

IT'S A PLEASURE TO JOIN ALL OF YOU THIS MORNING FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE HAMPTON VILLAGE APARTMENTS.

LET ME FIRST RECOGNIZE AND THANK COMMISSIONER AUDREY EDMONSON WHO'S BEEN A CHAMPION FOR GREATER HOUSING CHOICES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF HER DISTRICT.

LET ME ALSO THANK ALL OF YOU WHO ARE JOINING US FROM LANDMARK DEVELOPMENT CORP. & CARRFOUR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, INC. FOR THE JOB YOU HAVE DONE HERE.

DEAR FRIENDS...

BROWNSVILLE HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

WE ARE NOT TOO FAR FROM THE HISTORIC HAMPTON HOUSE...

AND IF WALLS COULD TALK, THE HAMPTON HOUSE AND THIS SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD WOULD HAVE MANY STORIES ABOUT THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEGENDS WHO CALLED THIS PLACE HOME ON THEIR VISITS TO MIAMI.

TODAY, WE STAND ON THE SITE OF AN APARTMENT BUILDING BUILT IN THE 1950S THAT WAS DILAPIDATED AND REALLY NOT A PLACE THAT PEOPLE WOULD BE PROUD TO CALL HOME.

WE ARE CHANGING THAT.

THE OLD BUILDING WAS TORN DOWN TO MAKE WAY FOR THE BEAUTIFUL NEW APARTMENT BUILDING YOU SEE BEFORE YOU TODAY.

WE HAVE TAKEN GREAT CARE TO HONOR THE HISTORY OF THIS PLACE, COORDINATING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE ENTIRE CITY BLOCK TOGETHER WITH THE HISTORIC HAMPTON HOUSE.

HAMPTON VILLAGE APARTMENTS CARRIES THIS NAME...

AND IT SITS IN A LOCATION WITH AN IMPROVED STREETScape, INCLUDING NEW STREET LIGHTING, PAVING AND STREET PARKING, THAT IS WORTHY OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.

IT HAS THE LATEST AMENITIES, INCLUDING A CLUB ROOM, EXERCISE ROOM, COMMON AREA LAUNDRY ROOM, A LIBRARY/BUSINESS CENTER, AND A PLAYGROUND.

AND, IT IS AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GREEN BUILDING, HAVING ACHIEVED A SILVER CERTIFICATION FROM HOME INNOVATION RESEARCH LABS.

FINALLY, THIS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF OUR PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP APPROACH FOR BUILDING MORE HOUSING CHOICES...

AND IT'S A MODEL FOR REVITALIZATION THROUGH THE COORDINATION OF FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY AND PRIVATE RESOURCES, WITH SEVEN DIFFERENT FUNDING SOURCES COMBINING TO MAKE THIS PROJECT COME TO LIFE.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN TO LANDMARK DEVELOPMENT CORP. & CARRFOUR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, INC.

THANK YOU COMMISSIONER EDMONSON.

AND THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE TODAY A REALITY.

TO ALL THE RESIDENTS - MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR NEW HOMES!