

MARIE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION AND FOR ALL YOU DO TO PROMOTE MINORITY BUSINESS PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT.

MISTER MINISTER, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE WITH US TO SHARE YOUR LEADERSHIP AND OVERVIEW OF THE SUB-SAHARAN ENERGY SECTOR.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND FRIENDS...

ON BEHALF OF MAYOR CARLOS GIMENEZ AND OUR OVER 2.5 MILLION RESIDENTS, I WANT TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING US TO HOST THE POWER AFRICA B2B SUMMIT.

WE ARE ALWAYS WORKING TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE TIES BETWEEN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE REST OF THE WORLD, SO WE ARE TRULY HONORED THAT YOU ARE HERE.

BEYOND OUR BEACHES, WEATHER, AND ALL THE OTHER NATURAL ATTRACTIONS THAT MIAMI IS WELL KNOWN FOR...

OUR GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION HAS MADE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY THE GATEWAY NOT ONLY TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, BUT INCREASINGLY TO AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND BEYOND.

THIS POSITIONING MAKES US THE LOGICAL MEETING POINT FOR GOODS, SERVICES, AND PEOPLE FLOWING THROUGH ALL THESE REGIONS TO AND FROM THE REST OF THE UNITED STATES....

AND THE PERFECT HOSTS FOR THIS AND OTHER B2B CONFERENCES.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

OUR TRADE AND TOURISM SECTOR IS THE BACKBONE OF OUR ECONOMY, WITH THE VALUE OF TOTAL TRADE THROUGH THE COUNTY TOPPING \$93 BILLION FOR LAST YEAR.

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND PORT MIAMI RANK AMONG THE NATION'S BEST AND BUSIEST, WITH MIA TOPPING 40 MILLION VISITORS AND PORT MIAMI CONTINUING AS A WORLD CRUISE AND CARGO LEADER.

MISTER MINISTER, YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT OUR AIR AND SEA PORTS HAVE BILATERAL SISTER PORTS AGREEMENTS WITH THE MURTALA MUHAMMED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND THE NIGERIAN PORT AUTHORITY AS WELL.

WE ARE AN EMERGING CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE TOURISM, AND A LEADING HUB FOR TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES.

IN JUST A FEW WEEKS, WE WILL HOST E-MERGE AMERICAS, A GATHERING OF TECHNOLOGY LEADERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO EXPLORE HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP ADVANCE PROSPERITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

ALSO OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, WE POSSESS THE HUMAN CAPITAL, RELATIONSHIPS, LINES OF COMMUNICATION, AND VITAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS THAT FACILITATE THE FLOW OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMMERCE.

MIAMI HAS THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGN BANKS OUTSIDE NEW YORK. WE ALSO HAVE MUCH BETTER WEATHER.

OUR PROFESSIONAL AND LEGAL SERVICE SECTORS ALL CATER TO A WIDE ARRAY OF INTERNATIONAL CLIENTS AND DEMANDS.

OUR URBAN CORE AND DOWNTOWN IS ONE OF THE HOTTEST REAL ESTATE MARKETS IN THE WORLD.

IN FACT, MOST OF THE BUILDINGS YOU SEE AROUND YOU WERE NOT HERE 5 OR 10 YEARS AGO.

AND TO FURTHER SOLIDIFY OUR POSITION AS A CULTURAL DESTINATION, JUST A FEW BLOCKS DOWN THE STREET FROM HERE, WE HAVE TWO BRAND NEW MUSEUMS -

A SCIENCE MUSEUM THAT IS SOON TO OPEN –

AND AN ARTS MUSEUM THAT WAS UNVEILED THIS PAST DECEMBER TO COINCIDE WITH OUR HOSTING ART BASEL, THE MOST IMPORTANT ARTS FAIR OF THE AMERICAS.

ALL OF THESE PROJECTS TOGETHER WITH NEW INVESTMENTS IN SHARED CIVIC SPACES ALL CONTINUE TO ENHANCE OUR WATERFRONT AND THE URBAN EXPERIENCE.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, OUR STATUS AS A “CROSSROADS” HAS HELPED US EMERGE AS ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE PLACES IN THE WORLD.

IT’S A PLACE WHERE DIVERSITY IS NOT A DISADVANTAGE, BUT A POSITIVE, A WAY OF LIFE.

IT’S OUR CULTURE, THE LANGUAGES WE SPEAK, THE FOODS WE EAT.

IN MIAMI, WE CELEBRATE AND RELISH OUR DIFFERENCES.

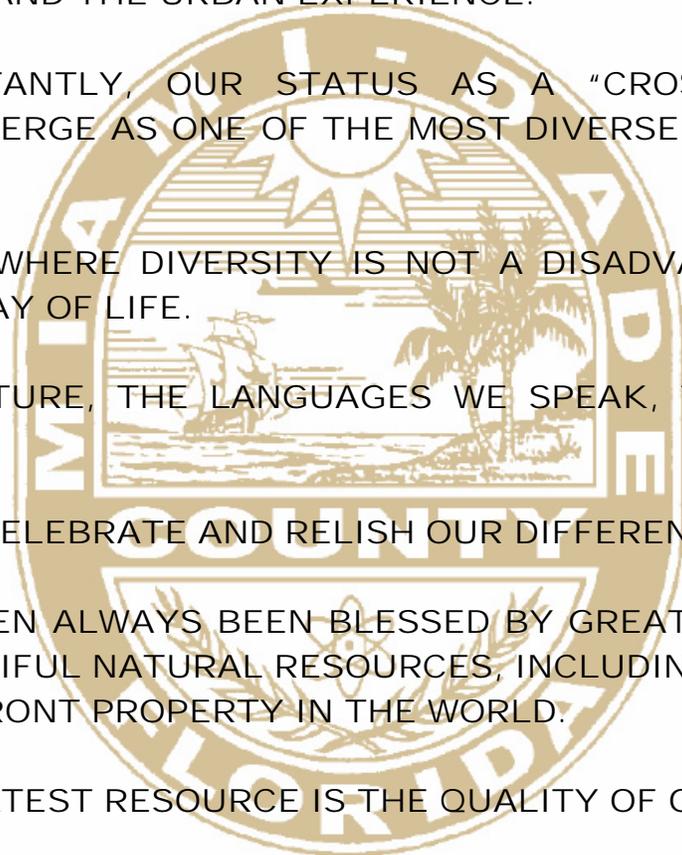
MIAMI HAS BEEN ALWAYS BEEN BLESSED BY GREAT WEATHER AND BY OUR BEAUTIFUL NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING SOME OF THE BEST OCEANFRONT PROPERTY IN THE WORLD.

BUT OUR GREATEST RESOURCE IS THE QUALITY OF OUR PEOPLE.

IN FACT, CLOSE TO 60% OF OUR POPULATION IS FOREIGN BORN. WE’RE A PLACE WHERE MINORITIES FEEL AT HOME, AND WHERE MINORITY OWNED BUSINESSES FLOURISH.

WE HAVE LEARNED TO LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE WHAT YOU SEE ALL AROUND YOU TODAY.

MIAMI IS A MICRO-COSM OF THE COLLECTIVE HUMAN EXPERIENCE.



ONCE AGAIN, WE ARE GRATEFUL YOU ARE ALL HERE...

I WISH YOU A VERY SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT, AND YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME TO COME BACK!

THANK YOU!

