

GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE!

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY AS WE CELEBRATE YET ANOTHER MILESTONE IN MIAMI-DADE HISTORY.

COMMISSIONER ROB MANFRED, WE ARE THRILLED THAT AS ONE OF YOUR FIRST OFFICIAL ACTS AS THE NEW MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL COMMISSIONER, YOU HAVE SELECTED MARLINS PARK AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO HOST THE 2017 MIDSUMMER CLASSIC!

THIS EVENT WILL GREATLY BENEFIT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY AND ENHANCE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S BRAND THROUGHOUT THE NATION AND THE WORLD.

ALTHOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ALL-STAR GAMES ARE HOSTED IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA,

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS HOSTED MAJOR SPORTING AND OTHER LARGE SCALE EVENTS INCLUDING SUPER BOWLS, TENNIS TOURNAMENTS, ULTRA MUSIC FESTIVALS, AIR, SEA AND BOAT SHOWS, AS WELL AS ONE OF THE MOST INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ART FAIRS, -ART BASEL.

SO I CAN ASSURE YOU WE ARE READY TO SHOWCASE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ALL-STAR GAME AND MIDSUMMER CLASSIC EVENT YET.

IN ADDITION, OUR COUNTY IS KNOWN AS THE UNDISPUTED GATEWAY TO THE AMERICAS AND AS A "BIG-TICKET" EVENT DESTINATION.

IT IS A COMMUNITY THAT IS OPEN AND DIVERSE.

OUR 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS COME FROM 156 COUNTRIES AND COMMUNICATE IN MORE THAN 64 LANGUAGES.

IN FACT, MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF OUR POPULATION IS FOREIGN BORN.

IT DRIVES OUR DYNAMIC GROWTH, AND IT HAS TURNED US INTO A PLACE FOR INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY.

YOU COULD NOT HAVE CHOSEN A BETTER LOCATION TO HOST THIS GREAT EVENT!

FINALLY, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE MIAMI MARLINS ORGANIZATION NOT ONLY FOR WORKING DILIGENTLY AND COLLABORATIVELY WITH MY ADMINISTRATION AND MY DEPUTY MAYOR ALINA

HUDAK, BUT ALSO FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY.

I WANT TO THANK THE MARLINS FOUNDATION FOR DONATING OVER \$5 MILLION TO SOUTH FLORIDA CHARITIES,

AND THE FRONT OFFICE STAFF, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "MARLINS AYUDAN BLUE SHIRTS", FOR PERFORMING MORE THAN 30,000 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.

THE ALL STAR GAME IS A WIN-WIN-WIN FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, THE MIAMI MARLINS AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL!

CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN!

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