CARLOS A. GIMENEZ
MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

March 25, 2015

Fellow Residents:

It is time to start planning the Miami-Dade County's operating and capital budgets for Fiscal Year 2015-16. Last year was a year of transition -- turning of the corner for our County. Developing the Fiscal Year 2014-15 budget was not easy and, although we were ultimately able to largely preserve service levels and restore benefits to the majority of our employees, it was still a challenge to fully fund all our needs and lay the ground work for the future. But, as I told you last month while presenting my State of the County Address, I am optimistic about our future and I believe we have indeed turned that corner. So, as we begin the development of the Fiscal Year 2015-16 budget, we will continue our efforts to reinvigorate our organization and invest in Miami-Dade County's future.

My recommended budget will be developed on the foundation of responsible fiscal stewardship. We will also hold the line on taxes. My administration has already saved Miami-Dade County taxpayers nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars by reducing tax rates when I first entered office, and we have kept those tax rates low. Our organization has been restructured to focus on our core missions of public safety and services for our youth and elderly and streamlining the internal support structure to ensure our services are delivered efficiently. At the end of the day, the greatest means for economic development for Miami-Dade County is to create a vibrant community that is safe and well-maintained, with places to live, work and play that are attractive and warrant a sense of pride for all Miamians.

I am very optimistic about our budget development this year. If current projections hold true, it is likely that Miami-Dade County will not need to reduce services or eliminate essential positions. It is very early in the process and much work needs to be done, but I look forward to proposing a budget that keeps tax rates flat and includes investment in financial reserves as well as critical services. Although our revenues sources are recovering, we need to continue to seek efficiencies and improvements in our delivery of services.

My administration will continue to be conservative with our resources and focus on core services that meet the expectations of our 2.6 million residents, we will ensure that the County is financial stable, and we will avoid significantly increasing the tax burden. As I have stressed since the beginning of my administration, we must live within our means and establish practices that promote the sustainability of our government.

I ask that you get involved in the budget development process. Visit our website (http://www.mamidade.gov/budget) for information about our current year budget and budget development efforts. Attend the Town Hall meetings we will hold in the summer to discuss the

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Proposed Budget. Participate in the public hearings on the budget in July and in September to make your priorities heard.

Miami-Dade County has turned the corner. Better days are ahead. I look forward to continuing to work together.

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor