

GOOD MORNING!

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU THIS MORNING FOR OUR ONE COMMUNITY, ONE GOAL UPDATE.

LET ME START BY THANKING ALL OF THE MANY COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS WHO ARE WITH US, AND MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CRITICAL SUPPORT IN MAKING OUR EFFORTS SUCH A SUCCESS.

OUR ECONOMY IS POWERED AND MOVES FORWARD BECAUSE OF THE WORK YOU ALL DO, SO WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU.

TO LARRY, SHELDON AND THE ENTIRE TEAM AT THE BEACON COUNCIL, TO THE ONE COMMUNITY, ONE GOAL COORDINATING COUNCIL, THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

AND TO OUR CO-CHAIRS GEORGE FOYO AND ART TORNO, THANK YOU FOR LEADING THIS VERY IMPORTANT COMMUNITY EFFORT.

DEAR FRIENDS...

THERE IS AN OLD SAYING THAT "IF YOU FAIL TO PLAN, THEN PLAN TO FAIL."

IN BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, AND IN LIFE, THIS SAYING ALWAYS RINGS TRUE.

CAN ANY OF US IMAGINE A CONTRACTOR OR AN ARCHITECT PUTTING UP A BUILDING WITHOUT A BLUEPRINT OR ANY PLANS?

OF COURSE NOT!

WELL, THE ONE COMMUNITY ONE GOAL INITIATIVE IS OUR BLUEPRINT, OUR PLAN.

THIS IS A TEAM EFFORT THAT MAPS OUT A PATH TOWARD OUR SHARED GOAL OF SEEING OUR HOMETOWN FLOURISH THROUGH A DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY.

IT'S A HOLISTIC APPROACH BASED ON A STRENGTHENED RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL OF YOU - OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS...

ACTING AS ONE IN ATTRACTING, RETAINING, EXPANDING, AND CREATING A VARIETY OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL GROW THE JOB BASE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF ALL OF US IN THIS ROOM AND OTHERS, OUR COMMUNITY IS WELL POSITIONED TO COMPETE GLOBALLY IN THE NEW ECONOMY.

WE ARE ALREADY THE CROSSROADS OF THE AMERICAS, THE HUB FOR COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL INTERACTION BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE REST OF THE UNITED STATES.

INCREASINGLY, WE ARE ALSO BECOMING A GATEWAY TO EUROPE AND BEYOND.

JUST THIS SUMMER, FOR INSTANCE, QATAR AIRWAYS STARTED DIRECT SERVICE FROM MIA TO DOHA, MAKING US THE ONLY CITY IN THE SOUTHEASTERN U.S. WITH SERVICE TO THIS IMPORTANT MIDDLE EASTERN COMMERCIAL HUB.

OUR COMMUNITY IS ALSO, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, A "COLLEGE TOWN" AND WE ARE IN THE TOP-TEN IN TERMS OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

SCHOOLS LIKE MDC WHERE WE ARE TODAY, U OF M, FIU, AND OTHERS ARE ALREADY PREPARING THE WORKFORCE TALENT OF TOMORROW.

OUR IN-MARKET KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURAL FLUENCY MAKES THIS THE IDEAL PLACE FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSES TO PLACE THEIR LATIN AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS.

FOR EXAMPLE, JUST LAST MONTH, BBC AMERICA BECAME JUST ONE OF THE LATEST BUSINESSES TO ANNOUNCE ITS LATIN AMERICAN OPERATIONS WOULD ALL BE RUN OUT OF MIAMI-DADE.

WHEN YOU PUT TOGETHER OUR GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY WITH OUR LIFESTYLE AMENITIES AND BUSINESS FRIENDLY FOCUS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE ARE IN AS GOOD A COMPETITIVE POSITION AS ANY COMMUNITY OUT THERE.

EVERYONE WANTS TO BE IN MIAMI.

BUT TO CONTINUE THIS POSITIVE MOMENTUM, WE MUST CONTINUE TO ADDRESS SOME CHALLENGES.

WE NEED TO BE LASER FOCUSED ON DELIVERING THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE VOTERS OF MIAMI DADE DESERVE AND THE BUSINESSES OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY NEED.

THIS IS WHY WE CONTINUE TO WORK ON TRANSFORMING OUR GOVERNMENT INTO A MORE STREAMLINED AND EFFICIENT OPERATION.

JUST THIS PAST MONDAY, WE HELD OUR FIRST WORKSHOP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY ON HOW TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS AT THE COUNTY.

WE ARE ALSO INVESTING IN ONLINE PERMIT APPLICATIONS THAT WILL HELP TIE TOGETHER CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE ACROSS DIVISIONS AND DEPARTMENTS.

IN ALL THESE WAYS, WE ARE SEEKING WAYS TO CUT RED TAPE, MAKING INTERACTIONS WITH COUNTY HALL EASIER, FASTER, AND MORE TRANSPARENT.

WE MUST ALSO CONTINUE TO INVEST IN OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT

THE MOST COMPELLING INVESTMENTS OUR COMMUNITY CAN MAKE TO ATTRACT BUSINESSES ARE THE SAME INVESTMENTS WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN AND SERVE ALL OUR COMMUNITY

BY CONTINUING TO MAKE THESE INVESTMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY, IT'S A WIN-WIN FOR ALL.

WE CAN ALSO NEVER BE COMPLACENT.

WE MUST CONTINUE STRIVING TO MAKE MIAMI A BUSINESS CENTER FOR AN INCREASINGLY DIVERSE ARRAY OF INDUSTRIES, AND WE ARE DOING THIS THROUGH ONE COMMUNITY, ONE GOAL.

ALL OF YOU HERE ARE ESSENTIAL PARTS OF OUR COMMUNITY'S LONG-TERM SUCCESS.

WITH ONE COMMUNITY, ONE GOAL AS OUR GUIDE, WE CONTINUE TO CREATE THIS ECONOMIC CLIMATE WHERE OUR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES WILL HAVE THE GREATEST ACCESS TO THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT LEAD TO PROSPERITY.

WE ARE ACHIEVING THIS BY FOCUSING ON THE TARGETED INDUSTRIES AND SECTORS THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY ONE COMMUNITY, ONE GOAL.

LET ME BRIEFLY TOUCH UPON SOME OF THESE SECTORS.

OUR AIRPORT AND SEAPORT - THE TOP TWO ECONOMIC ENGINES OF THE COUNTY - HAVE RECEIVED UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS OF NEW INVESTMENT AND ARE BREAKING RECORDS IN TERMS OF PASSENGERS AND SERVICE.

MIA HAS ADDED OVER 20 NEW AIRLINES AND NOW CONNECTS OUR COMMUNITY TO OVER 150 DESTINATIONS.

PORT MIAMI WILL SOON HAVE THE OPENING OF THE PORT TUNNEL AND THE COMPLETION OF THE DEEP DREDGE, MAKING IT COMPETITIVE FOR POST PANAMAX ERA SHIPS.

WE'RE ALSO FOCUSED ON AVIATION JOBS AS WELL.

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.

OTHER TARGETED SECTORS LIKE HOSPITALITY & TOURISM ARE EXPERIENCING ROBUST GROWTH, WITH MORE AND MORE VISITORS COMING TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR BUSINESS AND TOURISM TRAVEL.

THE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU HAVE DONE A GREAT JOB IN BUILDING MIAMI'S BRAND AND CONTINUE TO ATTRACT PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

YET, OUR CONVENTION AND MEETING SPACE HASN'T KEPT PACE WITH THE INVESTMENTS IN THE REST OF OUR AMENITIES.

THIS IS WHY WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT MIAMI BEACH IS MOVING FORWARD WITH A CONVENTION CENTER.

OUR FAST-GROWING ENTREPRENEURSHIP SECTOR IS ALSO ANOTHER AREA THAT WE ARE STRONGLY SUPPORTING.

WORKING WITH LOCAL COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, WE ARE PROMOTING AND INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY VENTURES.

THIS HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT YEAR FOR MIAMI AS A TECH HUB.

THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO BE A LEADING PARTNER IN EVENTS SUCH AS STARTUP MIAMI AND HELPED LAUNCH THE LAB CO-WORKING SPACE.

THEY ALSO LED THE EFFORT TO BRING THE ENDEAVOR PLATFORM FOR ACCELERATING HIGH IMPACT ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO MIAMI AND ALONG WITH US, WERE LEAD SPONSORS OF THIS YEAR'S INAUGURAL EMERGE TECHWEEK.

THE TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION OF THE AMERICAS DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB WITH THE EMERGE TECH WEEK CONFERENCE THIS PAST MAY.

THE 6,000 PEOPLE THAT ATTENDED THE EVENT HELP INDICATE THE INTEREST AND POTENTIAL GROWTH FOR OUR COMMUNITIES HIGH-TECH FOOTPRINT.

AND, MICROSOFT ANNOUNCED THAT ITS FIRST INNOVATION CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE HOUSED HERE, IN MIAMI, AT VENTURE HIVE.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS THAT WE ARE CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR TODAY, BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

WE MUST WORK TO BE THE PLACE THAT CREATES THE JOBS OF TOMORROW.

AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, THE TALENT IS ALREADY HERE, AND WE ARE MAKING SURE IT STAYS HERE.

WE ARE PARTNERING WITH LOCAL UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

STUDENTS CAN THEN 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.

I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU ARE ALREADY PROVIDING INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN, BUT WE CAN ALL DO MORE.

WE NEED THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO KEEP PROVIDING INTERNSHIPS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN THE WORKFORCE AND DEVELOP THE SKILLS THEY NEED.

AND THIS BRINGS ME TO MY FINAL POINT.

I WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO INCREASE YOUR PARTICIPATION THROUGH THE BEACON COUNCIL IN ALL THE EFFORTS TO DEVELOP OUR SHARED FUTURE.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE SHOWS THAT WE ARE ALL COMMITTED TO MOVING OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD.

WE HAVE SET FORTH A STRATEGIC VISION OF WHERE WE NEED TO GO, AND WE ALL NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO GET THERE.

I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH A FINAL THOUGHT:

IN A WORLD OF INCREASED COMPETITION AND MOBILE CAPITAL, WHEN PEOPLE CAN CHOOSE TO LIVE AND LOCATE A BUSINESS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD...

WHY SHOULD SOMEONE CHOOSE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY?

OUR ANSWER IS DRIVING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY, HELPING TO ENSURE OUR FUTURE SUCCESS.

ONE COMMUNITY ONE GOAL IS OUR PLAN...

AND IT'S UP TO ALL OF US TO KEEP WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE IT A REALITY.

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE!

