

FELLOW RESIDENTS...

MADAM CHAIRWOMAN, COMMISSIONERS...

GOOD MORNING TO ALL OF YOU!

ON BEHALF OF THE MAYOR, I'D LIKE TO START THIS COMMISSION MEETING WITH A CELEBRATION OF THE TALENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AS WE ANNOUNCE THE MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY.

THESE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN NOMINATED IN THE AREAS OF LEADERSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP, AND OVERALL EXCELLENCE.

NOT ONLY DO THEY HAVE EXCEPTIONAL ABILITIES IN THESE AREAS...

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU WILL NOTICE THEIR DEEP COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND MAKING OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

AS WITH PAST WINNERS, I INVITE YOU TO READ THEIR PROFILES IN THE HALL OF STARS FEATURE ON MY WEBSITE.

AND NOW MADAM CHAIR, THIS MONTH'S MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS:

OUR EMERGING LEADER IS JONATHAN WYNN, A SENIOR AT THE MIAMI ARTS CHARTER SCHOOL, WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER JOSE "PEPE" DIAZ' DISTRICT.

JONATHAN FOUNDED 60 MINUTES OF ART, A STUDENT BASED COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION THAT TAKES VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS INTO INNER CITY NEIGHBORHOODS.

THE ORGANIZATION'S GOAL IS TO GIVE CHILDREN AGES 6-13 SIXTY MINUTES OF ART IN A HANDS-ON, INTERACTIVE, AND COMFORTING SETTING, WHILE ALSO PROVIDING LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, JONATHAN HAS ALSO WORKED AS A LEARNING INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENT TUTOR AT KUMON, AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM THAT HELPS STUDENTS DEVELOP SELF-LEARNING SKILLS SO THAT THEY MAY BECOME MORE CONFIDENT AND MOTIVATED TO LEARN.

HE ALSO TAKES PART IN CITY YEAR MIAMI.

JONATHAN HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS' WITH THE YOUNG BUSINESS LEADER'S AWARD AND RECEIVED THE FLORIDA VOCAL ASSOCIATION'S SUPERIOR AT VOCAL EVALUATION MUSIC AWARD.

JONATHAN HOPES TO STUDY VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE WORK OF HIS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

LET'S GIVE JOHNATHAN A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

[PAUSE]

OUR UNSTOPPABLE SCHOLAR IS ALLYSSA DOBKINS, A JUNIOR AT CORAL GABLES SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, WHO LIVES IN CHAIRWOMAN REBECA SOSA'S DISTRICT.

ALYSSA COULD NOT BE HERE TODAY, BUT I WANT TO TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

DURING ALLYSSA'S FRESHMAN YEAR, HER YOUNGER BROTHER WAS DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM.

AS A RESULT, ALLYSSA STEPPED UP TO HELP HER FAMILY IN CARING FOR HER BROTHER AND ALSO BECAME MORE INDEPENDENT IN MANAGING HER OWN ACADEMICS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

ALLYSSA HAS A GPA OF OVER 5.0 AND IS A MEMBER OF HER SCHOOL'S INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM.

SHE WAS AWARDED THE PRINCIPAL'S SOPHOMORE AWARD AT THE END OF THE 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR.

ALLYSSA IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CHAMPION GABLETTES DANCE TEAM.

SHE WORKS WITH 24 OTHER DANCERS TO REPRESENT THEIR SCHOOL ON THE NATIONAL COMPETITION CIRCUIT, AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY AND AT SCHOOL EVENTS.

SHE PRACTICES EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL AND SOMETIMES EVEN ON THE WEEKENDS.

SHE IS A NATIONAL CHAMPION DANCER IN MEDIUM VARSITY TEAM PERFORMANCE AND JUNIOR VARSITY KICK...

AND SHE WAS NAMED ALL-AMERICAN MEDALIST AT THE NATIONAL DANCE ALLIANCE'S DANCE CAMP.

ALLYSSA INTENDS TO APPLY FOR THE SILVER KNIGHT AWARD IN HER SENIOR YEAR AND IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS TO CONNECT HER LOVE OF DANCE WITH HER COMMITMENT TO SERVING OTHERS.

LET'S GIVE ALLYSSA A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

[PAUSE]

AND, OUR PURSUER OF EXCELLENCE IS DARA SHAHRIARI, A SENIOR AT WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER XAVIER L. SUAREZ' DISTRICT.

DARA HAS A 5.27 WEIGHTED GPA.

HE IS A MEMBER OF HIS SCHOOL'S NEWSPAPER, SPANISH CLUB, BOOK CLUB, AND SCIENCE CLUB.

HE HAS ALSO BEEN NOMINATED INTO EVERY HONOR SOCIETY AT HIS SCHOOL!

DARA IS A PEER COUNSELOR AT HIS SCHOOL, HAS RECEIVED THE PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, AND HAS COMPLETED OVER 300 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.

THROUGH MIAMI DADE COLLEGE, HE VOLUNTEERS WITH SINGLE STOP USA...

A PLACE WHERE STUDENT CAN GO TO BE SCREENED FOR MULTIPLE GOVERNMENT BENEFITS AND RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IN APPLYING FOR THOSE BENEFITS IN ORDER TO PURSUE THEIR EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS.

DARA ALSO PLAYS ON HIS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM AND WORKS AT HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS DURING THE SUMMER.

LET'S GIVE DARA A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

JOHNATHAN, ALYSSA, DARA, YOU HAVE MADE US ALL PROUD AND WE WISH YOU MUCH CONTINUED SUCCESS!

MADAME CHAIR, PLEASE JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING THESE SHINING EXAMPLES OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S BRIGHT FUTURE...

AND LET'S GIVE OUR MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS  
ONE FINAL ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

