

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE... THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR COMMUNITY.

LET ME FIRST RECOGNIZE THE MIAMI COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BOBBIE IBARRA WHO HAS BEEN A TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS AND FINDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING CHOICES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

AND TO EVERYONE ELSE HERE TODAY TRYING TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND RAISE A FAMILY - THANK YOU.

DEAR FRIENDS...

IT IS A PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS CRUCIAL TO MIAMI-DADE'S FUTURE.

QUIERO AGRADECER EL TRABAJO QUE HACEN TODOS USTEDES DÍA A DÍA. PARA MÍ ES UN PLACER ESTAR AQUÍ PARA TRATAR DE ENCONTRAR SOLUCIONES A UN PROBLEMA QUE AQUEJA ALGUNAS PARTES DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE LANDSCAPE OF OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY IS MUCH DIFFERENT THAN IT

WAS AS LITTLE AS 10 YEARS AGO AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WILL CONTINUE TO CHANGE.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS REPRESENTATIVE OF WHAT OTHER MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES WILL LOOK AND FEEL LIKE OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

HOWEVER, WE NEED YOUR ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN HELPING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GROW AND PROSPER.

ALTHOUGH THE JOB GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WE ARE EXPERIENCING IS WONDERFUL, I ALSO BELIEVE THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO ADDRESS THE STRUGGLE THAT MANY WORKING HOUSEHOLDS HAVE FACED IN TRYING TO IDENTIFY AVAILABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO PROVIDING 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.

BUT WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER!

MI ADMINISTRACIÓN HA ESTADO COMPROMETIDA CON BRINDAR LAS MEJORES OPCIONES DE VIVIENDAS PARA LAS FAMILIAS DE INGRESOS BAJOS Y MODERADOS DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD.

SIN EMBARGO, DEBEMOS SEGUIR BUSCANDO EL APOYO DEL SECTOR PRIVADO PARA DESARROLLAR MÁS PROYECTOS DE VIVIENDAS PÚBLICAS EN NUESTRO CONDADO.

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 HAS WORKED WITH THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS, AS

WELL AS THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MEET OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS.

I KNOW THAT PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS ARE THE BEST WAY TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC HOUSING COMMUNITIES BECAUSE WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN CORRECTING PAST MISTAKES AND BROKEN PROMISES.

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

AND WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THE NEED TO HIRE A NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, I TURNED TO A FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON, MR. MICHAEL LIU.

MR. LIU'S EXPERIENCE IS EXACTLY THE KIND WE NEED HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. AND I KNOW OTHERS HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH HIS WORK THUS FAR, AND WE ARE EXPECTING GREAT THINGS FROM HIM AND HIS TEAM.

ONE EXAMPLE WHERE MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN INNOVATIVE IN ADDRESSING A CRITICAL

NEED IN OUR COUNTY IS ONE THAT MR. LIU HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL 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.

THE PUBLIC HOUSING 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.

BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY -- THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

REDEVELOPING LIBERTY SQUARE MUST BE DONE. DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES IN THIS MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY, PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT TO LIVE, WORK AND RAISE A FAMILY FOR OUR RESIDENTS IS WHAT A GOOD GOVERNMENT SHOULD STRIVE FOR.

AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE DOING - AT LIBERTY SQUARE AND IN PUBLIC HOUSING COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY.

“LIBERTY CITY RISING” WILL BRING NEARLY 2,300 JOBS AND THROUGH MY EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE INITIATIVE, WE WILL BE OFFERING CONSTRUCTION TRAINING AND WORK READINESS COURSES AT NO COST TO THOSE RESIDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND PARTICULARLY ON THIS PROJECT.

LET ME ADD THAT EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE HAS ALREADY RESULTED IN OVER 800 OF OUR RESIDENTS BEING TRAINED AND ANOTHER 300 EITHER BEING PLACED IN A JOB, OR BEING REFERRED TO ONE.

THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO INCORPORATE EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE INTO OUR ONGOING EFFORTS TO REDEVELOP, REVITALIZE AND IMPROVE OUR HOUSING COMMUNITIES.

WHO BETTER TO WORK ON THESE SITES THAN OUR OWN RESIDENTS?

UN EJEMPLO DE COMO MI ADMINISTRACIÓN HA ENFRENTADO UNA NECESIDAD DE UNA FORMA INNOVADORA, HA SIDO NUESTRA INICIATIVA DE RENOVAR EL AREA DE LIBERTY CITY.

LA RENOVACIÓN DE LIBERTY SQUARE ES UNA OBLIGACIÓN QUE TENEMOS CON LOS RESIDENTES DE ESA ZONA PARA BRINDARLES UN AMBIENTE MÁS SEGURO Y MODERNO.

LA COMISIÓN APROBÓ EL USO DE \$74 MILLONES QUE CON OTRAS INVERSIONES PRIVADAS QUE SE UNIRÁN A LA CAUSA, SE CONVERTIRÁN EN MÁS DE \$200 MILLONES.

DE ESO SE TRATA – DE UNIR AL SECTOR PÚBLICO CON EL SECTOR PRIVADO PARA EL BENEFICIO DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD.

ADEMÁS, LOS RESIDENTES DE LIBERTY SQUARE PODRÁN TRABAJAR EN LA CONSTRUCCIÓN DE SUS NUEVAS VIVIENDAS A TRAVÉS DE NUESTRO PROGRAMA “EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE”.

ES LO CORRECTO Y ES LO QUE UN BUEN GOBIERNO DEBE HACER PARA AYUDAR A LOS RESIDENTES A SALIR ADELANTE.

WE CAN NOT BE AFRAID AND WE NEED TO THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX TO PROPOSE CREATIVE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT CAN PROVIDE RESOURCES JOINTLY THAT OTHERWISE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE.

WE ARE OPEN TO HEARING IDEAS BECAUSE WE NEED INNOVATIVE FORMS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING FINANCE IN MIAMI SINCE GOVERNMENT RESOURCES ARE NOT ENOUGH TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM.

IF WE TAKE A TRULY GLOBAL VIEW AND MAKE A COMMITMENT TO WORK TOGETHER ACROSS THE COUNTY WITH PARTNERS IN THE STATE

GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, I KNOW WE WILL ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES.

AND 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.

IN FACT, WE ARE PROUD TO SAY THAT MOST OF OUR RECENTLY-BUILT HOME RENTAL PROJECTS LIKE REGENCY POINTE AND COLLINS PARK APARTMENTS AS WELL AS OTHERS, ARE ECO-FRIENDLY AND HOLD A U.S. GREEN BUILDING (LEED) CERTIFICATION.

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ALLEVIATE THE SHORTAGE OF HOUSING IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MIAMI HOMES AND THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR THEIR ONGOING EFFORTS.

**FINALLY, ON BEHALF OF OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO WORKING
TOGETHER TO IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS TO OUR
CHALLENGES!**

**I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT OUR CHALLENGES
WITHOUT ACTUALLY TAKING ACTION... I AM A
DOER. I DON'T WANT TO JUST TALK ABOUT OUR
PROBLEMS. I WANT TO SOLVE THEM!**

**SO IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT BY THE END OF
THE DAY WE WILL HAVE EXAMINED HOW BEST
PRACTICES IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND
INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIES CAN BE ADAPTED TO FIT MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY.**

**I ENCOURAGE YOU TO WORK WITH US TO
CONTINUE MAKING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY THE
WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY WE ALL WANT TO PASS
ON TO OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.**

**ON BEHALF OF THE 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS OF
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LET ME THANK YOU ONCE
AGAIN...**

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