

MADAM CHAIR, COMMISSIONERS...

¡BIENVENIDOS Y GRACIAS!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU TO CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY...

ES UN PLACER PODER CELEBRAR EL MES DE LA HERENCIA HISPANA AQUI CON USTEDES.

OUR STATE AND OUR COMMUNITY HAVE DEEP HISTORIC TIES TO SPAIN AND SPANISH CULTURE.

IN FACT, NOT FAR FROM HERE, IN THE 1500'S, THE SPANIARDS HAD THEIR FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN SOUTH FLORIDA...

AND THEY WENT ON TO CONTROL "LA FLORIDA" FOR THE NEXT 250 YEARS OR SO UNTIL 1821 WHEN SPAIN SOLD FLORIDA TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FIVE MILLION DOLLARS.

AS THE SPANIARDS BEGAN TO LOSE THEIR COLONIES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND AS NEW COUNTRIES BEGAN TO EMERGE,

THEY DEVELOPED THE RICH CULTURAL DIVERSITY THAT FORMS THE BASIS FOR THE HISPANICS OF TODAY.

HERE IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY, WE HAVE GREATLY BENEFITTED FROM THIS HERITAGE.

WE HAVE A LITTLE HAVANA, A LITTLE MANAGUA, A LITTLE CARACAS, AND A LITTLE BUENOS AIRES...

WE HAVE MEXICANS...

PUERTO RICANS AND DOMINICANS...

"CATRACHOS" AND "SALVADOREÑOS..."

COLOMBIANS, PERUVIANS, CHILEANS, ECUADORIANS...

FROM THE *"RIO GRANDE,"* TO *"LA TIERRA DEL FUEGO..."*

WE HAVE PEOPLE FROM EVERY CORNER OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA,

AND WE WELCOME, EMBRACE AND CELEBRATE THE BEST OF HISPANIC CULTURE AND TRADITIONS.

EN MIAMI, SOMOS LOS HEREDEROS DE UNA RICA CULTURA HISPANA...

Y SOMOS UNA COMUNIDAD QUE HA BENEFICIADO DE ESTA PRESENCIA.

TENEMOS PERSONAS DE TODAS PARTES DE CENTRO Y SUR AMERICA...

Y EN MIAMI, LOS HISPANOS ENCUENTRAN SU CASA.

TODAY, OUR COMMUNITY IS ONE OF THE MOST, IF NOT THE MOST DIVERSE IN THE NATION, WITH OVER 60% FOREIGN BORN.

AND WHEN YOU LOOK ALL AROUND US, WE SEE THE FACES OF SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICA, AND THEY MAKE OUR COMMUNITY WHO WE ARE.

EN MIAMI, SOMOS LA CARA DEL NUEVO MUNDO, Y CELEBRAMOS NUESTRA DIVERSIDAD.

FINALLY, WHEN YOU SEE THE PERFORMANCES OF THESE CHILDREN, AND YOU VISIT OUR SCHOOLS AND OUR PARKS...

WHEN YOU SEE THE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MIAMI-DADE, WE SEE THE FUTURE OF HISPANICS, AND THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION.

I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL...

LES DOY LAS GRACIAS...

*Y JUNTOS CELEBREMOS ESTE MES DE LA
HERENCIA HISPANA.*

