WE HAVE COMPLETED 775 PROJECTS ON TIME, AND WE ARE WORKING ON 861 ADDITIONAL PROJECTS TO ENHANCE AND UPGRADE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, INCREASE SERVICE CAPACITY, IMPROVE**

**RELIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY, AND ADAPT TO THE CHALLENGES POSED BY SEA-LEVEL RISE.**

**OUR COMMUNITY'S RESILIENCY WORK IS ALSO CRITICAL TO OUR FUTURE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY. AND WE CAN BE PROUD THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WAS SELECTED LAST YEAR TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS ROCKEFELLER 100 RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK.**

**OUR CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER, JIM MURLEY, IS HARD AT WORK ON A RESILIENCY PLAN TO PREPARE OUR ENTIRE REGION TO ADAPT TO THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING OUR COMMUNITY SO THAT WE CAN CREATE AN EVEN BETTER MIAMI-DADE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND OUR GRANDCHILDREN.**

**LET'S BE CLEAR: SEA-LEVEL RISE IS A VERY SERIOUS CONCERN FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND ALL OF SOUTH FLORIDA.**

**IT ISN'T A "THEORY." IT'S A FACT.**

**WE LIVE IT EVERY DAY. AND THAT'S WHY MY ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE ADAPTING TO IT A PRIORITY.**

**WE WILL MEET THESE AND OTHER CHALLENGES  
POSED BY SEA-LEVEL RISE AND CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**BUT BEING RESILIENT IS MORE THAN ADDRESSING  
OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. AND THAT'S WHY  
WE WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO WORK ON ADDRESSING  
ALL OF OUR CHALLENGES HEAD-ON -- BY WORKING  
TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION, BY WORKING TO  
IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY, AND BY BRINGING MORE  
JOBS TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND FINALLY  
SOLVING OUR AFFORDABLE HOUSING CHALLENGE.**

**THAT IS OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR RESIDENTS.**

**AND NOW THAT WE'VE TAKEN A LOOK BACK ON  
SOME OF WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER  
IN 2016, IT'S TIME TO SHIFT OUR FOCUS FORWARD  
TO THE WORK THAT WE WILL DO IN THE NEXT YEAR  
TO BUILD A BETTER MIAMI-DADE FOR ALL  
MIAMIANS.**

**AUNQUE NOS COMPLACE SABER QUE HEMOS  
LOGRADO MUCHO EN LOS ÚLTIMOS MESES,  
TENEMOS QUE SEGUIR VIENDO HACIA ADELANTE Y  
ENFOCARNOS EN TERMINAR LO QUE EMPEZAMOS  
JUNTOS.**

**WE ARE ALREADY A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY, BUT IT'S TIME FOR US TO TAKE THINGS TO THE NEXT LEVEL. AND AS I SAID EARLIER, THIS IS A NEW YEAR, AND A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO CHART OUR FUTURE.**

**AND WE CAN DECIDE NOW THE ROLE THAT WE WANT TO PLAY.**

**WE ARE A STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY, BUT WE HAVE CHALLENGES -- CHIEFLY, OUR CONTINUED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND PUBLIC SAFETY. AND THOSE ARE THE THREE AREAS I'M ASKING EVERY MIAMI-DADE RESIDENT TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN CHANGING FOR THE BETTER.**

**COMO ALCALDE TRES DE MIS PRIORIDADES MÁS IMPORTANTES SON EL DESARROLLO ECONÓMICO, EL TRANSPORTE Y LA SEGURIDAD EN LA COMUNIDAD.**

**Y QUISIERA QUE CADA UNO DE NUESTROS RESIDENTES QUE PARTICIPEN DE MANERA ACTIVA PARA MEJORAR ESTAS TRES ÁREAS.**

**ON OUR ECONOMY, THIS IS A CHALLENGE TO OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES TO EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE RESIDENTS.**

**IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, SIGN UP FOR EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE ONLINE. AND ALSO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE OUR COMMUNITY AS THE PLACE TO DO BUSINESS.**

**WE HAVE STREAMLINED OUR PERMITTING PROCESS AND MADE IT MUCH EASIER TO DO BUSINESS HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**THERE'S A REASON WHY COMPANIES LIKE TELEMUNDO/NBC UNIVERSAL AND FED-EX ARE INVESTING IN MIAMI-DADE. BECAUSE OUR COUNTY IS THE WORLD'S NEXT GREAT COMMUNITY.**

**YES, I SAID IT. BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT.**

**THAT IS HOW MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WILL BE VIEWED AS WE CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE.**

**AS WE ALL KNOW BECAUSE MANY OF US SIT IN TRAFFIC THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, TRANSPORTATION IS ANOTHER CHALLENGE WE MUST ADDRESS IN 2017. WE WILL SOON BEGIN THE**

**NECESSARY STUDIES FOR OUR SIX RAPID-TRANSIT CORRIDORS. AND I SHARE IN THE FRUSTRATIONS OF MANY OF YOU, INCLUDING CHAIRMAN BOVO, ABOUT THE TIME IT HAS TAKEN US TO BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE S.M.A.R.T. PLAN.**

**BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT THESE ARE NECESSARY STEPS WE HAVE TO TAKE TO MOVE FORWARD – TO SECURE AS MUCH FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING AS POSSIBLE.**

**FIXING OUR TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES IS A PROMISE THAT WE HAVE MADE TO RESIDENTS – TIME AND AGAIN. AND LIKE LIBERTY SQUARE’S REDEVELOPMENT, IT’S A PROMISE WE INTEND TO KEEP.**

**FOR EXAMPLE, THESE CORRIDORS ARE NECESSARY TO IMPROVE DAILY COMMUTES HERE IN SOUTH DADE FOR RESIDENTS WHO TRAVEL DOWNTOWN AND TO OTHER PARTS OF MIAMI-DADE FOR WORK EACH DAY.**

**AND WE EXPECT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ONE OR MORE OF THESE CORRIDORS VERY SOON.**

**IN FACT, AT LEAST ONE CITY HAS ALREADY DEDICATED FUNDING TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION**

**OF A STATION IN THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR. BUT WE'RE GOING TO NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF ALL OUR MUNICIPAL PARTNERS TO BRING THIS PLAN TO FRUITION.**

**WE WANT TO GIVE PEOPLE BACK THE TIME THEY ARE SPENDING STUCK IN TRAFFIC SO THEY CAN SPEND IT DOING MORE PRODUCTIVE THINGS – LIKE BEING WITH THEIR FAMILIES.**

**WE HAVE PLANS TO CONTINUE TO MAKE THINGS BETTER. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FIRST OF OUR NEW METRORAIL CARS ARE COMING ONLINE THIS YEAR TO MAKE YOUR COMMUTES MORE COMFORTABLE -- SOMETHING I KNOW COMMISSIONER BARREIRO, IN PARTICULAR, HAS BEEN PUSHING FOR FOR QUITE SOME TIME.**

**BUT TO REALLY IMPROVE OUR TRAFFIC SITUATION, I'D LIKE TO ASK ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS WHO ARE ABLE, TO TAKE A PLEDGE TO RIDE PUBLIC TRANSIT AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE. IF YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN PUBLIC TRANSIT IN A WHILE, CHECK IT OUT. THE MORE OF YOU WHO TAKE PUBLIC TRANSIT, THE FEWER CARS WE'LL HAVE ON THE ROAD. AND YOU MAY FIND THAT IT SAVES YOU TIME AND MONEY.**

**TODOS SABEMOS QUE EL TIEMPO QUE PERDEMOS EN EL TRÁFICO DE MIAMI ES TIEMPO QUE NO ESTAMOS CON NUESTRAS FAMILIAS. POR ESO, PRONTO VAMOS A INICIAR EL PROCESO PARA EVENTUALMENTE CONSTRUIR LOS SEIS CORREDORES DE TRÁNSITO RÁPIDO QUE HEMOS VENIDO MENCIONANDO.**

**ESTOS CORREDORES SON NECESARIOS PARA MEJORAR LA MOVILIDAD DE LOS RESIDENTES QUE VIVEN, POR EJEMPLO AQUI EN EL SUR DEL CONDADO, Y TRABAJAN EN OTRAS PARTES DEL CONDADO TODOS LOS DÍAS.**

**TAMBIÉN ESPERAMOS TENER LOS NUEVOS VAGONES DE METRORAIL ESTE AÑO. PARA TODOS AQUELLOS QUE AÚN NO LO USAN, LOS INVITO A TOMAR EL TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO. NOS AYUDARÁ A ALIVIAR LA CONGESTIÓN EN NUESTRAS CALLES.**

**THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY IS ANOTHER PRESSING CHALLENGE WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO ADDRESS TOGETHER IN 2017. WE CAN BE PROUD THAT OUR COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING WORK HAS RECEIVED A LOT OF RECOGNITION.**

**IN FACT, WE'VE BEEN AWARDED \$6 MILLION IN FEDERAL GRANTS BECAUSE OF THE GREAT WORK WE'VE DONE.**

**BUT WHILE CRIME RATES HAVE FALLEN COUNTYWIDE -- AND CONTINUE TO DO SO -- WE STILL NEED TO DO MORE TO PUT A STOP TO GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**WHAT HAPPENED ON MONDAY AT M.L.K. MEMORIAL PARK IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT SOMETHING HAS GOT TO CHANGE. WE OWE IT TO THE 8 VICTIMS OF THAT SHOOTING -- 5 OF WHOM WERE CHILDREN -- TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM BOLDLY... SO WE CAN SAY THAT THE EPIDEMIC OF GUN VIOLENCE IS SOMETHING OF THE PAST.**

**TO THAT END, LATER THIS YEAR, MIAMI-DADE POLICE WILL BE ROLLING OUT THE NEWLY-ACQUIRED "SHOT SPOTTER" TECHNOLOGY TO NARROW IN ON EXACTLY WHERE GUNSHOTS ARE HEARD IN REAL-TIME. THE DEVICES WILL BE PLACED IN THE AREAS OF OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE GREATEST NEED, AND WILL ALLOW OFFICERS TO MONITOR THE DATA IN OUR REAL-TIME CRIME**

**CENTER, AND RESPOND TO THE SCENE EVEN MORE QUICKLY.**

**BUT AS WE HAVE LEARNED IN THE PAST, IT REALLY DOES TAKE ALL OF US TO PROTECT ALL OF US.**

**AND WE CAN ALL DO OUR PART TO HELP OUR POLICE PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES. THAT'S WHY TODAY, I'M ASKING EVERY SINGLE RESIDENT OF MIAMI-DADE TO GET INVOLVED.**

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.**

**REPORT IT TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OR CRIME STOPPERS BY CALLING 305-471-TIPS. THAT'S 305-471-8477.**

**AND NOW THAT WE HAVE CRIME STOPPERS KIDS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, WE'VE ADDED REWARD MONEY TO BE ABLE TO CATCH EVEN MORE OF THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMITTING CRIMES AGAINST OUR CHILDREN.**

**WE CAN ALSO DO OUR PART TO HELP FIGHT CRIME IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BY DONATING TO THE "STOP YOUTH GUN VIOLENCE" REWARD FUND THAT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO RAISE REWARD MONEY TO ENCOURAGE TIPS LEADING TO THE ARREST OF**

**ANYONE WHO COMMITS A VIOLENT CRIME AGAINST A CHILD.**

**WE'VE DONE OUR PART IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT BY ALLOCATING \$20,000 TO CRIME STOPPERS KIDS LAST YEAR. AND WE ALLOCATED AN ADDITIONAL \$20,000 YESTERDAY TO FIND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR MONDAY'S SHOOTING IN LIBERTY CITY.**

**I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO VISIT [WWW.CRIMESTOPPERSKIDS.ORG](http://WWW.CRIMESTOPPERSKIDS.ORG) AND DONATE NOW.**

**WE SIMPLY MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO PUT A STOP TO THE VIOLENCE. IT'S OUR DUTY AS MIAMIANS – OUR DUTY TO THIS GENERATION, AND TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN IN MIAMI-DADE.**

**I'M CONFIDENT THAT IF WE ALL DO OUR PART, WE WILL REVERSE THE EPIDEMIC OF GUN VIOLENCE HERE IN MIAMI-DADE.**

**AN OPIOID EPIDEMIC HAS ALSO BEEN RAVAGING REGIONS OF OUR COUNTY.**

**JUST ASK OUR MEDICAL EXAMINER, DR. EMMA LEW, AND HER TEAM, WHO HAVE SEEN THE NUMBER OF DEATHS DUE TO OPIOIDS – INCLUDING HEROIN,**

**PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS AND SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS SUCH AS FENTANYL – SKYROCKET OVER THE LAST YEAR.**

**IN SOUTH FLORIDA, DEATHS LINKED TO OPIOIDS NOW OUTNUMBER FATAL CAR ACCIDENTS. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO A REPORT RELEASED BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, HEROIN DEATHS JUMPED 100 PERCENT IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 2015 COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.**

**THIS HAS BECOME AN ALARMING PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH CRISIS IN OUR COMMUNITY. AND AS SUCH, WE MUST CONTINUE TO ACT.**

**THAT’S WHY I HAVE DIRECTED DEPUTY MAYOR BENFORD TO LEAD A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN THAT ADDRESSES THE REDUCTION OF OPIOID AND HEROIN ADDICTION, AND PREVENTS OVERDOSE DEATHS. I THANK CHAIRMAN BOVO FOR SPONSORING THE RESOLUTION THAT LED TO THE CREATION OF THE TASK FORCE.**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS PARTNERING WITH STATE ATTORNEY FERNANDEZ-RUNDLE, THE FLORIDA**

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, AS WELL AS THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THIS TASKFORCE TO BRING TOGETHER OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION TO REMOVE THESE ILLEGAL DRUGS AND DRUG DEALERS FROM OUR COMMUNITY. THE PLAN WILL ALSO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES FOR ADDICTS AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES THAT WILL KEEP OUR CHILDREN FROM FALLING VICTIM TO THIS EPIDEMIC.**

**WHILE THIS EPIDEMIC AND YOUTH VIOLENCE ARE CHALLENGES, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN ADDRESSING THEM IF WE CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER.**

**MY FRIENDS, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO ALL THE WORK WE'RE GOING TO DO TOGETHER IN 2017.**

**WE'RE GOING TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY SAFER AND MORE SECURE, DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY MORE. WE WILL EACH DO OUR PART TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION, AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE SO THAT MIAMI-DADE WILL BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE FOR EVERY SINGLE ONE OUR RESIDENTS.**

**WE HAVE A SOLID PLAN IN PLACE, AND WE HAVE THE RIGHT PEOPLE HERE IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT, WHICH I CONSIDER TO BE HEROES.**

**YES, HEROES.**

**BECAUSE THEY GO ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO HELP FELLOW MIAMIANS. AND THEY DESERVE TO BE RECOGNIZED.**

**HEROES LIKE OFFICERS EDWARD BROCHU, JOSEPH VALLEJOS, GEPHY PEREZ AND YOVANI SOSA...THE FOUR MIAMI-DADE POLICE OFFICERS WHO PULLED A YOUNG MAN OUT OF A CAR ENGULFED IN FLAMES TO SAFETY JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS.**

**NOW, THESE OFFICERS ARE TOO HUMBLE TO THINK OF THEMSELVES AS HEROES, SAYING THEY WERE JUST “DOING THEIR JOBS.” BUT, AS A FORMER FIREFIGHTER, I KNOW THAT ANYONE WHO PUTS HIS OR HER LIFE IN DANGER TO SAVE ANOTHER IS A HERO.**

**OFFICERS, COULD YOU PLEASE STAND UP?**

**THANK YOU SO MUCH. LET’S GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

**WE ALSO HAVE THE KIND OF HEROES IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT WHO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS THAT EXTEND BEYOND THEIR TRADITIONAL ROLES...HEROES LIKE JENNIFER MOON.**

**AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, JENNIFER IS OUR BUDGET DIRECTOR, AND SHE'S WORKED AT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR 22 YEARS.**

**SHE'S DONE GREAT WORK TO KEEP US ON A SUSTAINABLE PATH, WITH A FORWARD-LOOKING BUDGET.**

**BUT WHAT MANY PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT JENNIFER IS THAT SHE RECENTLY BECAME A FOSTER MOM TO A TEENAGE GIRL IN HER DAUGHTER'S HIGH-SCHOOL CLASS.**

**AND HER EXPERIENCE WITH THE FOSTER-CARE SYSTEM INSPIRED HER TO START A PROGRAM WITH HER DAUGHTER ANGELA TO ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO GET INVOLVED IN THE FOSTER-CARE SUPPORT SYSTEM AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**JENNIFER'S PROGRAM IS CALLED "MOONS AND STARS." AND SHE AND HER DAUGHTER ARE**

**WORKING HARD TO ADD 100 PEOPLE TO THE FOSTER CARE SUPPORT SYSTEM BY OCTOBER. THAT WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD HELPING THE 2,800 CHILDREN IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WHO NEED OUR HELP.**

**I KNOW MANY PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY ALREADY SERVE AS FOSTER PARENTS AND GUARDIANS, AND SUPPORT CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN MANY WAYS. BUT WE CAN ALL DO OUR PART TO HELP CHILDREN BECOME PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR YEARS TO COME – WHETHER IT'S BY TAKING A CHILD INTO OUR OWN HOMES OR PROVIDING MENTORING SERVICES.**

**SO, IF YOU'D LIKE TO GET INVOLVED, SEND AN EMAIL TO JENNIFER AT [MOONSANDSTARS16@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MOONSANDSTARS16@GMAIL.COM) AND SHE'LL HELP YOU GET STARTED.**

**JENNIFER AND ANGELA, WHERE ARE YOU? PLEASE STAND UP. LET'S GIVE JENNIFER AND HER DAUGHTER A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THE AMAZING WORK THEY'RE DOING TO HELP CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**ANOTHER COUNTY EMPLOYEE WHO IS HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY IS ELVIS CAINES.**

**ELVIS IS THE OVERNIGHT INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT SUPERVISOR IN MIAMI-DADE'S JUVENILE SERVICES DEPARTMENT. AND THROUGH HIS WORK WITH BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS, HE HAS MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF MIAMI LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT, STEPHEN KELLY.**

**ELVIS HAS BEEN A BIG BROTHER TO STEPHEN FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, AND STEPHEN CREDITS ELVIS WITH MOTIVATING HIM TO BECOME NOT ONLY A BETTER PERSON, BUT ALSO A BETTER STUDENT.**

**I'D SAY ELVIS HAS DONE A PRETTY GOOD JOB ... BECAUSE STEPHEN RECENTLY WON A \$5,000 SCHOLARSHIP AND A NEW LAPTOP FOR AN ESSAY HE WROTE ABOUT THE POSITIVE ROLE ELVIS HAS PLAYED IN HIS LIFE.**

**ELVIS AND STEPHEN ARE HERE WITH US THIS MORNING. COULD YOU PLEASE STAND UP?**

**CONGRATULATIONS, STEPHEN, AND I THANK YOU, ELVIS, FOR ALL THAT YOU DO TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE**

**A BETTER PLACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**WITH EMPLOYEES LIKE THESE, WE ARE BUILDING A BETTER MIAMI-DADE. AND I'M CONFIDENT THAT OUR COMMUNITY WILL ONLY GROW STRONGER.**

**BECAUSE THEY ARE PUTTING SERVICE TO OTHERS ABOVE THEMSELVES.**

**IT WAS THE GREAT DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WHO SAID, "EVERYBODY CAN BE GREAT, BECAUSE ANYBODY CAN SERVE."**

**AND THAT HOLDS TRUE FOR EVERY SINGLE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESIDENT.**

**IF WE ALL DO OUR PART TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY, WE WILL BUILD AN EVEN BETTER MIAMI-DADE.**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE STATE OF OUR COUNTY IS STRONG, AND TOGETHER, WE'RE MAKING IT EVEN STRONGER.**

**DAMAS Y CABALLEROS, EL ESTADO DEL CONDADO ESTA SÓLIDO!**

**QUIERO AGRADECERLES A TODOS POR SU COMPROMISO Y DEDICACIÓN. ESTOY SEGURO QUE**

**EL PRÓXIMO AÑO MIAMI-DADE ESTARÁ AÚN MEJOR  
PARA TODOS.**

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND MAY GOD CONTINUE  
TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THESE UNITED  
STATES! THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

