

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE...

LET ME FIRST RECOGNIZE HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY DIRECTOR CHEREE GULLEY WHO HAS BEEN A TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR GREATER HOUSING CHOICES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

LET ME ALSO THANK ALL OF THE HOUSING PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE JOINING US FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY THIS WEEK.

DEAR FRIENDS...

IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO OUR DYNAMIC AND MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY FOR THE 2015 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

YOU COULD NOT HAVE CHOSEN A BETTER PLACE TO CONDUCT THIS CONFERENCE.

NOT ONLY IS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY WITH GREAT WEATHER, ENDLESS CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT OFFERINGS... IN OUR DIVERSE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS, WE STRIVE TO PROVIDE THE

GREATEST POSSIBLE ACCESS TO HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES, INDIVIDUALS, AND THE ELDERLY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

WE ARE TRYING TO RAISE THE BAR FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND WE CONTINUE TO SEEK WAYS TO LEVERAGE OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO BRING BETTER PUBLIC HOUSING OPTIONS TO OUR COUNTY.

WE ALSO STRIVE TO PROVIDE OUR RESIDENTS A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY WHERE THEY CAN WORK, RAISE A FAMILY AND LIVE COMFORTABLY.

AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE, THE LARGEST COUNTY IN THE THIRD MOST POPULOUS STATE IN THE UNION, I KNOW THAT PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND NEW HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES TO WORKING FAMILIES IS CRITICAL TO STABILIZING THE LIVES OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE RESIDENTS.

THAT IS WHY MY ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS, AS WELL AS THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR RESIDENTS.

WE CAN FACILITATE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT PROVIDE THESE WONDERFUL HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ALL OF OUR PEOPLE.

THAT IS WHAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO – BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER - TO ADDRESS ISSUES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

ONE GREAT EXAMPLE WHERE MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN INNOVATIVE TO ADDRESS A CRITICAL NEED IS WITH OUR LIBERTY CITY RISING INITIATIVE.

ANNOUNCED EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WILL LEAD A MULTI-YEAR, PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP EFFORT TO REDEVELOP LIBERTY SQUARE.

FIRST BUILT IN THE 1930'S, LIBERTY SQUARE HAS HAD HIGH RATES OF CRIME AND UNEMPLOYMENT FOR YEARS.

BUT MY ADMINISTRATION IS OUT TO CHANGE THAT.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FORMER HUD ASSISTANT SECRETARY MICHAEL LIU, THE DEPARTMENT WILL REDEVELOP LIBERTY SQUARE INTO A MIXED-USE, MIXED-INCOME COMMUNITY WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY BUILDING A NEW MODERN HOUSING COMMUNITY A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY.

OUR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ALREADY APPROVED A \$74 MILLION ALLOCATION, WHICH OUR COUNTY WILL USE TO LEVERAGE AN ADDITIONAL \$200 MILLION IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

THAT IS WHAT GOOD GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO – ADDRESS A CRITICAL NEED BY PARTNERING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

AS WE DEVELOP AFFORDABLE HOUSING THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT THESE PLANNED COMMUNITIES EXCEED STANDARDS FOR QUALITY CONSTRUCTION.

LIBERTY SQUARE AND OTHER ONGOING AND FUTURE PROJECTS WILL BE NO DIFFERENT.

AND WE ARE PROUD TO SAY THAT MOST OF OUR RECENTLY-BUILT HOME RENTAL PROJECTS ARE ECO-FRIENDLY AND HOLD A U.S. GREEN BUILDING (LEED) CERTIFICATION.

I WANT TO THANK THE HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY FOR PROVIDING THE FUNDING FOR MANY OF THESE BUILDINGS AND FOR ALWAYS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ALLEVIATE THE SHORTAGE OF HOUSING IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

FINALLY, ON BEHALF OF OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR PUBLIC-HOUSING RESIDENTS AND WORKERS!

WE ARE TRULY HONORED TO HOST YOU, AND WE ARE PLEASED THAT YOU CHOSE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO HOLD THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT YOUR TIME TOGETHER IS PRODUCTIVE, AND THAT YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO EXPLORE OUR BEAUTIFUL, WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY WHILE YOU ARE HERE.

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