

GOOD MORNING AND THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION TO BE HERE TODAY.

REVEREND JOHNSON, I APPRECIATE YOUR WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR COMMUNITY. THANK YOU.

BEING WITH MEMBERS OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY MAKES US ALL APPRECIATE EXACTLY HOW OUR FAITHS AFFECT OUR LIVES AND GUIDE OUR DECISION MAKING.

MY FAITH IS WHAT KEEPS ME GOING IN THE FACE OF ALL THE CHALLENGES I ENCOUNTER.

MY FAMILY AND THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTY IS WHY I FIRST RAN FOR MAYOR IN 2011, AND AGAIN IN THE SUMMER OF 2012. THEIR FAITH IN ME AND OUR COLLECTIVE BELIEFS IN GOD ARE THE FOUNDATION OF OUR LIVES.

OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP THAT WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY -- EVERY COMMUNITY, EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD SHOULD MATTER TO OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS.

THAT IS WHY I HAVEN'T PLAYED IT SAFE. I HAVE DIRECTED MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO

BE BOLD AND TACKLE THE PROBLEMS AFFECTING OUR COUNTY HEAD ON. NO SHORT CUTS. NO MORE EXCUSES. WE NEED TO GOVERN ON BEHALF OF ALL OUR RESIDENTS.

IN DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR, MY ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHED THE EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE INITIATIVE BECAUSE ALTHOUGH UNEMPLOYMENT HAS DROPPED FROM ABOUT 12 PERCENT WHEN I WAS FIRST ELECTED, TO 6.1 PERCENT NOW, THERE ARE AREAS OF OUR COUNTY THAT HAVE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ABOVE 20 PERCENT.

THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE.

WHICH IS WHY EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTY.

OVER 600 RESIDENTS HAVE ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM TO DATE AND HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY OBTAINED CERTIFICATES AND THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE IS ALSO PAIRING THE PRIVATE SECTOR WITH OUR GRADUATES AND PROVIDING THEM WITH JOBS.

WE LAUNCHED EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE IN LIBERTY CITY BECAUSE IT WAS THE AREA WITH THE HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE CITY OF MIAMI.

MY ADMINISTRATION HAS ALSO LAUNCHED "LIBERTY CITY RISING" TO REDEVELOP THE LIBERTY SQUARE HOUSING COMPLEX. THE COMMUNITY WAS BUILT IN 1937 AND HAS HAD UNACCEPTABLY HIGH RATES OF CRIME AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

RATHER THAN TURNING A BLIND EYE TO THE PROBLEMS, OR PAYING LIP SERVICE, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN ACTION TO SOLVE THE ISSUES.

BECAUSE WE ARE ALL MIAMIANS. WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE NEW LIBERTY SQUARE WILL BE A MIXED USE AND MIXED INCOME COMMUNITY WITH NEW AMENITIES AND WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE A MUCH SAFER AREA.

THIS IS HOW WE HAVE CHOSEN TO LEAD MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

MY FAITH IN GOD AND IN THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTY TO COME TOGETHER TO BUILD THE KIND OF INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY WE CAN ALL BE PROUD TO PASS ALONG TO OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

I THANK YOU AGAIN FOR INVITING ME AND WELCOME ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

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

