

GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME EVERYONE!

THANK YOU BILL FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION!

I WANT TO BEGIN BY THANKING COMMISSIONERS JORDAN, SOSA, AND BOVO FOR BEING HERE WITH US TODAY. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE CHIEF FACILITIES OFFICER JAIME TORRENS, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE WINNING CLASS OF STUDENTS FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) MAGNET SCHOOLS, AS WELL AS THE MAST ACADEMY STUDENTS WHO OFFERED THE NAME FOR THIS MACHINE, AND THEIR RELATIVES WHO ARE HERE ON BEHALF OF THE NAMESAKE.

I WANT TO THANK BILL JOHNSON FOR THE EXCELLENT WORK HE DID DURING THE LAST YEAR AT THE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT, OVERSEEING MAJOR PROJECTS SUCH AS THIS ONE WHERE HE PROVED ONCE AGAIN TO BE AN OUTSTANDING LEADER. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WILL MISS HIM AND WE ALL WISH HIM LUCK AS THE PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ENTERPRISE FLORIDA.

OF COURSE, BILL HAS LEFT THE DEPARTMENT IN EXCELLENT HANDS WITH LESTER SOLA, WHO HAS ALL OF OUR CONFIDENCE IN HIS ABILITY TO LEAD WASD INTO THE FUTURE.

AS I MENTIONED YESTERDAY IN MY STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS, BETTER DAYS ARE AHEAD FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, BECAUSE DESPITE OUR CHALLENGES, WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTY IS BRIGHTER.

I BELIEVE THAT THE NEXT TWO DECADES WILL BE CRITICAL FOR OUR WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT AND FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTY.

AS THE LARGEST WATER AND SEWER UTILITY IN THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES, MIAMI-DADE WATER AND SEWER SERVES 2.3 MILLION RESIDENTS AND THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS DAILY. THAT IS WHY WE ARE WORKING DILIGENTLY TO UPGRADE AND MODERNIZE THOUSANDS OF MILES OF PIPES, PUMP STATIONS AND WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS.

I AM THRILLED TO BE HERE TODAY AS WE UNVEIL A NEW TUNNEL BORING MACHINE THAT WILL BE

USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SEWER MAIN. THE SEWER LINE WILL CONNECT FISHER ISLAND TO THE CENTRAL DISTRICT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ON VIRGINIA KEY.

BECAUSE AS YOU KNOW, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY DRINKING WATER, AS WELL AS WASTEWATER REMOVAL TO OUR RESIDENTS, THE DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY MAKING THE NECESSARY UPGRADES TO SOME OF ITS INFRASTRUCTURE. IN ADDITION, WASD IS PREPARING FOR THE FEDERALLY-MANDATED \$13.5 BILLION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM THAT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED DURING THE NEXT 15 TO 20 YEARS.

AS YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW, THIS IS THE LARGEST IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HISTORY. THE PLAN IS PROJECTED TO GENERATE \$24.9 BILLION IN ECONOMIC OUTPUT WHILE CREATING 16,470 NEW JOBS OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS. THIS MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM WILL INCREASE SERVICE CAPACITY AS WELL AS IMPROVE THE RELIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM AFTER ITS COMPLETION.

I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT WASD WILL GREATLY BENEFIT FROM THIS NEW AND IMPROVED WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEM IN THE YEARS TO COME.

SOME OF YOU, THE STUDENTS HERE TODAY, MAY VERY WELL BE THE PROFESSIONALS OF TOMORROW WHO WILL CONTINUE THE DEPARTMENT'S JOURNEY TO CREATE AN INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM THAT WILL CARRY OUR COMMUNITY INTO THE FUTURE.

BEFORE CLOSING, I WANT TO THANK THE WASD PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK AROUND THE CLOCK TO PROVIDE THE BEST SERVICE POSSIBLE TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESIDENTS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ALL IN ENHANCING OUR WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH THE USE OF STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY.

I WILL NOT TAKE ANY MORE TIME FROM EVERYONE. WE ARE ALL ANXIOUS TO HEAR THE NAME OF THE NEW BORING MACHINE. I KNOW I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO GIVE THE NAME AWAY JUST YET, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT THERE IS A

SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC, LOCAL TIE-IN FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH.

I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY!

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

