

THANK YOU.

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE AND WELCOME TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT!

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU AND ESPECIALLY GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT AND LT. GOVERNOR CARLOS LOPEZ-CANTERA FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COME TO MIA THIS MORNING TO RECOGNIZE OUR AIRPORT AND THE PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK HERE.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE HIGHLIGHTS JUST HOW IMPORTANT MIA IS NOT ONLY TO OUR COMMUNITY, BUT ALSO TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

ALL OF US HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAVE A LOT TO BE PROUD OF.

MIA IS QUICKLY BECOMING ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AIRPORTS IN THE WORLD.

YES, I SAID "THE WORLD" AND I HAVE THE FACTS TO BACK IT UP.

CONSIDER THAT MIA NOW RANKS AS AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE AIRPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL AIR CARGO...

SECOND NATIONALLY FOR INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS...

AND IS THE ONLY U.S. AIRPORT THAT SERVES OVER 100 DIFFERENT CARRIERS!

AND WHILE THOSE CARRIERS ARE STILL BRINGING VISITORS FROM THROUGHOUT THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA, OUR TEAM HERE AT MIA HAS SECURED NEW ROUTES FROM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF SECURING MORE.

SOON WE WON'T BE KNOWN JUST AS THE GATEWAY TO LATIN AMERICA.

INDEED, WE WILL SOON BE RECOGNIZED AS THE GATEWAY TO THE WORLD!

AND SPEAKING OF VISITORS, OF THE 14.6 MILLION WHO STAYED OVERNIGHT IN OUR COMMUNITY IN 2014 ALONE, 96 PERCENT ARRIVED RIGHT HERE IN MIA.

MIAMI WILL BE BREAKING A RECORD FOR VISITORS THIS YEAR AS WELL. BILL TALBERT OF THE GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU TELLS ME THAT WE WILL EASILY SURPASS 15 MILLION VISITORS IN 2015.

THAT'S GREAT NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND FOR OUR STATE.

IT NOT ONLY REINFORCES HOW MIAMI HAS EMERGED AS A TRULY GLOBAL DESTINATION.

AND IN ADDITION TO THAT, THESE VISITS REPRESENT JOBS FOR OUR RESIDENTS!

IN FACT, MIA SUPPORTS APPROXIMATELY 282,000 JOBS BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY IN AND AROUND SOUTH FLORIDA.

AND WITH ITS CONTINUED GROWTH, IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT MIA WILL EMPLOY MORE OF OUR RESIDENTS SOON.

I KNOW I'M BIASED BEING THE MAYOR, BUT THAT IS WHY I REALLY CAN'T THINK OF ANY BETTER PLACE FOR YOU TO BE TO MAKE YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT

TODAY THAN RIGHT HERE AT MIA!

AS MAYOR AND ON BEHALF OF OUR 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS, I THANK YOU FOR RECOGNIZING MIA AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO OUR STATE.

DIRECTOR EMILIO GONZALEZ AND HIS STAFF OF PROFESSIONALS ARE DOING FANTASTIC WORK. I THANK THEM FOR ALL THEIR DEDICATION TO MAKING MIA WHAT IT IS TODAY.

AND NOW I AM HONORED TO INTRODUCE OUR LT. GOVERNOR, AND A RESIDENT OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, CARLOS LOPEZ-CANTERA.

MR. LT. GOVERNOR...

