

Shaun, I want to thank you for your introduction and for everything you are doing to help move cities forward.

Let me also thank all of you for being here at the first Smart Cities Startups Conference and for your interest in municipalities and in making the places we live better through innovation and technology.

Over half of the world's population now lives in cities, and this number is expected to rise by mid-century.

Cities therefore have to find ways to reconcile this increase in population with the demands they place not only on the municipal services our residents deserve and have come to expect, but we must also answer the age old question, how will we pay for it?

Having the right balance, and the right answer to these questions will determine not only the future viability of cities, but will determine whether cities will continue to be centers of prosperity for future generations.

Here in Miami, beyond our great weather, natural resources, and world famous beaches, we have emerged as the Gateway not only to Latin America, but increasingly to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

We are a global center for trade and commerce, tourism, banking, and increasingly, technology.

We are also an incredibly diverse community, with 60% of our people foreign born.

This diversity makes us open to new ideas, and that is why I am pleased that you chose us for this conference.

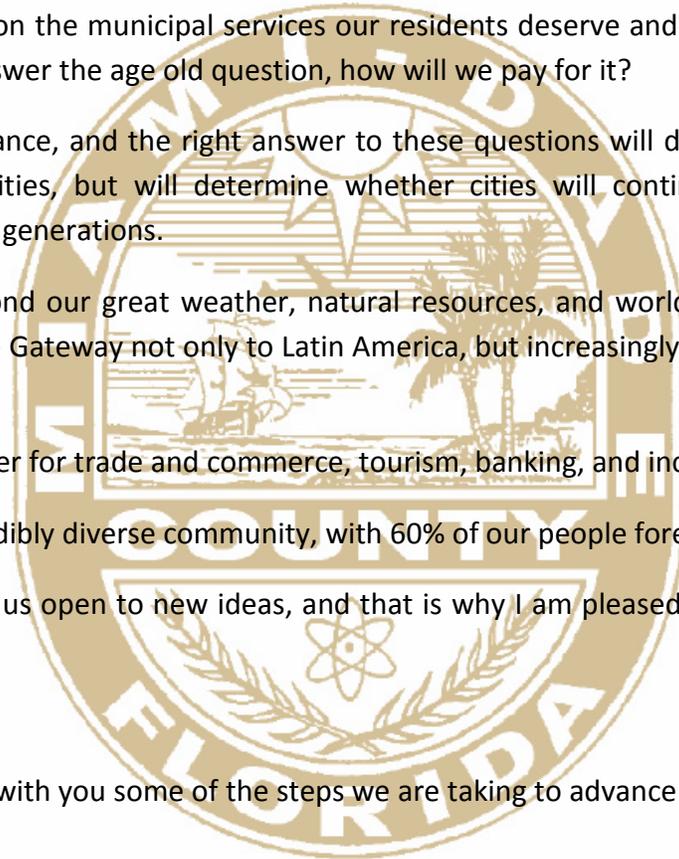
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Let me briefly share with you some of the steps we are taking to advance the role of technology in our community.

First, we understand that we can try to attract all the entrepreneurs in the world, but if our workforce doesn't have the skills you need, entrepreneurs will go somewhere else.

To help all of you successfully expand the business opportunities of the future, we need to have the workers to fill these jobs, especially in key skill areas.

Many people are surprised to find out that the Miami metropolitan area is home to roughly 380,000 college students, placing us among the top ten "college towns" in the nation.



We are partnering with our local universities to make sure these students have the skills required to compete and innovate in the future economy.

Through the Beacon Council, our economic development agency, I am proud to chair the One community / One Goal initiative, where we connect business and government with education, and work toward one goal.

We now have a continuum of education that aligns with the One Community / One Goal target industries.

Through internship opportunities in County Government, and our investment in University based technology labs and incubators, our students are getting an early start on obtaining the knowledge to become part of tomorrow's workforce.

Next, we're unleashing the entrepreneurial spirit of our community by supporting start-up incubators in every way we can.

The Miami urban area is now being viewed internationally as the emerging location for new and innovative companies - especially from Latin America - and we're on our way to being recognized as a "start-up" center - and your presence here confirms this.

This coming weekend, Miami will host the "e-Merge Americas" conference, a gathering of over 2,000 of the brightest leading-edge tech thinkers and innovators from all sectors.

And, as part of "e-Merge," I have invited mayors from throughout the world to meet for the Mayoral Innovation Summit, with the goal of sharing ways on how to transform our communities into "Smarter Cities" through technology.

Mayors are on the "front-lines" of government, and we understand that in order to get things done, we need to rely on the solutions that come from technology.

For example, we now have a predictive smart metering project that helps remotely monitor consumption and identify water leaks across our Parks that is expected to reduce water consumption by 20% and generate up to \$1 million in savings per year.

Technology for intelligence analysis, lead generation and criminal identification and investigation is helping our police department reduce the time it takes officers to identify leads, investigate crimes and solve cases and remove barriers to information sharing with other law enforcement agencies.

And, because taxpayers deserve to know where their money is being spent, we have increased transparency through consolidated analytics that provide our residents financial transparency

and access to key metrics and detailed spending information via the Internet on our miamidade.gov portal.

Just last year alone, this portal had 22 million hits.

In Miami-Dade County government, we're using technology in all our functions to do things smarter, better, faster, and cheaper.

But we need to do much more.

And this is where I need your help.

We are always seeking to work with you - the innovation community - to solve the issues we face.

There is an old saying that government doesn't have all the solutions - well, we don't!

Many of the solutions to our challenges will come from the creativity of those of you in this room.

You have a friend in County Hall, and someone who is open to any idea that will help move our community forward.

I want to invite you to partner with us in helping to find solutions to urban challenges, through the innovative power that comes from technology.

Thank you!

