

MADAME CHAIR

COMMISSIONERS

FELLOW RESIDENTS...

JUST THIS PAST SUNDAY, WE CELEBRATED SUPER BOWL SUNDAY AND WATCHED THE TWO BEST TEAMS IN THE NFL -

SO IT'S APPROPRIATE THAT TODAY WE'RE HERE TO CELEBRATE THE BEST TEAMS IN POP WARNER FOOTBALL...

AND THEY'RE HOMETOWN TEAMS!

AND WHO KNOWS??? PERHAPS WE'RE SEEING SOME FUTURE NFL AND SUPER BOWL STARS RIGHT HERE IN OUR CHAMBERS!

THESE TEAMS - THE OVERTOWN TORNADOES, GWEN CHERRY BULLS, AND LIBERTY CITY WARRIORS...

THEY ALL WON THEIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES IN ORLANDO.

LET'S GIVE THEM ALL A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

IT WAS FAMED FOOTBALL COACH KNUTE ROCKNE WHO SAID:

*"ONE MAN PRACTICING SPORTSMANSHIP IS FAR BETTER THAN 50 PREACHING IT."*

IT'S NOT JUST ENOUGH TO TALK ABOUT IT, YOU LEARN SPORTSMANSHIP BY YOUR ACTIONS ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO GIVE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THESE VALUABLE LESSONS THAN THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZED SPORTS.

THROUGH ORGANIZED SPORTS, OUR YOUTH CAN LEARN THE VALUES OF WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD CHARACTER.

THE LESSONS THAT SPORTS TEACH YOU ON THE FIELD, THE RESILIENCE AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS, CAN THEN BE USED OFF THE FIELD, AND FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE.

THIS IS WHY I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR YOUTH SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES.

THIS INITIATIVE WAS BORN FROM THE JOINT ROUNDTABLE ON YOUTH SAFETY HELD LAST YEAR...

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT ALBERTO CARVALHO AND I JOINED OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS TO FIND WAYS TO ENGAGE OUR YOUTH IN ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE SAFETY, WHILE FURTHER ENRICHING THEIR LIVES.

THROUGH THIS INITIATIVE, YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY WILL BE ENGAGED IN PARTICIPATING IN SPORTING EVENTS RANGING FROM FOOTBALL, SOCCER, AND CHEER AND DANCE, TO BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, AND TRACK AND FIELD.

AND, AS PART OF THE YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES, THESE ATHLETES WILL ALL BE COMPETING FOR THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAYOR'S CUP - IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SPORTS.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WILL WIN SOMETHING MORE VALUABLE -

AND THAT'S THE KNOWLEDGE THAT COMES FROM KNOWING YOU PARTICIPATED IN SOMETHING GREATER THAN YOURSELF.

THEY WILL ALL TAKE AWAY LESSONS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF TEAMWORK, SPORTSMANSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP.

MADAME CHAIR, LET US ONCE AGAIN CONGRATULATE OUR POP WARNER CHAMPIONS...

AND LET US WISH ALL OUR YOUNG ATHLETES GOOD LUCK AS THEY COMPETE FOR THE MAYOR'S CUP!

AND NOW, LET ME INTRODUCE PARKS DIRECTOR JACK KARDYS WHO WILL TALK TO YOU FURTHER ABOUT THE YOUTH SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES...

