

GUILLERMO, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION... AND THANK YOU LATIN BUILDERS ASSOCIATION FOR INVITING ME TO BE HERE WITH ALL OF YOU.

LET ME BEGIN BY RECOGNIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF OUR BOARD OF COUNTY COMISSIONERS JEAN MONESTIME AND VICE CHAIRMAN ESTEBAN BOVO.

ALSO HERE WITH US COMISSIONERS SOSA AND COMISSIONER JORDAN, THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

I WANT TO THANK CITY OF MIAMI MANAGER ALEX BRAVO AS WELL AS CITY OF CORAL GABLES COMISSIONERS LAGO, CABRERA AND KEON FOR BEING HERE TODAY.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, DEAR FRIENDS...

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU THIS AFTERNOON TO BRIEFLY SHARE SOME THOUGHTS ON MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S GOALS AS WE BEGIN 2015 AND ON HOW WE CAN ALL CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY.

AS SOME OF YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW, WE FACED SEVERAL FINANCIAL CHALLENGES IN 2014, BUT AS I SAID YESTERDAY DURING OUR STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS TURNED THE CORNER.

ON THE JOBS FRONT, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BUSINESS CREATED 112,000 NEW PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS. OUR COUNTY CONTINUES TO LEAD THE STATE IN JOB CREATION.

WE ARE ALL WORKING TODAY TO BE THE PLACE THAT CREATES THE JOBS OF TOMORROW.

BUT IN TODAY'S WORLD, THIS IS NOT ENOUGH!

WE NEED TO TRAIN THE WORKERS THAT WILL FILL THE JOBS MOST OF YOU IN THIS ROOM CAN OFFER.

THAT IS WHY IN DECEMBER, WE LAUNCHED THE "EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE" INITIATIVE.

"EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE" PROVIDES JOB TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO THOSE RESIDENTS IN AREAS WITH HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATES.

THE INITIAL ROLLOUT DOES FOCUS ON NEIGHBORHOODS LIKE LIBERTY CITY IN THE CITY

OF MIAMI AND PRIORITIZES WORK IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

I AM SURE MANY OF YOU IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR LOOK TO HIRE A LOCAL WORKFORCE INSTEAD OF IMPORTING LABOR FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE OR EVEN THE COUNTRY, BUT IN THE PAST SOME OF OUR RESIDENTS MAY HAVE LACKED THE NECESSARY TRAINING TO BE HIRED.

THAT WILL NO LONGER BE THE CASE!

“EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE” USES FEDERAL, STATE AND PRIVATE SECTOR DOLLARS TO FUND ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDE STIPENDS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WHILE THEY ARE IN TRAINING.

THESE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS, OUR FRIENDS, OUR RESIDENTS, AND I BELIEVE OUR WORKFORCE SHOULD RESEMBLE OUR COMMUNITY.

YOU ALL CAN HELP OUR FELLOW MIAMIANS BY GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK. MY ADMINISTRATION IS ADDRESSING ISSUES, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.

GOVERNMENT CAN HELP SET FAVORABLE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND EVEN TRAIN AND

EDUCATE RESIDENTS WHO WANT TO WORK, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

ALL OF YOU IN THIS ROOM CAN DO WHAT CAREERSOURCE SOUTH FLORIDA, THE NEIGHBORS AND NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION, AND THE ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS HAVE DONE.

LET'S CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER!

IT IS A WIN-WIN FOR OUR RESIDENTS, OUR BUSINESSES AND OUR COUNTY!

TO DATE, NEARLY 500 RESIDENTS HAVE ENROLLED IN THE FIRST TRAINING CLASSES, AND MANY HAVE ALREADY SECURED EMPLOYMENT.

BUT WE NEED YOUR ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN HELPING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GROW AND PROSPER.

I WANT TO REITERATE THAT I AM ALWAYS OPEN TO NEW IDEAS AND FEEDBACK FROM THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE OUT THERE EVERY DAY CREATING AND SUPPORTING JOBS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

IF THERE IS ANY WAY WE CAN MAKE YOUR WORK EASIER - WHETHER IT'S PERMITTING, CUTTING RED-TAPE, OR ANYTHING ELSE -- LET US KNOW.

LET ME THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN...

AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO WORK WITH US TO CONTINUE MAKING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY THE WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY WE ALL WANT TO PASS ON TO OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

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

