

KEN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION...

ATLANTIC PACIFIC COMMUNITIES HAS PARTNERED WITH US TO BUILD THIS AND OTHER PROJECTS THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THAT.

LET ME ALSO THANK REVEREND COOK NOT ONLY FOR HIS INSPIRING INVOCATION, BUT FOR THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE B-A-M-E DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AS OUR NON-PROFIT PARTNERS IN THIS PROJECT.

COMMISSIONER EDMONSON, DEAR FRIENDS...

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU THIS MORNING TO TAKE PART IN THE GROUNDBREAKING OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE TRANSIT VILLAGE.

THIS GROUNDBREAKING IS PART OF THE OVERALL IMPROVEMENTS THAT ARE BEING MADE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP OF COMMISSIONER AUDREY EDMONSON, WHO IS WORKING HARD TO MAKE SURE THAT HER DISTRICT HAS THE GREATEST POSSIBLE CHOICES IN HOUSING OPTIONS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

JUST LAST WEEK, I KNOW SHE CELEBRATED THE OPENING OF THE HAMPTON HOUSE APARTMENTS OVER IN BROWNSVILLE, AND NOW WE ARE HERE TODAY FOR THIS GROUNDBREAKING.

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW IMPORTANT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD IS TO THE OVERALL HISTORY OF MIAMI AND OUR COMMUNITY.

WE JUST HAVE TO LOOK A FEW BLOCKS FROM HERE AT THE PARK BEARING ATHALIE RANGE'S NAME TO REMEMBER THE STRUGGLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS THAT AREA RESIDENTS HAVE MADE TO MOVE OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD.

IN THE FACE OF CHALLENGES, WE WORK TOGETHER TO OVERCOME, AND BRING PROGRESS TO ALL OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

AND THE 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE TRANSIT VILLAGE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS PROGRESS.

ONCE COMPLETED, THE NEW BUILDING WILL BRING OVER 70 UNITS IN A HIGH-RISE BUILDING THAT RESIDENTS WILL BE PROUD TO CALL HOME.

IN ADDITION TO THESE HOMES, THIS IS A MIXED-USE PROJECT THAT WILL INCLUDE A COMMUNITY THEATRE AND A MIAMI DADE COUNTY TRANSIT HUB.

THE TRANSIT HUB IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF PROVIDING MORE TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AND OTHER AREAS AS A WAY TO INCREASE MOBILITY OPTIONS FOR

PEOPLE, INCREASING ACCESS TO TRANSIT FOR RESIDENTS AND WORKERS, SO THAT PEOPLE CAN DRIVE THEIR CARS LESS AND RIDE TRANSIT MORE.

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

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

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN TO COMMISSIONER EDMONSON, AND TO OUR PARTNERS AT ATLANTIC PACIFIC COMMUNITIES, B-A-M-E, AND ALL OF YOU WHO ARE WORKING TO GET THIS PROJECT OFF THE GROUND.

I LOOK FORWARD TO JOINING YOU IN THE FALL OF 2015 FOR THE RIBBON CUTTING.

THANK YOU!

