

This past Memorial Day Monday I had the honor of joining Commissioner Dennis Moss in Richmond Heights to dedicate a monument to the families that pioneered that community.

65 years ago, those 26 families that founded Richmond Heights were pioneers in many ways. They served not only to lay the foundations for one of the first suburban neighborhoods developed for black veterans of World War Two, but they served as a model for others to follow. The monument serves to remind us of their actions, and of the legacy they left for us to build on.

This Tuesday, several members of the Board of County Commissioners and I attended our annual Hurricane Season kick-off press conference as we prepare to get ready for the 2014 hurricane season.

We know that we must all be prepared in the event our community is placed in the warning zone for a major storm. We must also prepare to be self-sufficient within the first 72 hours of any storm.

Miami-Dade County provides a wide array of services in the event of an evacuation, including shelters for pets and persons with disabilities. It's important to note that for any information needs, MiamiDade.gov and 3-1-1 will provide the most current and accurate information regarding actions that the County is taking, which evacuation centers are open, where bus pick up points are, and other relevant facts.

This week also brought us exciting news with the unveiling of the All Aboard Florida train station in Downtown Miami. In order to support the tremendous growth of our community in a way that is sustainable, we are promoting effective mobility solutions that will provide greater connectivity throughout Miami-Dade County, and beyond.

We also need transit options that will get people out of their cars, and out of traffic. To get this done, we need the private sector to be involved. And that's where All Aboard Florida fits right in.

All Aboard will connect Miami-Dade County to Orlando, bringing together Florida's two most important centers for commerce and entertainment. This will create a transit corridor that allows us to harness the economic impact of a region that extends from South to Central Florida with close to 9 million people. Just think, if we were to replicate this in the public sector, it would cost us billions of dollars!

All Aboard will join the existing Metrorail and Metromover, along with the future Bay-link, to form the backbone of public transit in our county toward a day when someone can go from M.I.A. to Downtown and South Beach, and then all the way to Orlando, without needing a car.

As always, to learn more about our initiatives, please visit my website: www.mimaidade.gov/mayor and follow me on Facebook and Twitter @MAYORGIMENEZ.