

From: [Carlos A. Gimenez, County Mayor](#)
To: [\(MetroNet\) All Internet Users](#); [\(MetroNet\) All Users](#)
Subject: Our County Family is Miami-Dade Strong!
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 8:03:45 AM

Dear County Employees,

I hope you are staying healthy as we continue “Moving to a New Normal.”

Everything that we have been able to do since March to help our community has been thanks to your commitment to public service. I know it has not always been easy, but you have risen to the challenge at every turn. And there have been many turns, as we have learned from ever-changing information about this pandemic.

Now that we are in Code Yellow and our community is getting back to work, I want to thank you for all you have accomplished during very difficult times. We are still writing the book on how to protect our community from the virus, but you all continue to play a leading role.

As we move into this new phase of business openings, I want to recognize our County Family for all you are doing to help tamp down the virus. So many of you have continued to do your regular jobs without interruption – putting service before self. Many of you have adapted to working from home while managing children or older parents at home and juggling their needs. Through it all, you continue to get the job done.

More than 8,000 County employees have worked from home either full-time or intermittently throughout the past nine weeks, and I expect that many of you will continue to do so. Under our New Normal, we are finding that work-home balance can be achieved and surpassed without having to get into your car.

From front-line employees to elected officials, we all have learned how to meet and conduct the business of the County on ZOOM, or SKYPE, or TEAMS. We have been forced to redesign many of our business processes as a result of this pandemic, and those new business processes will be the new norm going forward.

Many employees are deployed to special projects to assist in the efforts that Coronavirus has presented. You are working at our call centers dedicated to providing free meals for seniors, scheduling Covid-19 tests at various locations, conducting home testing and assisting at the test sites, and other special assignments as needed. Those tasks and other new ones will continue.

Throughout it all, some of you have had to deal with the virus directly. You have self-isolated, and some of you have had to go to the hospital or have had to stay home while a family

member or friend has had to be admitted to the hospital. I pray every day for your health and for those who have had to face hospitalization to fully recover from this illness.

I realize we have missed out on many life milestones during this time: graduations and award ceremonies, weddings that have had to be postponed or held without the type of celebration they deserve. Many of you have had to celebrate Passover, Easter and Mother's Day at home with "virtual" outreach to your loved ones when all you have wanted to do is hug your extended family and friends.

We went from celebrating birthday parties, graduations, and other milestones together to participating in car caravans in the neighborhoods or ZOOM parties. And, sadly, we have had to commemorate a loved one's life at a funeral that requires no more than 10 people gathered and social distancing.

Despite all these challenges, you have persevered, and we are moving forward, thanks to your creativity and gumption. You did whatever needed to get done to help our community.

As we enter this next phase, I stand in awe of your resilience, your commitment to our community and your sacrifice for the good of the other.

Thank you for all you are doing! I cannot express how much I appreciate it. Sometimes pictures speak volumes, so I am sharing a compilation of some of your work during these trying times. This short video captures some of what you have been doing to help our community and keep Miami-Dade County strong. <https://youtu.be/s7YPQgBeDts>

We are seeing a light at the end of the tunnel, and today I need your help more than ever to keep moving forward.

With deep appreciation,

Carlos A. Gimenez, **Mayor**
Miami-Dade County