The Honorable Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Goals Conference
June 9, 2014
City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida

****** remarks as prepared for delivery ******

GOOD MORNING!

IT'S TRULY A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU FOR WHAT IS THE CHAMBER'S MOST IMPORTANT EVENT OF THE YEAR.

THE GREAT BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FAMOUS QUOTE: "BY FAILING TO PREPARE, YOU ARE PREPARING TO FAIL." WE'VE ALL HEARD THIS SAYING AND THE CHAMBER HAS CERTAINLY TAKEN IT TO HEART!

IT'S THEREFORE FITTING THAT THE CHAMBER TAKES THE TIME EACH YEAR TO PLAN AND PREPARE, DEVELOPING THE GOALS THAT WILL GUIDE YOUR WORK IN MOVING OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD. AND ALL OF YOU ARE PART OF THIS PLANNING PROCESS, HELPING US TOWARD THE GOAL OF MAKING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY A BETTER PLACE FOR EVERYONE.

LET ME START BY THANKING CHAIRMAN AL DOSAL FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AS OUTGOING CHAIRMAN. YOU HAVE DONE A GREAT JOB IN GUIDING THE CHAMBER TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY AND YOU DESERVE A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

AND LET ME ALSO WELCOME THE CHAMBER'S INCOMING CHAIRMAN TONY ARGIZ. TONY, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AND WITH THE CHAMBER.

THE GOALS CONFERENCE IS ALL ABOUT MEETING THE CHALLENGES WE FACE, AND I HAPPEN TO BE FACING A SMALL CHALLENGE RIGHT NOW.

IN KEEPING WITH THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE, I'VE BEEN ASKED TO TALK ABOUT <u>ALL</u> THE ISSUES THAT ARE "DEFINING OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE…"

AND I'VE BEEN ASKED TO SO IN LESS THAN TEN MINUTES…

BUT I CAME PREPARED, SO HERE WE GO!

FIRST, WE MUST CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO STOP OUR BRAIN DRAIN, AND I THINK WE ARE SEEING SUCCESSES TOWARD THIS GOAL. LET ME GIVE YOU A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE ON THIS.

SOME OF YOU MAY BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT WITH OVER 380,000 STUDENTS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA, MIAMI IS AMONG THE TOP TEN COLLEGE TOWNS IN AMERICA. THE BRAIN POWER THAT WILL DRIVE OUR FUTURE ECONOMY IS ALREADY HERE, WE JUST NEED TO MAKE SURE IT STAYS HERE.

THROUGH THE ONE COMMUNITY / ONE GOAL INITIATIVE THAT I CHAIR, WE ARE CONNECTING BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT WITH EDUCATION. THIS CREATES A CONTINUUM THAT ALIGNS WITH THE ONE COMMUNITY / ONE GOAL TARGET INDUSTRIES.

ONE OF THESE TARGET INDUSTRIES IS TECHNOLOGY. LAST MONTH, WE HELD THE FIRST E-MERGE AMERICAS CONFERENCE, WITH 6,000 OF THE BRIGHTEST MINDS IN THE AREA OF TECHNOLOGY. I ALSO HOSTED A MAYORAL INNOVATION SUMMIT WITH MAYORS REPRESENTING CITIES RANGING FROM MADRID, BARCELONA, BUENOS AIRES AND MEXICO CITY, TO SANTO DOMINGO AND KINGSTON.

BUT LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE OF HOW AN INVESTMENT IN TECHNOLOGY YIELDS GREAT RETURNS.

WE MADE AN EARLY INVESTMENT IN A TECH INCUBATOR CALLED VENTURE HIVE. VENTURE HIVE WORKS WITH ENTREPRENEURS TO DEVELOP NEW TECHNOLOGY BASED BUSINESSES. WELL, MICROSOFT JUST ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIRST EVER MICROSOFT INNOVATION CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE LAUNCHED HERE, AT VENTURE HIVE. THIS INNOVATION CENTER WILL BRING TECH INNOVATORS ALONG WITH STUDENTS AND OTHERS, ALL WORKING TO ACCELERATE TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES, CREATING THE TECH OPPORTUNITIES AND JOBS OF TOMORROW.

ANOTHER INDUSTRY WE HAVE TARGETED IS AVIATION. I RECENTLY SPOKE AT AN EXPO FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PUT TOGETHER BY BOEING. ACCORDING TO BOEING, IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THE AVIATION INDUSTRY WILL NEED ALMOST 86,000 PILOTS AND NEARLY 98,000 TECHNICIANS, AND THESE ARE HIGH PAYING JOBS.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS NOW HOME TO BOEING FLIGHT SERVICES, THEIR LARGEST TRAINING CAMPUS IN THE WORLD. AN ESTIMATED 4,500 STUDENTS WILL TRAIN AND GET READY TO COMPETE GLOBALLY FOR THESE JOBS. THE PILOTS AND AVIATION TECHNICIANS OF TOMORROW ARE TRAINING HERE, IN MIAMI TODAY.

WE'RE ALSO PROVIDING INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT SO THAT STUDENTS CAN APPLY WHAT THEY LEARN IN THE CLASSROOM, AND THEY CAN GET AN EARLY START ON ACQUIRING REAL WORLD SKILLS THEY CAN THEN USE TO BECOME PART OF TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE.

BUT WE NEED ALL OF YOU IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO KEEP PROVIDING INTERNSHIP AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN THE WORKFORCE AND DEVELOP THE SKILLS THEY NEED.

FINDING MORE WAYS OF WORKING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR BRINGS ME TO MY SECOND POINT. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS AMONG THE TOP REGIONS IN THE COUNTRY IN THE PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION GROWTH, AND THIS IS PLACING A BURDEN ON OUR INFRASTRUCTURE.

ADDITIONALLY, AS WITH MOST GOVERNMENTS, OUR REVENUES ARE ALWAYS TIGHT. WE NEED TO FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE OUR OUTDATED INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET OUR RAPID GROWTH. THIS IS WHY WE ARE REACHING OUT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR MORE PUBLIC / PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS – P3 - OPPORTUNITIES.

FOR INSTANCE, WE ARE GETTING READY TO MAKE THE LARGEST INVESTMENT IN DECADES TO REPLACE AND IMPROVE OUR WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE, AND WE WANT TO DO THIS WITH THE HELP FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR, WE ASKED FOR INPUT FROM THE INDUSTRY, AND WE RECEIVED OVER THIRTY RESPONSES FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO HELP PUT TOGETHER MORE THAN $7 BILLION WORTH OF PROJECTS.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE RECENT PORT TUNNEL AT PORT MIAMI. THIS BILLION DOLLAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT BROUGHT THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR TOGETHER TO FINANCE, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT THIS TUNNEL, AND IT WAS DONE ON BUDGET, AND WITHOUT TOLLS!

WE'RE ALSO ENCOURAGED BY ALL ABOARD FLORIDA, A PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORT TO LINK MIAMI, FORT LAUDERDALE, WEST PALM BEACH, AND ORLANDO, ALL VIA RAILROAD. JUST THINK THAT IF WE WERE TO REPLICATE SOMETHING LIKE THIS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, IT WOULD COST US BILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

AND ALL ABOARD FLORIDA LEADS ME TO MY FINAL POINT. IN ORDER TO SUPPORT OUR GROWTH IN A WAY THAT IS SUSTAINABLE, WE NEED EFFECTIVE MOBILITY SOLUTIONS THAT WILL PROVIDE GREATER CONNECTIVITY THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY, AND BEYOND. WE ALSO NEED TO GET PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR CARS, AND OUT OF TRAFFIC.

PROJECTS LIKE ALL ABOARD FLORIDA WILL BECOME PART OF THE TRANSPORTATION BACKBONE FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, JOINING OUR EXISTING METRORAIL AND METROMOVER SYSTEMS, AND FUTURE SYSTEMS LIKE BAY LINK. THESE TRANSIT OPTIONS WILL ALL WORK TOWARD A FUTURE WHERE SOMEONE CAN GET FROM MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO DOWNTOWN MIAMI AND SOUTH BEACH, AND THEN GO ON ALL THE WAY TO ORLANDO, ALL WITHOUT NEEDING A CAR.

THESE ARE THE TRANSFORMATIVE REGIONAL APPROACHES WE NEED TO BE TAKING.

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT, AND ALL IN UNDER TEN MINUTES!

IN THE END, THE TRUE FACTORS THAT WILL "DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE" ARE THE WILLINGNESS AND DETERMINATION TO UNDERTAKE AND OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES WE FACE. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT ALL OF US IN THIS ROOM ARE ALREADY PLANNING AHEAD, AND WORKING TOGETHER ON THESE AND OTHER ISSUES.

LET ME ONCE AGAIN THANK THE CHAMBER AND ALL OF YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO DO THIS. AND THROUGH OUR EFFORTS, I KNOW THAT MIAMI- DADE COUNTY WILL MOVE FORWARD TOWARD A COMMUNITY WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, AND A PLACE WE CAN ALL BE PROUD TO CALL HOME.

THANK YOU AND I WISH YOU A PRODUCTIVE GOALS CONFERENCE.

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