

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO SPEND THE NEXT FEW DAYS HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

I WANT TO BRIEFLY SHARE SOME THOUGHTS WITH YOU AND THEN LEAVE TIME FOR QUESTIONS AFTERWARD.

THERE ARE TWO MESSAGES OR TWO THEMES I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHILE YOU'RE DOWN HERE AND THAT'S EMBRACING DIVERSITY AND EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY.

BY DOING THESE TWO THINGS, WE ARE GROWING THE COMMUNITY YOU SEE ALL AROUND YOU.

FIRST, EMBRACING DIVERSITY.

AS CITIES AROUND OUR NATION BEGIN TO COME TO TERMS WITH GREATER IMMIGRATION AND UNDERSTANDING HOW TO DEAL WITH DIVERSITY, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS ALREADY BEEN THERE.

TODAY, WE ARE ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE COMMUNITIES IN THE ENTIRE NATION. IN FACT, OVER 60% OF OUR POPULATION IS FOREIGN BORN.

WE HAVE GONE FROM BEING THE GATEWAY TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, AND WE ARE NOW BECOMING THE GATEWAY TO EUROPE, AFRICA, AND BEYOND.

OUR DIVERSITY AND OPENNESS HAS ALLOWED US TO DEVELOP A ROBUST INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM COMMERCIAL SECTOR.

JUST LAST YEAR ALONE, WE TOPPED \$93 BILLION IN TOTAL TRADE THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY, AND WE'RE ON PACE FOR ANOTHER RECORD BREAKING YEAR.

THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION RECENTLY STATED HOW "MIAMI HOSTS NEARLY 300 DIRECT INVESTMENTS FROM 28 DIFFERENT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND 50 DIFFERENT LATIN AMERICAN CITY-REGIONS, TOGETHER EMPLOYING OVER 10,500 WORKERS —

PLUS ANOTHER 75 INVESTMENTS FROM SPAIN AND PORTUGAL EMPLOYING ALMOST 5,000 MORE.”

IN FACT, MIAMI NOW RANKS THIRD BEHIND LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK IN THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT PARTNERS.

THIS HAS ALLOWED US TO BECOME HOME TO A WIDE ARRAY OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES THAT SUPPORT THIS INTERNATIONAL CLIENTELE.

WE HAVE THE LAWYERS, ACCOUNTANTS, AND WE HAVE THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGN BANKS OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK.

OVER 200 INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES CHOSE TO CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS FROM MIAMI.

WE’RE HOME TO OVER 100 INTERNATIONAL CONSULATES, TRADE OFFICES AND CHAMBERS THAT SUPPORT THE WORLDWIDE FLOW OF GOODS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

OUR TOP TWO ECONOMIC ENGINES - OUR AIRPORT AND SEAPORT –ARE BREAKING RECORDS IN TERMS OF PASSENGERS AND SERVICE.

M.I.A. HAS ADDED OVER 20 NEW AIRLINES AND NOW CONNECTS OUR COMMUNITY TO OVER 150 DESTINATIONS AROUND THE GLOBE.

PORT MIAMI HAS A BRAND NEW BILLION DOLLAR PORT TUNNEL AND WILL SOON COMPLETE A DEEP DREDGE, MAKING IT ONE OF THE FEW PORTS ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD CAPABLE OF SERVICING THE LARGER POST PANAMAX ERA SHIPS.

ALL OF THIS HELPS SUPPORT OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH.

A BRAND NEW REPORT FROM THE U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT GROWTH OF OUR METRO ECONOMY OUTPACED THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR METRO GROWTH ---

SOUTH FLORIDA IS THE 12TH LARGEST ECONOMY LAST YEAR OF 381 METRO AREAS THE BUREAU SURVEYED.

THE GOODS AND SERVICES PRODUCED HERE GREW TO \$281 BILLION, A 13.3 PERCENT INCREASE FROM JUST FIVE YEARS AGO.

AND WE LEAD THE STATE IN JOB CREATION, OUTPACING OUR STATE AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT.

OUR DIVERSITY SUPPORTS AN ECONOMY THAT HELPS US MAINTAIN AND GROW THE JOBS OF TODAY...

BUT WE'RE ALSO PREPARING TO COMPETE FOR THE JOBS OF TOMORROW WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY SECOND POINT: EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY.

JUST THIS MORNING, I FLEW IN FROM SAN FRANCISCO WHERE I ATTENDED THE CODE FOR AMERICA SUMMIT WHERE WE ANNOUNCED THAT MIAMI WILL BE WORKING WITH CODE FOR AMERICA FELLOWS IN THE COMING YEAR.

THIS WILL HELP US ORGANIZE A NETWORK OF PEOPLE DEDICATED TO MAKING GOVERNMENT SERVICES SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE, AND EASY TO USE.

ALREADY, WE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ARE ON A PATH TOWARD OPEN DATA THAT IS THROWING OPEN THE DOORS TO COUNTY HALL IN UNPRECEDENTED WAYS.

WE HAVE A LOT OF DATA THAT THE PUBLIC CAN READILY ACCESS ON OUR MIAMIDADE.GOV WEBSITE, AND EVERY DAY THE AMOUNT OF AVAILABLE DATA GROWS.

WE'VE ALSO SEEN A LOT OF INTEREST FROM OUR GROWING TECH SECTOR IN OPEN-DATA. THEY WANT US TO IMPROVE OUR STANDARDS, SO THAT THEY CAN USE OPEN-DATA TO HELP THIS GROW.

MORE OF OUR COUNTY SERVICES ARE GOING MOBILE BY BECOMING APP-BASED.

ULTIMATELY, TECHNOLOGY IS BRIDGING THE DIVIDE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENS.

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE:

EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW HOW THEIR TAX DOLLARS ARE BEING SPENT, AND PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW!

JUST THIS PAST THURSDAY NIGHT, THE COUNTY COMMISSION APPROVED OUR BUDGET FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR.

BUT BEFORE WE DID THAT, WE NOT ONLY PUBLISHED THE ENTIRE BUDGET ONLINE, I HELD ONLINE SOCIAL MEDIA TOWN-HALL MEETINGS ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER WHERE ANYONE COULD ASK ME QUESTIONS AND GIVE SUGGESTIONS ON THE COUNTY BUDGET.

OUR BUDGET PROCESS WAS COMPLETELY TRANSPARENT AND GAVE PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE TECHNOLOGY TO PARTICIPATE IN HOW THE COUNTY PRIORITIZES TAX MONEY.

BY TRANSFORMING DEMOCRACY THROUGH GREATER INTERACTION AND OPENNESS, TECHNOLOGY IS HELPING US ALL.

WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT GOVERNMENT MUST GO FROM BEING A BARRIER TO BECOMING AN ENABLER.

THINK ABOUT ALL THE TIMES THAT ENTREPRENEURS SUCCEED AND THRIVE IN SPITE OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

WE'RE CHANGING THAT!

WE ARE SUPPORTING ACCELERATORS AND INCUBATORS, OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AND ALL THE PLACES THAT SERVE AS CREATION CENTERS FOR INNOVATION.

HERE'S A QUICK EXAMPLE:

I SAW THAT YOU HAVE SCHEDULED A VISIT TO VENTURE HIVE.

EARLY ON IN MY ADMINISTRATION, WE MADE AN INVESTMENT VENTURE HIVE TO SUPPORT THEIR INITIATIVE TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN TECH ENTREPRENEURS.

TO DATE, VENTURE HIVE HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RELOCATION OF MORE THAN 20 STARTUPS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE, AND THEY ARE CHANGING THE WAY THE WORLD VIEWS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AS THE NEXT GREAT TECH HUB.

AND THAT INVESTMENT HAS PAID OFF IN ANOTHER WAY.

THIS PAST MAY, MICROSOFT ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIRST EVER MICROSOFT INNOVATION CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE LAUNCHED AT VENTURE HIVE.

THE 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.

THESE TECH JOB OPPORTUNITIES WERE NOT AVAILABLE IN MIAMI-DADE JUST A FEW YEARS AGO, BUT THEY ARE HERE NOW.

THIS IS WHY WE ARE USING TECHNOLOGY TO TRANSFORM OUR COMMUNITY INTO THE BEST POSSIBLE PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND INNOVATE.

BY EMBRACING DIVERSITY AND TECHNOLOGY, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS GROWING, AND BRINGING AN EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

WE ARE HONORED BY YOUR VISIT, I THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN, AND HOPE THAT YOU'LL RETURN...

QUESTIONS?

