

MICHAEL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION,
AND THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO WITH THE
KENDALL FEDERATION OF HOMEOWNER
ASSOCIATIONS.

AND I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR BEING
HERE.

YOUR PRESENCE TONIGHT INDICATES THAT YOU
ARE INTERESTED IN AND WILLING TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF OUR COMMUNITY.

AND I THINK THAT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IS OUR
DUTY AS CITIZENS...

SO I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE
WITH YOU FOR THIS CONVERSATION.

LET ME START BY SAYING THAT OURS IS A LARGE
A COMMUNITY...

WE ARE OVER 2.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY.

WE STRETCH FROM AVENTURA IN THE NORTH ALL
THE WAY TO HOMESTEAD AND BEYOND DOWN
SOUTH.

AND WHILE WE CELEBRATE OUR DIFFERENCES...

WE ARE ALL ONE COMMUNITY, AND WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

WHAT HAPPENS TO ONE OF US AFFECTS US ALL...

SO WE NEED TO START THINKING AS A WHOLE COMMUNITY, WITH SHARED GOALS AND VISIONS.

AS WE WORK TOWARD THAT VISION...

LET ME BRIEFLY SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF THE WAYS THAT WE ARE WORKING TO CHANGE THE CULTURE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

WE ARE TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE SERVE THE PUBLIC.

WE SEE OURSELVES AS A SERVICE DELIVERY ORGANIZATION.

OUR "CUSTOMERS" ARE ALL OF YOU - THE PEOPLE WHO CALL MIAMI-DADE HOME - PLUS THE MILLIONS MORE WHO VISIT OUR COUNTY EVERY YEAR.

AS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES HOWEVER, AND THESE INCLUDE THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND OTHER MUNICIPALITIES...

WE HAVE SIGNIFICANT BUDGETARY CHALLENGES DUE TO INCREASED COSTS AND LESS REVENUES.

LET ME ADD TO THAT, FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FACES A \$200 MILLION HOLE IN THE BUDGET.

FROM THE BEGINNING, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN BASED ON FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND STEWARDSHIP.

ABSENT A PUBLIC REFERENDUM TO THE CONTRARY, I WILL PRESENT A BUDGET THAT "HOLDS THE LINE" ON TAXES.

I WILL ALSO FIND WAYS TO RUN GOVERNMENT IN THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY WE POSSIBLY CAN.

WE'RE DOING MORE WITH LESS.

AND WE ARE FOCUSED ON THE "CORE MISSIONS" OF GOVERNMENT:

MAINTAINING PUBLIC SAFETY, AND THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES, ESPECIALLY TO OUR YOUTH AND ELDERLY.

I'VE ASKED ALL COUNTY DIRECTORS TO EMPHASIZE STREET-LEVEL SERVICES.

WE NEED TO GET EMPLOYEES AWAY FROM SITTING BEHIND DESKS, AND PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH PEOPLE.

I'VE ALSO BEGUN A TOP TO BOTTOM RESTRUCTURING OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT THAT WILL MAKE US LEANER AND MORE EFFICIENT.

THIS INCLUDES WAYS TO STRETCH EVERY PUBLIC DOLLAR BY LOOKING TO PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

AND, WE'RE LOOKING TOWARD USING TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE OUR EFFICIENCY AND STREAMLINE ALL THE WORK WE DO.

IN THE END, WE ARE MAXIMIZING SERVICES, WHILE SEEKING THE EFFICIENCIES THAT WILL SAVE TAXPAYERS MONEY.

BUT IN EVERYTHING WE DO, THERE IS ONE KEY ELEMENT THAT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY...

AND THAT'S ALL OF YOU.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, AS CITIZENS, WE ALL NEED TO GET ENGAGED IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS.

AND WHAT IS ULTIMATELY IMPORTANT IS THE DEBATE AND PARTICIPATION OF US ALL IN THE PROCESS.

FINALLY, WHILE WE MAY DISAGREE ON HOW TO GET THERE...

I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT WE WANT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO BE A BETTER COMMUNITY...

A PLACE WHERE OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN CAN LIVE AND PROSPER.

AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE ALL HERE.

WITH THAT IN MIND, I THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

