

FELLOW RESIDENTS...

HONORABLE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION...

GOOD MORNING!

IT'S ALWAYS GREAT TO START OUR MEETINGS WITH SOME GOOD NEWS, AND WHAT A BETTER WAY TO START WITH THAN RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE FINE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS THE MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS.

THEY EACH REMIND US OF THE GREAT POTENTIAL THAT EXISTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND THEY HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THEY ARE ALL LEADERS IN THE AREAS OF EXCELLENCE, SCHOLARSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT THE MAYOR'S SHINING SCHOLARS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

VIANGELY ASENCIO, TI'ANDRE BELLINGER, AND WALESKIS GIRAUD JOIN A GROUP OF TRULY

REMARKABLE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO REPRESENT THE VERY BEST OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S FUTURE.

OUR UNSTOPPABLE SCHOLAR IS VIANGELY ASENCIO, A JUNIOR AT CORAL GABLES SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER EDMONSON'S DISTRICT.

VIANGELY HAS BEEN ON THE HONOR ROLL SINCE HER FRESHMEN YEAR AND SERVES AS THE COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY.

SHE IS ALSO A STUDENT AMBASSADOR FOR THE MIAMI DADE COLLEGE HELPING HANDS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AND THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE HEALTH INFORMATION PROJECT.

VIANGELY HAS PLAYED THE PIANO FOR 8 YEARS AT THE R & I PIANO CONSERVATORY AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE EMERGENCY PEDIATRICS AND TRAUMA/BURN UNITS AT THE JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

SHE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF HER CHURCH'S ADVENTURERS CLUB, WHERE SHE TEACHES YOUNG CHILDREN. IN ADDITION, SHE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE

PARTICIPANT IN THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE'S ADOPT-A-MEAL PROGRAM.

THROUGH HER INVOLVEMENT WITH THESE CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS, SHE ORGANIZED A CANNED FOOD DRIVE THAT COLLECTED OVER 2,500 CANS TO BENEFIT THE CHAPMAN PARTNERSHIP, AS WELL AS THE FIRST EVER HAM AND CHEESE SANDWICH-MAKING EVENT TO BENEFIT CAMILLUS HOUSE.

VIANGELY ASPIRES TO BE THE FIRST PERSON IN HER FAMILY TO GO TO COLLEGE AND HOPES TO MAJOR IN FORENSIC SCIENCE OR MUSIC EDUCATION.

LET'S GIVE VIANGELY A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

OUR EMERGING LEADER IS TI'ANDRE BELLINGER. HE IS A SENIOR AT MIAMI JACKSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND LIVES IN COMMISSIONER JORDAN'S DISTRICT.

TI'ANDRE HAS COMPLETED OVER 500 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AS A CITY OF MIAMI POLICE EXPLORER LIEUTENANT. HE PARTICIPATES IN VETERAN'S DAY PARADES, CRIME PREVENTION PROJECTS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COMPETITIONS WHILE MANAGING A RIGOROUS

SCHEDULE OF HONORS AND DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES. HE ALSO PLAYS FOOTBALL AND IS A MEMBER OF THE J-R-O-T-C AT HIS SCHOOL.

TI'ANDRE IS VERY CREATIVE AND HAS AUTHORED A COLLECTION OF POEMS AND OTHER WRITTEN WORKS TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS ON ISSUES SUCH AS HOMELESSNESS, SINGLE PARENT HOMES, RELATIONSHIPS, AND POLITICS.

HE HAS PERFORMED HIS "I AM TRAYVON MARTIN" PIECE IN MAJOR EVENTS SUCH AS THE BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM IN FRONT OF HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS.

TI'ANDRE IS THE RECIPIENT OF A POP WARNER SCHOLARSHIP AND HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL OTHER AWARDS INCLUDING THE YOUNG TALENT BIG DREAMS FINALIST THEODORE GIBSON ORATORICAL WINNER AWARD, THE "DO THE RIGHT THING" HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE YEAR, AND THE ROYAL COUNTY AMARANTH ORATORICAL WINNER.

TI'ANDRE ASPIRES TO BECOME A CITY OF MIAMI POLICE OFFICER IN THE FUTURE.

PLEASE HELP ME GIVE TI'ANDRE BIG HAND!

AND OUR PURSUER OF EXCELLENCE IS WALESKIS GIRAUD - A SENIOR AT THE SCHOOL FOR ADVANCES STUDIES WHO LIVES IN COMMISSIONER ZAPATA'S DISTRICT.

PRIOR TO HER SENIOR YEAR WALESKIS EARNED A 5.81 GPA AND A MONTH BEFORE HER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION SHE IS EXPECTED TO GRADUATE WITH AN ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE FROM MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE IN MAY.

SHE IS THE HIGH SCHOOL COORDINATOR OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CHAPTER OF STUDENTS WORKING FOR EQUAL RIGHTS WHERE SHE HAS SPOKEN TO MANY GROUPS OF HIGH SCHOOLS STUDENTS ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

WALESKIS IMMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES FROM VENEZUELA AT THE AGE OF FOUR AND OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS HAS DEVOTED MORE THAN 2000 HOURS WORKING WITH ATTORNEYS TO HELP "DREAMERS" OBTAIN WORK PERMITS AND AVOID DEPORTATION.

SHE HAS ALSO SERVED AS THE MEDIA LEAD FOR “EDUCATION NOT DEPORTATION” AND IS A MEMBER OF HER SCHOOL’S MOCK TRIAL TEAM.

WALESKIS HOPES TO SERVE HER COMMUNITY IN THE FUTURE AS AN IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY, AND A U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN.

YOUR PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND ALL OF US ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU!

PLEASE JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING THEM FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND HARD WORK!

AS WITH ALL PAST WINNERS, TODAY’S HONOREES WILL BE FEATURED IN THE MAYOR’S HALL OF STARS ON MY WEBSITE.

LET’S GIVE THEM ALL ONE FINAL BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

