

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE!

I WANT TO BEGIN BY THANKING CHAIRMAN MONESTIME, COMMISSIONERS EDMONSON, JORDAN AND BARREIRO FOR JOINING US TODAY FOR THIS VERY SPECIAL MORNING.

ALSO WITH US, STATE REPRESENTATIVE CYNTHIA A. STAFFORD, FLORIDA SENATOR DWIGHT BULLARD, AND NORTH BAY VILLAGE MAYOR CONNIE LEON-KREPS – THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING PARTICIPATING.

FELLOW ELECTED OFFICIALS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND FELLOW RESIDENTS...

IT IS A PLEASURE TO CELEBRATE THE GRAND OPENING OF THE HISTORIC HAMPTON HOUSE.

BUILT BACK IN THE 1950'S THE HAMPTON HOUSE, ORIGINALLY KNOW AS THE BOOKER TERRACE MOTEL SOON BECAME THE CENTER OF ACTIVITIES FOR A DIVERSE AUDIENCE OF GREATER MIAMI RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

DURING THAT TIME, THE RESORT WAS ONE OF THE FEW PLACES WHERE AFRICAN-AMERICANS COULD STAY WHEN TRAVELING OR VACATIONING.

MANY PROMINENT LEADERS SUCH AS DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PLANNED THEIR PROTESTS AND RALLIES FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT HERE.

ALSO, JAZZ ARTISTS SUCH AS SAMMY DAVIS JR., SAM COOKE AND NAT KING COLE WERE REGULAR VISITORS TO THE MOTEL WHILE IN TOWN.

IF WALLS COULD TALK, THE HAMPTON HOUSE AND THIS SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD WOULD HAVE MANY STORIES ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO CALLED THIS PLACE HOME ON THEIR VISITS TO MIAMI.

DECADES AFTER IT CLOSED, THE HAMPTON HOUSE WAS SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION BUT CONCERNED RESIDENTS, LIKE DR. ENID PINKNEY, THE LATE LUIS PENELAS, MR. A. D. MOORE AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF THE DADE HERITAGE TRUST JOINED TOGETHER TO STOP IT.

AND AS WE KNOW, IN 2002 THE HAMPTON HOUSE WAS DESIGNATED A HISTORIC SITE BY THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND TODAY MARKS THE CULMINATION OF AN EFFORT THAT HAS TAKEN MANY YEARS, AND MANY PARTNERS TO COMPLETE.

THE TWO-STORY, 30,000 SQUARE FOOT, MIAMI MODERN-STYLE STRUCTURE WAS PARTIALLY RESTORED TO ITS 1960'S STATURE.

ARCHITECTS JOSE G. MATUTE AND DAPHNE GURRI MATUTE RE-CREATED GUEST ROOMS, INCLUDING THE "SUITE" THAT KING IS BELIEVED TO HAVE FAVORED, WHICH WILL BE FURNISHED IN PERIOD STYLE AND SERVE AS A MUSEUM, AS WELL AS THE CAFÉ AND RESTAURANT SPACE AND THE JAZZ CLUB.

IT TOOK US FIFTEEN YEARS, BUT THE DAY IS FINALLY HERE.

WE AT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ARE HAPPY TO HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE \$9.2 MILLION TO PAY FOR THE PARTIAL RESTORATION OF THE HAMPTON HOUSE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MIAMI-DADE INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES DIVISION AND THE HISTORIC HAMPTON HOUSE COMMUNITY TRUST.

IT TOOK A TEAM EFFORT TO GET US ALL HERE TODAY...

AND BECAUSE OF THESE EFFORTS, MIAMI-DADE WILL HAVE AN ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARK WITH

DEEP ROOTS AND HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

OVERALL, THE HAMPTON HOUSE IS A COMMUNITY MEETING PLACE THAT ALL OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CAN BE VERY PROUD OF.

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: OUR FORMER INTERNAL SERVICES DIRECTOR, LESTER SOLA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TARA SMITH AND THEIR TEAM.

THE OVERALL PROJECT MANAGER HUGO VELASQUEZ, HISTORIC HAMPTON HOUSE COMMUNITY TRUST, DR. ENID PINKNEY AND MEMBERS, THE ARCHITECTS, AND THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FROM LINK CONSTRUCTION GROUP.

THROUGH YOUR TENACITY AND HARD WORK, THE HISTORIC HAMPTON HOUSE IS FINALLY OPEN.

YOU ALL DESERVE A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

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