

GOOD MORNING! BUENOS DIAS! BONJOUR!

COMMISSIONER BARREIRO, THANK YOU FOR THE INTRODUCTION. YOUR SUPPORT IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CARLOS LOPEZ-CANTERA, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU IN MIAMI. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING.

WE'RE ALSO IN CITY OF MIAMI COMMISSIONER FRANCIS SUAREZ'S DISTRICT. COMMISSIONER, WELCOME.

FATHER FLANAGAN AND RABBI BERKUN -- THANK YOU FOR YOUR MOVING INVOCATIONS.

I ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AUDITORIUM STAFF AND COUNTY STAFF FOR PROVIDING US WITH THIS BEAUTIFUL SPACE FOR TODAY'S STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS.

STEPHANIE SEVERINO, THANK YOU FOR SERVING AS OUR EMCEE, AND THANK YOU TO SARAH PAYNE FROM THE FLORIDA GRAND OPERA FOR THAT BEAUTIFUL RENDITION OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE STUDENTS FROM THE LILLIE M. WILLIAMS HEAD START CENTER FOR LEADING US IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, IN ADDITION TO MY BEAUTIFUL GRANDDAUGHTER ALEXIS.

THEY ARE THE FUTURE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND I REALLY APPRECIATE THEIR PARTICIPATION.

MEMBERS OF OUR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS -- WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND YOUR DEDICATION TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS. THE HARD WORK, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE THAT I WILL TOUCH ON THROUGHOUT MY ADDRESS TODAY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.

CHAIRMAN MONESTIME AND VICE-CHAIRMAN BOVO, MY THANKS TO YOU FOR LEADING THE BOARD OVER THE PAST YEAR. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH YOU IN 2016 AND HOPEFULLY BEYOND.

ALSO WITH US TODAY ARE PROPERTY APPRAISER PEDRO GARCIA, STATE ATTORNEY KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY ABIGAIL

PRICE-WILLIAMS AND COUNTY CLERK HARVEY RUVIN. THANK YOU, AND ALL COUNTY EMPLOYEES, FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

I'M ALSO GRATEFUL FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE MAYORS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, SUPERINTENDENT ALBERTO CARVALHO AND SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS FROM MANY OF MIAMI-DADE'S 34 MUNICIPALITIES. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE THIS MORNING AND FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

I ALWAYS APPRECIATE SEEING OUR LEADERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION. SO THANK YOU, PRESIDENT MARK ROSENBERG, FOR JOINING US.

SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST:

TO MY WIFE, LOURDES...TO OUR THREE CHILDREN... TO OUR FIVE, AND SOON-TO-BE SIX GRANDCHILDREN...TO THE REST OF MY FAMILY WHO IS HERE WITH ME TODAY -- THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT. AND TO MY PARENTS, THANK YOU FOR BEING EXEMPLARY ROLE MODELS.

LOS QUIERO MUCHO.

BIENVENIDOS A TODOS!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ARE MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER.

AND WE'RE NOT LOOKING BACK.

THE STATE OF OUR COUNTY IS STRONG, AND TOGETHER, WE'RE MAKING IT STRONGER AND BUILDING UPON THE FOUNDATION WE'VE LAID FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

SINCE I WAS FIRST ELECTED MAYOR IN 2011, MY AGENDA HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON GOOD GOVERNMENT, SPECIFICALLY HONESTY, TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY.

GOOD GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE MY ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITY. BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT OUR 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS DEMANDED OF US NEARLY FIVE YEARS AGO WHEN THEY VOTED FOR CHANGE AND AN OVERHAULING OF OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

“BUSINESS AS USUAL” WAS NO LONGER AN OPTION. AND MY ADMINISTRATION HAS WORKED WITH OUR

DEDICATED BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO REFORM OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AND MAKE IT MORE HONEST, TRANSPARENT, EFFICIENT AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE.

AND BECAUSE OF OUR WORK, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S FINANCIAL OUTLOOK CONTINUES TO BE STRONG.

IN OTHER WORDS, OUR FINANCIAL HOUSE IS IN ORDER. IN FACT, THE COUNTY'S FIVE-YEAR BUDGET FORECAST CONTINUES TO BE BALANCED WITH CONSERVATIVE GROWTH ESTIMATES AND WITHOUT A NEED TO RAISE OVERALL TAXES.

HOW WE GOT HERE IS IMPORTANT TO REVISIT...

JUST TWO WEEKS AFTER TAKING OFFICE IN JUNE 2011, I PROPOSED AND THE COUNTY COMMISSION ADOPTED THE LARGEST TAX CUT IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HISTORY.

AND MY SUBSEQUENT BUDGET PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN LARGELY SUPPORTED BY OUR COMMISSION.

IN FACT, SINCE THE 2011 BUDGET, COUNTY TAXPAYERS HAVE SAVED APPROXIMATELY \$1 BILLION DOLLARS IN TAXES.

THAT'S A SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY \$1,000 PER AVERAGE HOMEOWNER.

THOSE ARE BIG SAVINGS AND I'M HAPPY THAT RESIDENTS GOT TO KEEP MORE OF THEIR MONEY. THEY DESERVE IT.

THE \$6.8-BILLION-DOLLAR ADOPTED BUDGET ALSO CONTINUES THE COUNTY'S SUSTAINABLE SPENDING PRACTICES. BY FISCAL YEAR 2019-20, RESERVES ARE ESTIMATED TO REACH \$100 MILLION DOLLARS OF THE TOTAL GENERAL FUND-SUPPORTED BUDGET.

MY THANKS TO DEPUTY MAYOR EDWARD MARQUEZ, BUDGET DIRECTOR JENNIFER MOON AND ALL OF OUR COUNTY FINANCE PROFESSIONALS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE BUDGETING PRINCIPLES.

AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH COMMISSIONER JUAN ZAPATA AS THE CHAIR OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE IN THE UPCOMING BUDGET.

SEÑORAS Y SEÑORES, EN EL CONDADO DE MIAMI-DADE SEGUIMOS AVANZANDO JUNTOS Y SIN MIRAR ATRÁS.

LA SITUACIÓN DE NUESTRO CONDADO ES FIRME Y JUNTOS, TRABAJAMOS PARA FORTALECERLO Y CONSTRUIR UN FUTURO MEJOR PARA NUESTROS HIJOS Y NIETOS SOBRE LAS BASES QUE HEMOS SENTADO.

MI ADMINISTRACIÓN SE HA ENFOCADO EN HACER QUE ESTE GOBIERNO SEA MÁS HONESTO, TRANSPARENTE, EFICIENTE Y RESPONSABLE; Y ES GRACIAS A NUESTRO TRABAJO QUE NUESTRA SITUACIÓN FINANCIERA ES ESTABLE. POR LOS PROXIMOS CINCO ANOS NUESTRO PRESUPUESTO ESTARA BALANCEADO, SIN TENER QUE INCREMENTAR LOS IMPUESTOS. DESDE QUE FUI ELECTO ALCALDE, LOS CONTRIBUYENTES HAN AHORRADO UNOS MIL MILLONES DE DÓLARES. ESO REPRESENTA UN PROMEDIO DE AHORRO DE MIL DÓLARES PARA CADA DUENO DE PROPIEDAD.

BUT GOOD GOVERNMENT IS ABOUT MORE THAN IMPROVED FINANCES...IT'S ALSO A COMMITMENT TO ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EVERY MIAMI-DADE RESIDENT.

AND IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THAT, THERE MUST BE STRONG AND CONSISTENT INTERACTION BETWEEN COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY.

THAT'S WHY MY ADMINISTRATION HAS COMMITTED TO BRINGING GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO THE RESIDENTS WE SERVE THROUGH TOWN HALL MEETINGS AND OTHER COMMUNITY FORUMS -- BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE.

I KNOW COMMISSIONER SALLY HEYMAN SHARES THIS PRIORITY BECAUSE SHE RECENTLY HOSTED AN EVENT IN HER DISTRICT TO PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH EASIER ACCESS TO COUNTY SERVICES.

HER CONSTITUENTS APPRECIATED HER BRINGING THEIR GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO THEM AND I KNOW OUR RESIDENTS ARE ALSO BECOMING MORE ENGAGED WITH THEIR COUNTY GOVERNMENT VIA SOCIAL MEDIA...

IN FACT, SOME DIRECTORS ARE EVEN TWEETING!

MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT, IN PARTICULAR, IS SETTING THE BAR VERY HIGH FOR ALL COUNTY DEPARTMENTS BY USING TWITTER, FACEBOOK AND

NEXT DOOR TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED AND ENGAGED.

THANKS TO MAJOR HECTOR LLEVAT AND HIS TEAM FOR BRINGING #YOURMDPD CLOSER TO THE RESIDENTS YOU SERVE.

OUR STREAMLINED ELECTIONS PROCESS IS ANOTHER WAY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS IMPROVING AND EXPANDING ACCESS FOR OUR RESIDENTS. AND WE OWE MUCH OF OUR PROGRESS TO DEPUTY MAYOR ALINA HUDAK, WHO HOLDS THE DISTINCTION OF HAVING SERVED AS THE FIRST FEMALE COUNTY MANAGER IN MIAMI-DADE HISTORY.

AS WE KNOW, THERE'S NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN VOTING. JUST ASK THE PEOPLE OF CUBA, WHO DON'T HAVE THE PRIVILEGE, OR OUR FRIENDS IN VENEZUELA WHO RECENTLY ENDED NEARLY TWO DECADES OF REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT VIA THE VOTING BOOTH...

THAT'S WHY THE MIAMI-DADE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR HUDAK, SUPERVISOR PENELOPE TOWNSLEY AND ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR DESIGNEE CHRISTINA

WHITE, REALIGNED VOTING PRECINCTS LAST YEAR TO ALLEVIATE LONG WAIT TIMES.

TEN ADDITIONAL EARLY VOTING SITES WILL ALSO OPEN FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER.

AND BECAUSE OF THEIR EFFORTS, U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA LYNCH RECOGNIZED OUR ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS IT HAS MADE SINCE 2012!

I THANK PENNY, CHRISTINA AND THEIR ENTIRE STAFF FOR THEIR WORK TO MAKE THE VOTING PROCESS SMOOTHER FOR OUR RESIDENTS!

OUR COMMUNITY ACTION AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DEPUTY MAYOR RUSSELL BENFORD AND DIRECTOR LUCIA DAVIS-RAIFORD -- AND IT CONTINUES TO PROVIDE CRITICAL SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS IN NEED. THE DEPARTMENT DELIVERS MEALS EACH WEEK TO LOW-INCOME, ILL AND HOMEBOUND MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHO HAVE DISABILITIES.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN LEADING THE CHARGE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF

LIFE FOR OUR ELDERLY RESIDENTS. THEIR WORK DOESN'T ALWAYS GET HIGHLIGHTED ON THE EVENING NEWS, BUT BELIEVE ME, IT'S CRITICAL FOR OUR COMMUNITY, AND I THANK YOU, DEPUTY MAYOR BENFORD AND LUCIA!

HEMOS SIMPLIFICADO EL PROCESO ELECTORAL Y CONTINUAMOS OFRECIENDO SERVICIOS A RESIDENTES CON NECESIDADES, ESPECIALMENTE A LOS NIÑOS Y PERSONAS MAYORES. ADEMÁS SEGUIMOS INVIERTIENDO EN LOS SERVICIOS PARA ANIMALES.

THERE'S A LOT OF PASSION IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR OUR ANIMALS. AND THAT'S WHY WE'VE ALSO CONTINUED TO INVEST IN ANIMAL SERVICES.

I KNOW THAT MY ADMINISTRATION SHARES THE SAME GOAL AS ADVOCATES OF MAKING MIAMI-DADE A NO-KILL COUNTY. WHILE WE HAVE THE SAME OVERALL GOAL, WE HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS ON HOW TO ACHIEVE THAT.

WHEN I BECAME MAYOR, THE ANIMAL SAVE RATE WAS 51 PERCENT FOR DOGS AND 25 PERCENT FOR CATS. THAT'S WHY I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT OUR ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS INCREASED

OUR ANIMAL “SAVE RATE” FOR BOTH CATS AND DOGS TO 90 PERCENT.

THIS IS A HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT.

THAT’S A 76 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS THE COUNTY HAS SAVED SINCE I BECAME MAYOR.

OUR DIRECTOR ALEX MUÑOZ HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK ON THIS AND WE WANT TO SAVE EVEN MORE ANIMALS.

THAT’S WHY WE’RE OPENING A NEW SHELTER THIS YEAR, A NEW SPAY-AND-NEUTER CLINIC IN HOMESTEAD, AND BUILDING AN INFRASTRUCTURE OF MORE THAN 30 PRIVATE VET OFFICES TO OFFER A COUNTY-FUNDED VOUCHER PROGRAM FOR SPAY-AND-NEUTER SERVICES. WE’RE ALSO DEVELOPING ADOPTION PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMPANIES LIKE PETCO AND PET-CARE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE A.S.P.C.A. FOR THE UNDERSERVED LIBERTY-CITY AREA.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT TO ADOPT A PET TODAY, YOU CAN GO OUTSIDE AND CHECK OUT OUR PET MOBILE.

WHILE I'M HAPPY TO REPORT THAT MIAMI-DADE IS ON A FISCALLY-SUSTAINABLE PATH, OUR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IS ALSO VITAL TO OUR FUTURE.

WE KNOW THAT SOUTH FLORIDA IS GROUND ZERO FOR SEA-LEVEL RISE. AND THAT'S WHY WE WILL CONTINUE OUR WORK TO ADAPT TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA-LEVEL RISE.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE STEPS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS TAKEN:

I WAS ONE OF EIGHT U.S. MAYORS AND THE ONLY COUNTY MAYOR IN THE UNITED STATES TO SIGN THE U.S.-CHINA CLIMATE LEADERS' DECLARATION, WHICH COMMITTED THE COUNTY TO TAKE STEPS TO BETTER PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA-LEVEL RISE. THE DECLARATION WAS EASY TO SIGN...MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS LONG BEEN DOING WHAT WE WERE ASKED TO DO.

I ALSO MET WITH ENERGY SECRETARY ERNEST MONIZ EARLIER THIS MONTH AND DISCUSSED HOW MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WILL ADDRESS OUR CHALLENGES.

WE HIRED JIM MURLEY AS OUR CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER. DEPUTY MAYOR JACK OSTERHOLT, A KNOWLEDGEABLE PUBLIC SERVANT ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, RECOMMENDED THAT I APPOINT JIM. AND UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS.

I'VE ALSO CHALLENGED RESEARCHERS AT F.I.U., THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI AND MIAMI DADE COLLEGE TO PROPOSE STEPS FOR ADAPTING TO SEA-LEVEL RISE AND CLIMATE CHANGE. PRESIDENTS MARK ROSENBERG, DONNA SHALALA AND EDUARDO PADRÓN HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT PARTNERS ON THIS ISSUE, AND NOW I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S NEWEST PRESIDENT, DR. JULIO FRENK, TO FURTHER ADDRESS OUR COMMUNITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES.

ASIMISMO, SEGUIMOS TRABAJANDO PARA ADAPTARNOS A LOS EFECTOS DEL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO Y AL AUMENTO DEL NIVEL DEL MAR. FIRMAMOS UNA DECLARACIÓN DE ESTADOS UNIDOS Y CHINA SOBRE EL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO Y SEGUIMOS TRABAJANDO EN EL PROYECTO DE

**MEJORAR EL SISTEMA DE AGUA Y
ALCANTARRILLADO.**

DIRECTOR LESTER SOLA OF OUR WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO LEAD THE LARGEST CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN COUNTY HISTORY -- A MULTI-BILLION-DOLLAR PROJECT TO RENEW AND STRENGTHEN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, WHICH IS CRITICAL TO OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE.

THIS PROJECT AND MANY OTHERS ARE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE WORK OF COUNTY CLERK HARVEY RUVIN AND COMMISSIONER REBECA SOSA, WHO HAVE ADVOCATED FOR A FEDERAL RESILIENCY FUND TO ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADAPTIVE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA-LEVEL RISE. THANK YOU, HARVEY AND THANK YOU COMMISSIONER SOSA!

RESILIENCY IS ABOUT FACING ALL CHALLENGES -- ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER -- HEAD-ON.

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS BEEN DOING AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO.

SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT WE HAVE TRAFFIC ISSUES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY...

OUR TRANSIT AND MOBILITY CHALLENGES WEREN'T CREATED OVERNIGHT, AND THEY WON'T BE SOLVED OVERNIGHT. BUT WE HAVE TAKEN A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY.

OTHER MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS HAVE GONE THROUGH SIMILAR GROWING PAINS. WE SAW THIS FIRSTHAND IN DENVER DURING LAST YEAR'S "TRANSPORTATION FLY-IN", DIDN'T WE, COMMISSIONER MOSS?

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON WE LEARNED WAS THAT OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS A CLEAN, SAFE, RELIABLE, ACCESSIBLE AND CONVENIENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT ALICE BRAVO ON BOARD TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN THIS AREA. AND NEXT MONTH, WE WILL BE UNVEILING OUR COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN.

ALICE AND HER TEAM HAVE HAD EARLY SUCCESSES LIKE THE METRORAIL EXPRESS TO AND FROM DOWNTOWN; OUR CLEANER FLEET OF BUSES AND TRAINS; AND THE IMPROVED SYNCHRONIZATION OF

TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON SOME OF OUR MAJOR CORRIDORS, WHICH HAVE IMPROVED TRAFFIC FLOW.

WE STILL HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO, SUCH AS SOLVING OUR ISSUES WITH THE FIRST AND LAST MILE, WHICH REFERS TO OFFERING OPTIONS FOR RESIDENTS TO GET TO AND FROM BUS STOPS AND METRORAIL STATIONS...

BUT THANKS IN LARGE PART TO COMMISSIONER ESTEBAN BOVO, OUR WORK TO SOLVE THE FIRST AND LAST MILE ISSUE TOOK A BIG STEP FORWARD LAST WEEK WITH LEGISLATION TO REGULATE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES LIKE UBER AND LYFT. THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER.

AND I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH TRANSIT COMMITTEE CHAIR BOVO AND ALL OF OUR PARTNERS TO EXPAND MASS TRANSIT THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

BECAUSE AS WE KNOW, THIS IS A LARGE COUNTY AND WE CAN'T LIMIT OUR WORK TO ONE GEOGRAPHIC AREA.

THAT'S WHY IN ADDITION TO OUR WORK TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION BY CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT FOR EXTENDING TRI-RAIL TO DOWNTOWN MIAMI, WE ARE PLANNING TO BUILD BAYLINK TO CONNECT THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN MIAMI...AND TRANSIT OPTIONS TO THE WEST...

WE WILL ALSO SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS ON THE SOUTH DADE BUSWAY SO THAT OUR RESIDENTS IN FLORIDA CITY, HOMESTEAD AND OTHER SOUTH-DADE NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE BETTER CONNECTIVITY TO CENTRAL AND NORTH DADE, ESPECIALLY MAJOR EMPLOYMENT CENTERS.

AND WE'RE WORKING ON EXTENDING OUR CONNECTIVITY EVEN FURTHER -- VIA DIRECT RAIL FROM MIAMI TO ORLANDO, TO BE EXACT -- THROUGH "ALL ABOARD FLORIDA," OR "BRIGHTLINE" AS IT IS NOW KNOWN.

ESTAMOS ENFOCADOS EN MEJORAR LA MOVILIDAD Y EL TRANSPORTE EN TODO EL CONDADO. NUESTRO NUEVO DEPARTAMENTO DE TRANSPORTE Y OBRAS PÚBLICAS, ENCABEZADO POR LA DIRECTORA ALICE BRAVO, SE ENCARGARÁ DE BRINDAR UN SISTEMA

DE TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO MÁS LIMPIO, SEGURO, CONFIABLE Y CÓMODO.

MY FELLOW RESIDENTS, ALL IDEAS TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY ARE WELCOME BECAUSE AS WE CAN AGREE, THE LESS TIME WE SPEND IN TRAFFIC IS MORE TIME WE GET TO SPEND WITH OUR FAMILIES!

A COUPLE OF THOSE IDEAS ARE ALREADY BEING EXAMINED.

COMMISSIONER SOSA PROPOSED A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON REVERSIBLE LANES, AND COMMISSIONER JOSE “PEPE” DIAZ HAS ALSO PROPOSED WAYS TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC IN OUR COMMUNITY’S WESTERN SUBURBS AND MAJOR BUSINESS CENTERS LIKE THE CITY OF DORAL.

I ALSO WANT TO MENTION THAT A BIG PART OF OUR TRANSIT AND MOBILITY CHALLENGES HAS BEEN THE LACK OF A COORDINATED EFFORT. COMMISSIONER XAVIER SUAREZ HAS MENTIONED THIS AS WELL.

WHILE ALICE AND HER TEAM ARE CHARGED WITH WORKING MORE CLOSELY WITH THE FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION, THE MIAMI-DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY AND OTHERS, IN MY VIEW, WE ALSO NEEDED TO BETTER COORDINATE OUR IN-HOUSE EFFORTS. THAT'S WHY I PROPOSED THE UNIFICATION OF OUR TRANSIT AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UNDER DIRECTOR BRAVO TO CREATE WHAT WILL NOW BE KNOWN AS THE MIAMI-DADE TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

I BELIEVE THIS MAKES SENSE, WILL LEAD TO IMPROVED COORDINATION AND WILL SOON DELIVER POSITIVE RESULTS OUR RESIDENTS WILL SEE AND FEEL.

I APPRECIATE OUR COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING THE NEW MIAMI-DADE TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND LOOK FORWARD TO REVIEWING ITS PROGRESS.

MY TOP PRIORITY AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR RESIDENTS.

THAT'S WHY WE CONTINUE TO INVEST IN THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT BY WORKING TO

ADD 125 MORE POLICE OFFICERS IN OUR COMMUNITY BY THE FALL OF THIS YEAR, AND EQUIPPING 1,000 OF THEM WITH BODY-WORN CAMERAS. I LOOK FORWARD TO TOMORROW'S GRADUATING CLASS OF 90 NEW POLICE OFFICERS. WE ALSO CONTINUE TO REPLACE OUR VEHICLE FLEET AND MODERNIZE OUR REAL-TIME CRIME CENTER.

COMMISSIONER MOSS AND I HAVE ALSO DIRECTED THE DEPARTMENT TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH U.S. ATTORNEY WIFREDO FERRER AND OUR STATE ATTORNEY TO SHARE INFORMATION AND WORK TO APPREHEND THE PEOPLE WHO ARE THREATENING THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

A KEY CONCERN OF OURS IS YOUTH VIOLENCE. CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE AND WE MUST PUT AN END TO THIS.

EVERY TIME AN INNOCENT CHILD IS TAKEN FROM US, IT'S A HORRIFIC, HEARTBREAKING EXPERIENCE. AND WE WON'T STAND FOR IT.

BUT AS GREAT AS THE WORK OF THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS, OUR OFFICERS NEED RESIDENTS TO HELP.

THE SAFETY OF EVERY CHILD, OF EVERY RESIDENT, IN THIS COMMUNITY IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY. THAT'S WHY SUPERINTENDENT CARVALHO AND I CREATED THE JOINT ROUNDTABLE ON YOUTH SAFETY. WE CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER -- LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE SCHOOL BOARD, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE COMMUNITY -- TO PUT A STOP TO THE VIOLENCE. WE APPRECIATE THE HARD WORK OF JUVENILE SERVICES DIRECTOR MORRIS COPELAND AS WELL.

SEGUIMOS INVIRTIENDO EN LA SEGURIDAD PÚBLICA. ESTE OTOÑO, VAMOS A AGREGAR 125 AGENTES DE POLICÍA. NOVENTA SE ESTARAN GRADUANDO MAÑANA MISMO. Y 1,000 DE NUESTROS POLICIAS LLEVARÁN CÁMARAS EN LOS UNIFORMES PARA EL FINAL DEL AÑO.

SINCE NOVEMBER, JUAN PEREZ HAS SERVED AS ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND HAS BUILT ON THE

**OUTSTANDING WORK OF OUR RETIRING DIRECTOR
J.D. PATTERSON.**

**J.D. -- I KNOW WE THANKED YOU PUBLICLY LAST
WEEK, BUT IT'S WORTH REPEATING -- YOU'LL BE
MISSED AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF
SERVICE!**

**LAST YEAR, I REPORTED THAT BETTER DAYS WERE
AHEAD FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, ESPECIALLY
ECONOMICALLY.**

THOSE DAYS ARE HERE.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS CREATED 132,000
PRIVATE-SECTOR JOBS SINCE JANUARY 2011. AND
ACCORDING TO THE BEACON COUNCIL, OUR
OVERALL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS DOWN FROM
AROUND 12 PERCENT IN 2011 TO ABOUT 6 PERCENT
TODAY.**

**WE CONTINUE TO INVEST IN OUR TWO-LARGEST
ECONOMIC ENGINES: MIAMI INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT AND PORTMIAMI -- WHICH BOTH HAD
RECORD-BREAKING YEARS IN TERMS OF
PASSENGERS AND CARGO.**

MIA SET A NEW ALL-TIME RECORD FOR PASSENGER TRAFFIC IN 2015 WITH 44 MILLION PASSENGERS. THIS IS THE SIXTH-CONSECUTIVE RECORD-BREAKING YEAR AT THE AIRPORT!

PORTMIAMI, THE CRUISE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD, BROKE ANOTHER WORLD RECORD BY WELCOMING NEARLY 4.9 MILLION PASSENGERS. THIS SOLIDIFIED PORTMIAMI'S ROLE AS THE CRUISE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD. THE PORT ALSO BROKE PREVIOUS FREIGHT RECORDS WITH A FIVE PERCENT INCREASE IN CARGO!

THANK YOU TO MIA DIRECTOR EMILIO GONZALEZ AND PORTMIAMI DIRECTOR JUAN KURYLA AND THEIR OUTSTANDING TEAMS!

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS ALSO ATTRACTING MORE INVESTMENTS THAT ARE PROJECTED TO CREATE THOUSANDS OF NEW JOBS IN THE COMING YEARS.

ALONG WITH LARRY WILLIAMS AND HIS TEAM AT THE BEACON COUNCIL, AND DEPUTY MAYOR JACK OSTERHOLT'S TEAM IN OUR REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, WE'VE ALSO WORKED TO DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY BY INVESTING IN FIELDS RANGING FROM CLEAN

ENERGY AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION TO ART, FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT. AND THAT'S JUST TO NAME A FEW.

THOSE INVESTMENTS ALONE ARE PROJECTED TO RESULT IN APPROXIMATELY 2,000 NEW, WELL-PAYING JOBS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

MY ADMINISTRATION WILL ALSO CONTINUE THE SUCCESSFUL EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE INITIATIVE -- WHICH IS LED BY DEPUTY MAYOR RUSSELL BENFORD. AS OF TODAY, WE'VE REGISTERED 1,762 RESIDENTS AND PLACED 280 IN JOBS IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY.

I KNOW THAT THE EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE INITIATIVE IS SOMETHING CHAIRMAN MONESTIME WILL APPRECIATE BECAUSE OUR GOAL IS TO EXPAND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

WHILE IT HAS BEEN ANOTHER YEAR OF STRONG JOB GROWTH IN MIAMI-DADE, OUR AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY IN SOUTH DADE HAS HAD A VERY DIFFICULT YEAR.

I WANT TO REASSURE OUR GROWERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES THAT MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH FLORIDA AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER ADAM PUTNAM, AS WELL AS STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS, TO DIRECTLY ASSIST THEM IN THIS TIME OF NEED. MY FELLOW SOUTH-DADE RESIDENTS, YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

DESDE EL PUNTO DE VISTA ECONÓMICO NOS ESPERAN TIEMPOS MEJORES. HEMOS CREADO 132,000 PUESTOS DE TRABAJO EN EL SECTOR PRIVADO Y NUESTRA TASA DE DESEMPLEO HA BAJADO DE CASI 12 PORCIENTO A CERCA DE 6 PORCIENTO.

NUESTROS DOS MOTORES ECONÓMICOS MÁS IMPORTANTES, EL AEROPUERTO INTERNACIONAL DE MIAMI Y EL PUERTO DE MIAMI, HAN TENIDO AÑOS HISTÓRICOS.

SIN EMBARGO, ESTE HA SIDO UN AÑO DURO PARA NUESTRA INDUSTRIA AGRÍCOLA. MI ADMINISTRACIÓN HA ESTADO TRABAJANDO JUNTO AL ESTADO Y AL GOBIERNO FEDERAL PARA BRINDAR AYUDA A LOS PRODUCTORES Y A SUS EMPLEADOS.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS ALSO MAKING THE PATH TO RESIDENCY EASIER FOR HARD-WORKING IMMIGRANTS IN OUR COMMUNITY. LAST YEAR, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WAS THE FIRST COUNTY IN THE COUNTRY TO PARTNER WITH “CITIES FOR CITIZENSHIP” AND WE LAUNCHED THE “OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS OF MIAMI-DADE” OUT OF THE MAYOR’S OFFICE TO PROVIDE ELIGIBLE LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS WITH RESOURCES TO ASSIST THEM TO NATURALIZE.

MIAMI-DADE IS HOME TO NEARLY 500,000 LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE. THAT’S MORE THAN 19 PERCENT OF OUR POPULATION. HOPEFULLY THEY’LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THANK YOU TO COMMISSIONER DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA FOR LEADING THE CHARGE!

EL AÑO PASADO, EL CONDADO DE MIAMI-DADE FUE EL PRIMER CONDADO DEL PAÍS EN ASOCIARSE CON LA INICIATIVA “*CITIES FOR CITIZENSHIP*” Y ABRIMOS LA “OFICINA PARA NUEVOS AMERICANOS DE MIAMI-DADE” EN LA OFICINA DEL ALCALDE CON EL OBJETIVO DE OFRECERLES A LOS RESIDENTES PERMANENTES ELEGIBLES LOS

RECURSOS NECESARIOS PARA QUE SE CONVIERTAN EN CIUDADANOS.

WE'LL ALSO NEED TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH OUR STRONG LOCAL EDUCATION PARTNERS, AND THAT'S WHY I STARTED THE EXECUTIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN 2012. WE HAVE A GROUP STUDENTS FROM THAT PROGRAM HERE WITH US TODAY.

STUDENTS, WILL YOU PLEASE STAND TO BE RECOGNIZED?

THESE STUDENTS, AND THE MANY OTHERS WHO WILL COMPLETE THE PROGRAM -- AND SIMILAR PROGRAMS LIKE COMMISSIONER JORDAN'S SUMMER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM -- WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTY.

AND, I'M HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE EXPANDED THE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY, IN ADDITION TO OUR ORIGINAL PARTNER, F.I.U.

AND SPEAKING OF STUDENTS, I CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY. UNDER THE VERY CAPABLE LEADERSHIP OF SENIOR ADVISOR

MICHAEL SPRING, MY ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES ITS WORK TO REACH A SOLUTION. IT WON'T BE EASY, BUT WE'LL PROPOSE WHAT'S IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR RESIDENTS...

MY ADMINISTRATION IS ALSO WORKING TO FINALIZE THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF LIBERTY SQUARE BY REQUESTING BEST AND FINAL OFFERS FROM OUR TWO FINALISTS, AND WE HOPE TO HAVE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO OUR COMMISSION BY THE END OF FEBRUARY.

COMMISSIONER AUDREY EDMONSON HAS BEEN A TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR THIS NECESSARY AND LONG-OVERDUE REDEVELOPMENT. PUBLIC HOUSING DIRECTOR MICHAEL LIU AND I SHARE THAT COMMITMENT.

I KNOW THAT OUR RESIDENTS HAVE HEARD BROKEN PROMISES ABOUT REDEVELOPMENT BEFORE. BUT THE REDEVELOPMENT OF LIBERTY SQUARE IS A PROMISE WE INTEND TO KEEP.

AS WE CONTINUE OUR WORK TO DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMIC BASE, I'M HOPEFUL THAT THE NEXT

FACEBOOK, TWITTER OR GOOGLE WILL BE CREATED RIGHT HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

WHY NOT? IT CAN HAPPEN!

THAT'S WHY WE CONTINUE TO INVEST IN THE EMERGE AMERICAS CONFERENCE, VENTURE HIVE AND OTHERS -- SO THAT OUR TECH AND INNOVATION COMPANIES CAN CONTINUE TO CREATE JOBS AND ESTABLISH DEEPER ROOTS IN OUR COUNTY. THOSE INVESTMENTS HAVE PAID OFF. IN FACT, THE ANNUAL KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION REPORT RECOGNIZED MIAMI AS SECOND IN THE NATION FOR STARTUP ACTIVITY.

AND IMAGINE WHAT SORT OF ADVANCES WE COULD MAKE WITH THAT KIND OF INNOVATION IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY! FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S TAKE HEALTHCARE.

WITH THE HELP OF GREAT DOCTORS AND RESEARCHERS LIKE THOSE WORKING AT JACKSON HEALTH, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COULD BE THE COMMUNITY WHERE A CURE FOR SOME OF THE MOST DEADLY DISEASES IS FOUND.

ON THAT NOTE, I WANT TO RECOGNIZE CARLOS MIGOYA AND JACKSON FOR THEIR WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY. AND I WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

IN ADDITION TO ALL THAT WE'VE DONE TO MOVE OUR ECONOMY FORWARD, WE'RE PARTNERING WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION, WHICH HAS BEEN LEADING THE CHARGE TO CREATE A CULTURE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN OUR COMMUNITY.

THEY'RE DOING GREAT WORK TO FOSTER THE NEXT GENERATION OF CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS HERE IN MIAMI-DADE.

AND THERE'S NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW TO MOVE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY *FORWARD, TOGETHER.*

I KNOW COMMISSIONER JAVIER SOUTO WILL AGREE THAT OUR PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN OUR DEVELOPMENT AS A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY. THEY CONTRIBUTE TO HEALTHY LIVING AND INCREASE OUR COLLECTIVE QUALITY OF LIFE.

IN 2008, THE PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACE MASTERPLAN WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. IN FACT, I WAS A COMMISSIONER AT THAT TIME. AND AS MAYOR, I'VE CONTINUED TO EXPAND THE ROLE OF THE PARKS DEPARTMENT BY ADHERING TO THE GOALS IN THE MASTER PLAN.

I WANT TO PUBLICLY THANK PARKS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR JACK KARDYS FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE MARIA NARDI, WHO IS THE ARCHITECT OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTERPLAN. SHE'S BEEN WORKING HARD TO BRING THE UNDERLINE AND LUDLAM TRIAL TO OUR COMMUNITY, TOO.

LET'S GIVE OUR PARKS DEPARTMENT A WELL-EARNED ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

IN ADDITION TO ADDING MORE GREEN SPACE, WE'RE ALSO INVESTING IN OUR WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY BY BUILDING AND RENOVATING SPACES THAT WILL ATTRACT RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE.

SPEAKING OF VISITORS, BILL TALBERT AND THE GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION AND VISITORS

BUREAU HELPED ATTRACT A RECORD 15.1 MILLION OVERNIGHT VISITORS TO MIAMI LAST YEAR. THAT'S AN IMPRESSIVE 5.4 PERCENT INCREASE! THANK YOU, BILL!

WE'RE ARMING OUR COMMUNITY TO ATTRACT EVEN MORE VISITORS WITH THE RECENT RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF THE MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER -- WHICH HAS BEEN LONG OVERDUE. I WANT TO THANK MIAMI BEACH MAYOR PHIL LEVINE AND CITY MANAGER JIMMY MORALES FOR THEIR WORK IN BRINGING THIS MUCH-NEEDED PROJECT TO FRUITION.

WE'RE ALSO INVESTING IN SEEING THROUGH THE COMPLETION OF IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SPACES, LIKE THE FROST MUSEUM OF SCIENCE. LIBRARIES PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR COMMUNITY, TOO. THAT'S WHY WE'RE INVESTING IN KEEPING OUR LIBRARIES OPEN MORE DAYS AND HOURS.

INVESTMENTS LIKE THESE ARE WHY MIAMI-DADE IS THE PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY.

CONTINUAMOS ADEMÁS INVIRTIENDO EN LA TECNOLOGÍA Y LA INNOVACIÓN Y POR ESO

SEGUIMOS APOYANDO LA CONFERENCIA EMERGE AMERICAS, VENTURE HIVE, LA FUNDACIÓN JACKSON HEALTH Y LA FUNDACIÓN KNIGHT PARA HACER QUE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD AVANCE. ESTAMOS INVIRTIENDO TAMBIÉN EN LA CREACIÓN DE MÁS PARQUES, PROGRAMAS CULTURALES Y BIBLIOTECAS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'VE BEEN A PUBLIC SERVANT FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS AND I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE EXCITED TO SERVE THIS COMMUNITY.

OUR RESIDENTS REMIND US THAT OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT MUST CONTINUE TO PUT THE PEOPLE'S INTERESTS FIRST -- SERVICE ABOVE SELF, SOMETHING YOU'VE HEARD ME SAY OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

THAT'S OUR MISSION AS PUBLIC SERVANTS: SERVICE ABOVE SELF. THAT'S HOW WE CONTINUE TO GOVERN.

AND WHAT GREATER EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO HAVE PUT THEIR NEIGHBORS' CONCERNS ABOVE THEMSELVES THAN ALVARO

ZABALETA, SANDRA WELLS, RICKY CARTER AND GABE NEMETH?

ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS, OFFICER ZABALETA PERSONALLY RAISED FUNDS TO BRING THE WOUNDED WARRIOR AMPUTEE SOFTBALL TEAM HERE TO MIAMI-DADE SO SERVICEMEN WHO SUFFERED LIFE-ALTERING INJURIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY COULD MEET AND INSPIRE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. THEY VIEWED SOME OF THE COUNTY'S FINEST ATTRACTIONS AND PLAYED IN A SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT.

AND THAT'S WHY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OFFICER ZABALETA AND HIS COLLEAGUE LISA MACIAS DESERVE OUR THANKS. THEY PUT SERVICE ABOVE THEMSELVES.

ANOTHER GREAT PUBLIC SERVANT, MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT'S SANDRA WELLS BEGAN HER CAREER AT THE COUNTY AS A PART-TIME BUS DRIVER 18 YEARS AGO. SINCE THEN, SHE HAS WORKED HER WAY UP THE COUNTY'S RANKS WHILE BALANCING A FULL PLATE OF OUTREACH AND MINISTRY WORK.

AND SOON, WE'LL BE CALLING HER, "DR. WELLS," WHEN SANDRA ADDS A DOCTORATE IN MINISTRY

**FROM BARRY UNIVERSITY TO HER CREDENTIALS!
CONGRATULATIONS, SANDRA!**

**WHILE SERVING AND PROTECTING THE RESIDENTS
OF OUR NORTHSIDE DISTRICT, MAJOR RICKY
CARTER CAME UP WITH AN IDEA TO LEND A HAND
TO RESIDENTS IN NEED.**

**JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO, MAJOR CARTER AND HIS
PARTNERS RESTORED THE HOUSE OF A 64-YEAR-
OLD RETIREE WHO HAD FALLEN ON HARD TIMES.**

**THIS HOME-BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT WAS THE
FIRST IN WHAT MAJOR CARTER PLANS TO BE AN
ONGOING EFFORT TO HELP IMPROVE THE LIVES OF
OUR COMMUNITY'S SENIOR CITIZENS.**

THANK YOU, MAJOR CARTER!

**AND FINALLY, CAPTAIN GABE NEMETH OF MIAMI-
DADE FIRE RESCUE FOUND TIME TO COORDINATE
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SEPTEMBER 11TH
MEMORIAL AT STATION #3.**

**CAPTAIN NEMETH HAS ALSO ASSISTED THE SOUTH
FLORIDA HONOR FLIGHT ORGANIZATION IN
COORDINATING VOLUNTEERS TO ACCOMPANY
WORLD WAR II VETERANS ON A VISIT TO THE WORLD**

WAR II MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON, D.C. GABE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ESTABLISHING THE FIRST-EVER HONOR FLIGHT FROM MIA LAST YEAR.

I KNOW THAT CHIEF DAVE DOWNEY IS PROUD OF GABE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS. LET'S GIVE THEM BOTH A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

ALVARO, SANDRA, RICKY AND GABE ARE JUST FOUR OF THE MANY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY EMPLOYEES WHO ARE PUTTING SERVICE ABOVE THEMSELVES. I RECOGNIZE THE HARD WORK THAT OUR COUNTY EMPLOYEES DO EACH AND EVERY DAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY, AND WANT TO THANK EACH OF OUR 26,000 COLLEAGUES FOR MAKING MIAMI-DADE STRONGER THAN EVER!

NUESTROS RESIDENTES NOS SIGUEN RECORDANDO QUE EL GOBIERNO CONDAL DEBE SEGUIR PONIENDO LOS INTERESES DE LOS CIUDADANOS PRIMERO; EL SERVICIO ANTE TODO. ESA ES NUESTRA MISIÓN...

RECONOZCO EL DURO TRABAJO QUE CADA DÍA LLEVAN A CABO LOS EMPLEADOS DE NUESTRO CONDADO EN FAVOR DE LA COMUNIDAD Y POR ESO QUIERO DARLE LAS GRACIAS A CADA UNO DE LOS 26,000 EMPLEADOS DEL CONDADO DE MIAMI-DADE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'VE LIVED IN THIS COMMUNITY NEARLY MY ENTIRE LIFE. MY WIFE, LOURDES, AND I HAVE RAISED OUR THREE CHILDREN AND ARE HELPING THEM RAISE OUR SOON-TO-BE-SIX GRANDCHILDREN RIGHT HERE. MY PARENTS ALSO CONTINUE TO CALL MIAMI-DADE HOME MORE THAN 50 YEARS AFTER LEAVING THEIR BELOVED HOMELAND OF CUBA.

THE POINT IS: I WANT THE BEST FOR OUR COUNTY.

LEADERSHIP REQUIRES MAKING DIFFICULT DECISIONS THAT AREN'T ALWAYS POPULAR.

AND TAKE IT FROM ME AND OUR COMMISSIONERS -- NOT ALL DECISIONS THAT WE MAKE ARE VERY POPULAR.

BUT WE MAKE THEM BECAUSE WE FEEL THEY'RE WHAT'S IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR COUNTY.

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY -- THROUGH RECESSION, DIFFICULT BUDGETS AND OTHER CHALLENGES.

TODAY, WE ARE MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER IN A MUCH BETTER DIRECTION...

BUT OUR WORK IS NOT DONE.

AND THE ONLY WAY TO BUILD ON THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE, IS TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER.

OUR RESIDENTS ARE DEPENDING ON US...

MY FRIENDS, THE STATE OF OUR COUNTY IS STRONG, AND TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING IT STRONGER...

OUR COMMUNITY IS MOVING FORWARD...AND WE'RE NOT LOOKING BACK!

QUE DIOS LOS BENDIGA!

KE BONDYE BENI NOU!

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THESE UNITED STATES!

THANK YOU!

