

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE AND THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE AND FOR SHOWING INTEREST IN EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE.

I WANT TO BEGIN BY RECOGNIZING DEPUTY MAYOR RUSSELL BENFORD - A MEMBER OF MY ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS...

RICK BEASLEY FROM CAREERSOURCE SOUTH FLORIDA, AND LEROY JONES FROM THE NEIGHBORS AND NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION.

THE THREE OF THEM AND THEIR COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY INVESTED IN SEEING THIS INITIATIVE BE SUCCESSFUL FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

SOME OF THE FOLKS HERE WITH US THIS MORNING INCLUDE RICHARD GOMEZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF T.V.G.S.V. ENTERPRISES AND MS. TERESA GONZALEZ FROM THE TRAINING FOR MANUFACTURED CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. ALSO HERE IS ABC INSTITUTE VICE PRESIDENT, RUTH TIRADO.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TOGETHER TO SERVE AS PANELISTS IN THIS IMPORTANT FORUM TODAY.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK TRULY BURTON AND

CARLOS CARRILLO FOR BEING OUR HOSTS THIS MORNING.

I APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU DO FOR EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE AND YOUR COMMUNITY.

SEVEN MONTHS AGO TODAY, I ANNOUNCED ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INITIATIVES IN THE HISTORY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY - EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, MY ADMINISTRATION INTRODUCED THE EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE INITIATIVE IN DECEMBER 2014 TO PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS IN THE 33142 AND 33147 ZIP CODES.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN THESE AREAS ARE ABOVE 15 PERCENT. FOR SOME PERSPECTIVE, THE COUNTYWIDE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS COME DOWN SIX PERCENT SINCE I WAS FIRST ELECTED MAYOR IN JUNE 2011 AND CURRENTLY STANDING AT 6.3%.

SIMPLY STATED -- WE HAVE TO DO MORE.

AS THE MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, I AM COGNIZANT OF THE FACT THAT I AM THE MAYOR OF ALL 2.6 MILLION COUNTY RESIDENTS. ALL OF OUR

RESIDENTS DEPEND ON ME AND MY ADMINISTRATION TO PUT THEM ABOVE ALL ELSE.

WHICH IS WHY I MADE EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE ONE OF MY TOP PRIORITIES AS MAYOR...BECAUSE I WANTED TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

BUT EVEN WITH THAT COMMITMENT TO TRAIN RESIDENTS WHO LACKED THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO BE HIRED, OR LACKED THE OPPORTUNITIES TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT, I ALSO KNEW THAT MY ADMINISTRATION NEEDED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO HELP BOTH POTENTIAL WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS.

THAT IS WHY I BROUGHT TOGETHER DEVELOPERS AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVES ALONG WITH ORGANIZATIONS LIKE RICK'S AND LEROY'S.

THE MESSAGE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS CLEAR: THEY WANTED TO HIRE LOCAL TALENT, BUT COULDN'T ALWAYS FIND IT IN OUR COUNTY.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WERE EQUALLY CLEAR IN THEIR MESSAGES TO ME: FOLKS WANT TO WORK, BUT NOT ALL HAD THE OPPORTUNITIES TO

BE TRAINED AND SUBSEQUENTLY SECURE EMPLOYMENT.

AND THAT IS WHEN I FIRST HAD THE IDEA OF INTRODUCING AN INITIATIVE LIKE EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE.

THANKS TO THE GOOD WORK OF RUSSELL, RICK, LEROY, CARLOS AND SEVERAL OTHERS, TO DATE, 1,087 RESIDENTS IN THE ZIP CODES OF 33147 AND 33142 HAVE ENROLLED AND PARTICIPATED IN TRAINING PROGRAMS. 339 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO EMPLOYERS FOR POTENTIAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND 154 HAVE SECURED JOBS AS A RESULT OF THE EFFORT.

FOLKS, I'VE SAID IT MANY, MANY TIMES BEFORE, THERE IS NO NEED TO LOOK OUTSIDE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR WORKERS. WE HAVE THEM RIGHT HERE.

THEY ARE EAGER TO WORK, AND THROUGH EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE WE BELIEVE WE WILL GO A LONG WAY TO GROWING OUR SKILLED WORKFORCE, REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND EVENTUALLY HAVE MIAMIANS BUILDING THE FUTURE MIAMI-DADE INSTEAD OF WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE WHEN FOLKS

FROM OUTSIDE OUR COUNTY AND EVEN OUTSIDE OF OUR STATE, WERE BROUGHT DOWN TO WORK DURING OUR REAL ESTATE BOOM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAST DECADE.

WHAT EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE DOES -- CONNECTING THE PRIVATE SECTOR WITH THE WORKERS THAT NEED AND WANT EMPLOYMENT, AND ENSURING THAT TRAINING IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL RESIDENTS WHO NEED IT -- IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY BECAUSE AS WE CAN PROBABLY ALL ATTEST - THE BEST WAY OUT OF POVERTY IS THROUGH A GOOD JOB AND THESE JOBS SHOULD BE FOR OUR FELLOW RESIDENTS!

SO TO YOU THE INDUSTRY LEADERS AND EMPLOYERS IN THIS ROOM, I URGE YOU TO WORK TOGETHER WITH US.

TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE JOBS, FINISH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT WILL CONTINUE TO TRANSFORM OUR COMMUNITY FOR THE BETTER, AND SIMULTANEOUSLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THESE RESIDENTS!

WE WANT YOU TO BE A PART OF THIS GREAT PROGRAM. PARTNERING WITH YOU IS KEY IN ASSISTING RESIDENTS THROUGH JOB TRAINING AND OFFERING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE AN OUTLET FOR RESIDENTS TO BETTER THEMSELVES AND THE COMMUNITY.

I WANT TO ALSO MENTION THAT ALTHOUGH THE INITIAL FOCUS OF EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE IS THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, SUBSEQUENT PHASES WILL AIM TO INCREASE TRAINING IN OTHER INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS OTHER ZIP CODES.

SO LET'S CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER! IT IS A WIN-WIN FOR OUR RESIDENTS, YOU OUR BUSINESS LEADERS, AND OUR COUNTY!

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY. GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

