

GOOD AFTERNOON!

THANK YOU DONNA FOR THE FINE JOB YOU AND THE ENTIRE TEAM ARE DOING AT THE BEACON COUNCIL. YOUR TIRELESS WORK IS REFLECTED HERE TODAY.

THIS TIME OF THE YEAR WE ALL COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS.

IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WE HAVE A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE...

TO SHOW OUR GRATITUDE AND CELEBRATE OUR HONOREES WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO OPEN OR EXPAND THEIR BUSINESSES RIGHT HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

I AM EXTREMELY HAPPY THAT IN TODAY'S GLOBAL ECONOMY, YOU CHOSE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

WE ARE THE UNDISPUTED GATEWAY TO THE AMERICAS, OUR MULTILINGUAL WORKFORCE AND OUR BEAUTIFUL LOCATION ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH REASONS TO BE HERE!

WE ARE A WORLD CLASS COMMUNITY DEFINED BY ITS UNIQUE DIVERSITY.

AND THE COMPANIES GATHERED HERE REFLECT THAT DIVERSITY.

SOME BUSINESSES RECOGNIZED TODAY SPECIALIZE IN CREATIVE DESIGN, HOSPITALITY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

AND WE ARE CREATING THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE WHERE YOUR BUSINESSES CAN GROW AND SUCCEED.

JUST LAST YEAR MORE THAN 14 MILLION VISITED MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. THAT'S GREAT NEWS FOR THOSE OF YOU IN THE HOTEL INDUSTRY!

ALSO IN THE TECH INDUSTRY MY ADMINISTRATION IS WORKING IN TRANSFORMING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INTO THE NEXT TECH HUB.

WE ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR WAYS TO BETTER SERVE OUR RESIDENTS, BUSINESS OWNERS AND VISITORS.

I AM THANKFUL FOR OUR GREAT PARTNERS AT THE BEACON COUNCIL, THEY ARE CRUCIAL TO OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

WE'RE ALL WORKING TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ONE OF THE TOP GLOBAL COMMUNITIES TO VISIT, INVEST, AND LIVE IN.

FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES THAT HAVE MADE MIAMI THEIR HOME HAS INCREASINGLY GROWN.

THIS YEAR AS DONNA MENTIONED THE 39 COMPANIES WE ARE HONORING WILL GENERATE MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED MILLION IN NEW CAPITAL INVESTMENT, AND WILL CREATE OVER 2,000 DIRECT JOBS...

THAT DEFINITELY DESERVES A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

THINK ABOUT THE POSITIVE IMPACT YOU ARE HAVING ON SO MANY PEOPLE, AND ON SO MANY LEVELS....

YOU HAVE STRENGTHENED OUR ECONOMY AND OUR COMMUNITY...

ON THAT NOTE, I'D LIKE TO AGAIN THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR CHOOSING TO DO BUSINESS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

AND I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS AS YOU BUILD AND EXPAND YOUR COMPANIES HERE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND NOW, LET ME JOIN DONNA IN PRESENTING OUR HONOREES WITH A KEY TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY...

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!