

**FELLOW RESIDENTS...**

**MADAM CHAIRWOMAN, COMMISSIONERS...**

**GUESS WHAT? WE ALL LOVE THESE BUDGET HEARINGS SO MUCH WE ARE DOING THEM ALL OVER AGAIN...**

**AS YOU KNOW, NO CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE AFTER WE LAST MET. THE BUDGET REMAINS THE SAME.**

**MANY OF YOU KNOW WHY WE ARE MEETING AGAIN TODAY AND I WANT TO EXTEND MY SINCERE APOLOGIES FOR HAVING TO REPEAT THIS HEARING.**

**IT'S BEEN A LONG ROAD, BUT I TRULY HOPE THIS TIME, WE GET THE GREEN LIGHT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PROPOSED BUDGET!**

**WE ARE ALL WORKING TOWARD THE SAME GOAL:**

**TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY THE BEST POSSIBLE COMMUNITY FOR ALL THOSE WE REPRESENT.**

**AND AS I HAVE SAID IN THE PAST THIS BUDGET IS BALANCED AND PUTS MIAMI-DADE ON A SUSTAINABLE PATH. IT PLACES US IN A SOLID LONG-TERM FINANCIAL POSITION.**

**WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ALL THIS WHILE ALSO KEEPING OVERALL TAX RATES LOW AND STRIVING TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MORE EFFICIENT.**

**ADDITIONALLY, BALANCING OUR BUDGET FOR THE LONG-TERM MEANS THAT WE DON'T EXPECT TO FACE THESE DIFFICULT FINANCIAL CHALLENGES AGAIN NEXT YEAR.**

**HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT MEAN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WILL STOP SEEKING EFFICIENCIES AND BETTER WAYS TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR OUR RESIDENTS. FINDING INNOVATIVE WAYS TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY IS SOMETHING WE WORK ON DAY IN AND DAY OUT.**

**AGAIN, I WANT TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO ALL THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE WORKED MANY LONG HOURS IN PUTTING THIS PROPOSED BUDGET TOGETHER.**

**THANK YOU**