



**DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA**  
MAYOR  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

April 8, 2022

Dear Residents,

I am inspired by the resilience, unity, and solidarity that Miami-Dade has shown during my time as mayor. We are, hopefully, nearing the off-ramp of this pandemic, and our community is emerging stronger than anyone could have predicted.

The last year unfolded in a way that has been unlike any other in Miami Dade's history, one that has tested us all in new ways. We faced a deadly pandemic by leaning on science and data, navigating each new twist and turn to protect our community, while fighting to help the hardest-hit families get back on their feet, and supporting businesses struggling to rebound. We confronted a gun violence epidemic that exploded nationwide largely due to the pandemic, taking strong and decisive steps to prevent violence and solve crimes, delivering real results that have brought us national recognition. We were rocked by the tragedy in Surfside, when Champlain Towers South fell in the middle of the night, one of the worst building collapses in modern history. Our community stepped up, united, as the world watched, to address the crisis and help those who had lost loved ones. Through all we have faced — and no doubt because of it — we are a community uniquely ready to take on the future. Today, we are the most vaccinated county in Florida and have experienced the fastest economic recovery of any county in the United States.

As I move into the second year of my term, my top priority is to build upon that momentum. This tremendous success could not have happened without the contributions of our entire community, and I am working tirelessly to ensure that our economic growth is accessible to everyone. As we look to the budget year ahead, my focus will continue to be the maintenance and improvement of our current level and quality of services to the public by safeguarding fiscal stability, as well as creating a roadmap for long-term economic development that focuses on swift investments in affordable housing and infrastructure. Part of this will include leveraging federal and state funding, directly contributing to a more accessible housing market, improvement of our infrastructure and transportation systems, and an increased quality-of-life for our residents.

As we continue to grow and build for the future, it is critical that we make sure our residents can afford to live here. This means tackling the growing housing emergency head-on. That's why we have already taken action to put Miami-Dade on a pathway to affordability. Last year, we invested a record \$260 million towards the expansion of affordable housing. By the end of this year, we will have an estimated 14,000 units of affordable and workforce housing in development. While developing more affordable units is critical, further measures are needed as housing costs continue to rise. My administration has recently announced several new initiatives aimed at curbing the affordability crisis, and my proposed budget will place a special emphasis on aggressively increasing our inventory of housing and incentivizing more building.

Our world-class County deserves a world-class transportation system. My administration is closely monitoring the funding from the federal government's Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act to identify every opportunity to draw down dollars and make swift investments into our SMART plan. This will lead to increased, efficient, and reliable public transportation coverage across the County. In doing so, we will begin to alleviate our residents' fuel and living expenses, provide relief from traffic, and cut down on pollution and depletion of our natural resources.

To ensure our County is future ready, we are investing in emerging technological innovation at the County-level to protect our environment, including our freshwater supply and our beloved Biscayne Bay. These state-of-the-art measures will safeguard our environment now and in the future. Miami-Dade's natural beauty is one of the many reasons we are such an attractive place to live, work, and visit. For the health of our residents and our economy, the protection of our water is imperative.

We will also accelerate our recovery by focusing on investments that help businesses succeed in the post-pandemic economy, connecting our workforce to high-paying jobs in the highest-growth industries, including the ever-expanding tech and healthcare sectors. By developing a health technology sector that rivals and surpasses any other in the world, Miami-Dade will become the epicenter for medical technology research, manufacturing, and deployment. This will not only provide our community with high-paying jobs, but also access to the best medicine available, improving our residents' well-being through better health outcomes over the course of their lives.

Finally, building trust in government by bringing our residents directly into the decision-making process is a pillar of my administration. We again hosted a series of budget town hall meetings in February to engage the public earlier than ever before in the annual budget process. This input and feedback will be critical as we craft a FY 2022-23 budget that reflects our residents' priorities and continue to mount an economic recovery that leaves no family behind.

We have an opportunity to continue rebuilding a stronger community by prioritizing investments in our residents, small businesses, and our infrastructure for future prosperity and resilience. I look forward to continuing this work alongside our County Commissioners and hardworking County employees, local, state, and federal leaders, and our residents.

The people of Miami-Dade are resourceful and resilient and through the service of so many, the next fiscal year will focus on critical investments that will grow our economy and improve the life of our families for years to come.

Yours in service,



Mayor Daniella Levine Cava