

**MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION...**

**FELLOW RESIDENTS...**

**I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF GIA ARBOGAST AS THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM, AND ALICE BRAVO AS THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT DEPARTMENT.**

**I WILL BEGIN WITH MS. ARBOGAST WHO'S TRAJECTORY IN THE MDPLS PROVIDES HER A SOLID PLATFORM TO ADDRESS THE EVER-CHANGING TRENDS IN LIBRARY SERVICE.**

**AFTER ALMOST 30 YEARS WITH THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM, SHE HAS A FULL RANGE OF EXPERIENCE FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF FRONT-LINE SERVICE, COORDINATION OF TRAINING AND PROGRAMMING SERVICES AND OVERALL MANAGEMENT OF THE MDPLS.**

**SHE HAS BEEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WHILE THE LIBRARY SYSTEM WENT THROUGH A REVITALIZATION PROCESS.**

**BECAUSE OF THE GOOD WORK OF LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS LIKE GIA, OUR LIBRARIES OFFER**

**MORE RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS TO MEET OUR COMMUNITY'S DIVERSE NEEDS AND EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY. GIA HAS ALSO LED EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON TASKFORCE.**

**MS. ARBOGAST IS A UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI GRADUATE AND RECEIVED A MASTER'S DEGREE IN LIBRARY SCIENCE FROM FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY. SHE IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND THE ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY SERVICE TO CHILDREN.**

**SHE IS CURRENTLY AN AT-LARGE BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA LIBRARY INFORMATION NETWORK AND PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN THE ORGANIZATION'S LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE.**

**THE NEW MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT DIRECTOR IS ALICE BRAVO. MS. BRAVO'S OFFICIAL START DATE IS JULY 20.**

**THROUGHOUT HER CAREER, MS. BRAVO HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING A NUMBER OF DIVERSIFIED PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS INVOLVING DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION,**

**FINANCE, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE INCLUDING THE \$1 BILLION PORT MIAMI TUNNEL; THE INNOVATIVE I-95 EXPRESS PROJECT THAT INVOLVED CLOSE COORDINATION AT THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVEL; AND THE SR 826/SR 836 MAJOR INTERCHANGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT VALUED AT \$550 MILLION.**

**MS. BRAVO MOST RECENTLY HELD THE POSITION OF DEPUTY CITY MANAGER/CHIEF OF INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE CITY OF MIAMI, OVERSEEING SIX DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC WORKS, PLANNING & ZONING, BUILDING, REAL ESTATE ASSET MANAGEMENT, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.**

**SHE FIRST JOINED THE CITY AS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS DIRECTOR OVERSEEING A \$573 MILLION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CITY'S TROLLEY CIRCULATOR PROGRAM.**

**PRIOR TO JOINING THE CITY OF MIAMI, MS. BRAVO WAS WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WHERE SHE SERVED AS DISTRICT SIX DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT.**

**SHE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL PRODUCTION ASPECTS OF THE DISTRICT INCLUDING PLANNING, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, DESIGN AND RIGHT OF WAY ACTIVITIES.**

**MS. BRAVO COORDINATED DIRECTLY WITH THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, DISTRICT SECRETARY, THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND ELECTED OFFICIALS REGARDING POLICY, FUNDING, AND LEGISLATIVE ISSUES.**

**SINCE FIRST BEING ELECTED MAYOR FOUR YEARS AGO, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS STREAMLINED OUR GOVERNMENT REDUCING IT FROM 46 DEPARTMENTS DOWN TO 25 AS PART OF AN EFFORT TO MAKE OUR GOVERNMENT LESS BUREAUCRATIC AND MUCH MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR RESIDENTS.**

**THAT IS EXACTLY WHY WE ARE STUDYING WHICH EXISTING FUNCTIONS WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT CAN BE CONSOLIDATED TO BE UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE NEW DIRECTOR. THESE FUNCTIONS WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT**

**AND THE AGENCY WILL EVENTUALLY BE RENAMED THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.**

**MS. BRAVO WILL BE REVIEWING ALL OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMPONENTS THAT OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR, AND WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH THOSE AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE IN THIS COMMUNITY, BOTH LOCALLY AND REGIONALLY, IN ORDER TO MORE AGGRESSIVELY ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF OUR GROWING COMMUNITY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT MS. BRAVO WILL SUCCESSFULLY LEAD MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT.**

**MS. BRAVO IS A LICENSED CIVIL ENGINEER WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI AND A MASTER'S IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY.**

**I AM CERTAIN THAT GIA AND ALICE WILL LEAD THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF SUCCESS.**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE THEM. THEY ARE DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS WHICH HAVE PROVIDED THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP OUR COUNTY NEEDS.**

**MR. CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONERS -- OUR NEW DIRECTORS, GIA ARBOGAST AND ALICE BRAVO!**

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE AND WISH THEM LUCK IN THEIR NEW ROLES!**