

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE!

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE VISITING, WELCOME TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOUNDER OF THE EMERGE AMERICAS CONFERENCE, MR. MANNY MEDINA FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING,

AS WELL AS THE MEMBERS OF MIAMI'S DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE!

I WANT TO THANK GREENBERG TRAURIG FOR ALLOWING US TO GATHER HERE TO SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE UPCOMING GOVERNMENT INNOVATION SUMMIT.

BETH, MEMBERS OF THE CONSULAR CORPS, DISTINGUISHED FRIENDS...

IT'S AN HONOR TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY.

LET ME BEGIN, BETH, BY CONGRATULATING YOU AND YOUR TEAM AT THE TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION OF THE AMERICAS FOR THE WORK

YOU ARE DOING TO MERGE THE WORLDS OF TECHNOLOGY WITH PUBLIC SECTOR POLICY MAKERS.

WE ARE HAPPY TO SHARE THE E-MERGE EXPERIENCE WITH ALL OF YOU AND I WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO BECOME ADVOCATES FOR E-MERGE AND THE E-GOV SUMMIT WITHIN YOUR CONSTITUENCIES AND IN YOUR HOME COUNTRIES.

FROM THE TIME I TOOK OFFICE, I HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FUTURE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND OUR ABILITY TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUNGER RESIDENTS WOULD REQUIRE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO GROW OUR TECHNOLOGY SECTOR.

THAT'S WHY I HAVE BEEN A COMMITTED SPONSOR OF THE MISSION OF E-MERGE.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I REMEMBER THE DAY MANNY CAME TO MY OFFICE TO MEET WITH DEPUTY MAYOR JACK OSTERHOLT, OUR I.T. DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ANGEL PETISCO AND I. THAT'S WHEN WE FIRST DISCUSSED THE VISION OF TRANSFORMING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INTO THE NEXT TECHNOLOGY HUB OF THE AMERICAS.

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE THAT MEETING NEARLY 3 YEARS AGO, BUT OUR EFFORTS HAVE NOT GONE UNNOTICED.

THE GROWING DEMAND FOR SKILLED TECH WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, AS WELL AS OUR NOTABLE TECH ACQUISITIONS IN RECENT YEARS, HAS FINALLY PLACED US ON THE TECH MAP.

AND AS MIAMI-DADE'S TECH MAYOR, THAT IS MUSIC TO MY EARS.

IN ADDITION TO CREATING THE TECH JOBS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW,

MIAMI-DADE HAS ATTRACTED MORE THAN 20 START-UPS FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN LESS THAN 2 YEARS.

THE EXCITEMENT FOR TECHNOLOGY THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE ALL OVER OUR COMMUNITY IS BEING EMBRACED ACROSS THE ENTIRE STATE AND THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA AS WELL AS EUROPE.

AS MR. MEDINA MENTIONED EARLIER, THE 2014 E-MERGE CONFERENCE WAS A RESOUNDING

SUCCESS AND SURPASSED OUR INITIAL EXPECTATIONS IN TERMS OF ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION.

FURTHERMORE, THE CONFERENCE GENERATED OVER \$23 MILLION IN TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT, AND 184 JOBS THROUGHOUT SOUTH FLORIDA.

THIS YEAR WE ANTICIPATE THE 2015 E-MERGE CONFERENCE TO CREATE 254 JOBS AND HAVE A TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ALMOST \$29 MILLION IN OUR AREA.

AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, I AM HONORED TO BE THE HOST AGAIN THIS YEAR FOR THE GOVERNMENT INNOVATION SUMMIT ALSO KNOWN AS "E-GOV."

DURING THE GOVERNMENT INNOVATION SUMMIT WE'LL DISCUSS OUR SHARED GOALS OF TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITIES TO BE CENTERS OF INNOVATIVE THINKING, THROUGH THE USE OF CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES.

THIS YEAR, WE ARE HAPPY TO INCLUDE A WIDER REPRESENTATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

SECTOR VISIONARY LEADERS AT THE FEDERAL, STATE AND REGIONAL LEVELS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE.

WE WILL FOCUS ON KEY THEMES THAT CONCERN ALL OF US, INCLUDING E-URBAN PLANNING, INNOVATIVE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY, AMONG OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS.

SO I URGE YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS CRITICAL ISSUES IN YOUR PARTICULAR COMMUNITIES AS WE AIM TO WORK TOGETHER TO BECOME MORE TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THOSE WE SERVE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN IN MAY FOR OUR GOVERNMENT INNOVATION SUMMIT AND TO WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU TO HIGHLIGHT THE POSITIVE IMPACTS THAT TECHNOLOGY CAN HAVE THROUGHOUT OUR HEMISPHERE.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!