

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE AND WELCOME TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE AT E-MERGE AMERICAS. AS I MENTIONED YESTERDAY AT THE OPENING RECEPTION, E-MERGE HAS MADE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY THE CENTER OF THE TECH AND INNOVATION WORLD. OUR COMMUNITY'S TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SECTOR IS NO LONGER A WELL-KEPT SECRET, AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE MAN I AM ABOUT TO INTRODUCE IS EVIDENCE OF THAT!

BACK WHEN THE SECRETARY WAS MAYOR OF SAN ANTONIO, WE HAD TWO CONSECUTIVE BASKETBALL SEASONS WHEN THE HEAT AND SPURS FACED OFF FOR THE NBA TITLE.

I KNEW FROM THE MOMENT I MET JULIAN THAT HE WAS DESTINED FOR GREAT THINGS.

AS MAYOR OF SAN ANTONIO, HE HANDLED CHALLENGING ISSUES FOR A LARGE URBAN AREA IN THE SECOND MOST POPULOUS STATE.

I WAS VERY PLEASED WHEN PRESIDENT OBAMA NOMINATED HIM TO BECOME THE NEW SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE

AS A MAYOR - AND I KNOW I AM BIASED BY SAYING THIS - I BELIEVE MAYORS MAKE GREAT CABINET SECRETARIES BECAUSE THEY WORKED SO CLOSELY WITH COMMUNITIES BOTH LARGE AND SMALL, AND HAVE FACED THE CHALLENGES OUR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS HANDLE DAILY.

I BELIEVE THAT IT WAS THAT INSIGHT THAT LED SECRETARY CASTRO TO ANNOUNCE CHANGES TO SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT, WHICH HE DID RIGHT HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY EARLIER THIS YEAR. THOSE CHANGES WILL BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY AND MANY OTHERS LIKE OURS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

AND IT IS THAT TYPE OF INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO GOVERNING THAT WE HAVE TAKEN HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH LIKEMINDED LEADERS EVERYWHERE WHO EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN OUR CITIES, STREAMLINE PROCESSES AND IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP AND CONFIDENCE LEVEL BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

THAT'S WHAT GOVERNING IN THE 21ST CENTURY SHOULD BE LIKE, AND SECRETARY CASTRO HAS

BEEN COMMITTED TO IT AS MAYOR AND NOW AS HUD SECRETARY.

SECRETARY CASTRO, ON BEHALF OF OUR 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE HELP ME WELCOME JULIAN CASTRO, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO E-MERGE AMERICAS AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

