

GOOD MORNING!

I WANT TO BEGIN BY THANKING THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CHIEF JUDGE BERTILA SOTO FOR WELCOMING US TODAY,

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF FORMER GOVERNOR AND SENATOR, BOB GRAHAM AS WELL AS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY STATE ATTORNEY KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE - THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE TODAY.

FELLOW ELECTED OFFICIALS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS...

THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME ON THIS SPECIAL MORNING TO CELEBRATE THE GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW JUDGE SEYMOUR GELBER AND JUDGE WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE MIAMI-DADE CHILDREN'S COURTHOUSE!

TODAY MARKS THE CULMINATION OF AN EFFORT THAT HAS TAKEN MANY YEARS, AND MANY PARTNERS TO COMPLETE. IT TOOK US MORE THAN A DECADE, BUT THE DAY IS FINALLY HERE.

THIS BRAND NEW COURTHOUSE IS NAMED AFTER TWO TIRELESS, OUTSTANDING, AND EXEMPLARY

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE LIVED A LIFE DEDICATED TO SERVICE TO OTHERS.

JUDGE GELBER, A WORLD WAR I VETERAN, SERVED AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FOR THE FAMILY COURT CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION UNTIL 1990 WHEN HE RETIRED AT THE AGE OF 70.

AFTER THAT, HE WAS ELECTED MIAMI BEACH MAYOR WHERE HE SERVED THREE TERMS, AND AS IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, IN 2001 HE RETURNED TO THE BENCH AS SENIOR JUDGE.

THE ENERGY HE PUT INTO HIS WORK AND HIS COMMITMENT TO THE FAMILIES HE HELPED WAS THE HALLMARK OF HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE.

JUDGE WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE, HAS A DISTINGUISHED 40-YEAR CAREER ON THE BENCH ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, 32 OF THOSE YEARS JUDGE GLADSTONE WORKED IN THE JUVENILE DIVISION.

IN 1993, HE HELPED DESIGN THE YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE PROGRAM AND CURRENTLY THERE ARE TWO PROGRAMS FOR DELINQUENT YOUTHS AND ABUSED GIRLS THAT CARRY HIS NAME IN HIS HONOR.

TODAY, THEIR WORK LIVES ON AND IS REFLECTED IN THE DESIGN OF THIS COURTHOUSE THAT WAS BUILT TO CREATE A COMFORTING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF OUR COMMUNITY.

THE NEW CHILDREN'S COURTHOUSE WILL BE ONE OF THE FEW FACILITIES IN THE NATION TO HOUSE ALL COURT PARTNERS AS WELL AS SUPPORT AGENCIES FOR THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMUNITY.

WITH A TOTAL OF 375,000 SQ. FT IT WILL HAVE SPACE FOR 18 COURTROOMS AND 16 DIFFERENT AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS.

AS WITH MANY OF OUR PUBLIC BUILDINGS, THIS NEW COURTHOUSE FEATURES FOUR SIGNIFICANT WORKS OF PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONED THROUGH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM.

AMONG THEM ARE FOUR LARGE-SCALE MURALS CREATED BY MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, AND AS YOU MIGHT HAVE ALREADY SEEN IN THE LOBBY AND THROUGHOUT THE

COURTHOUSE ARE TOM OTTERNESS' FAMILIA DE OSOS – FAMILY OF BEARS.

ALL OF THE ARTWORK IS INSPIRED BY THE CHILDREN, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY DESIGNED TO CREATE A COMFORTING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR THEM.

FINALLY AND ON BEHALF OF THE 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, LET ME THANK ALL WHO WORKED ON MAKING THIS DAY POSSIBLE...

ESPECIALLY OUR FORMER INTERNAL SERVICES DIRECTOR, LESTER SOLA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TARA SMITH AND THEIR TEAM WHO MANAGED THIS PROJECT AND BROUGHT IT TO A SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION ONCE AND FOR ALL.

THE TEAM IN THE DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES DIVISION, THE OVERALL PROJECT MANAGER JORGE OROL, ANDREW KREMER AND HIS TEAM FROM ITD, THE DESIGNERS FROM HELLMUTH OBATA & KASSABAUM WHO WORKED ON THE L.E.E.D. STANDARDS FOR THIS BUILDING TO BE ENERGY EFFICIENCY, ALL THE ENGINEERS, THE

**ARCHITECTS, AND THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
FROM SUFFOLK.**

**THROUGH THE TENACITY AND HARD WORK OF ALL
INVOLVED, THE MIAMI-DADE CHILDREN'S
COURTHOUSE IS FINALLY OPEN FOR BUSINESS.**

YOU ALL DESERVE A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

**TODAY IS A GREAT DAY IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY;
THIS COURTHOUSE IS UNDOUBTABLY A COUNTY
ASSET THAT WE ARE VERY PROUD OF.**

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

