

**FELLOW RESIDENTS...**

**MR. CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONERS...**

**I WANT TO THANK ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR EIGHT TOWN HALL MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY WHICH TOOK PLACE FROM AS FAR SOUTH AS FLORIDA CITY, TO AVENTURA IN THE NORTH AND OUT IN WEST KENDALL. IN ADDITION, WE ALSO HOSTED TWO DISCUSSIONS ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER.**

**OUR GOAL WAS TO SPEAK WITH AS MANY RESIDENTS AS POSSIBLE, AND BRING GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE.**

**COMMISSIONERS, AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, OUR RESIDENTS CARE DEEPLY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY, AND IT SHOWED IN THE LEVEL OF DETAIL AND PASSION THEY BROUGHT TO THESE MEETINGS WHERE HUNDREDS OF THEM PROVIDED FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS ON MY PROPOSED BUDGET.**

**AND NOW COMMISSIONERS IT'S TIME FOR ALL OF US TO COME TOGETHER, AND SET OUR BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.**

**SINCE FIRST BEING ELECTED MAYOR FOUR YEARS AGO, ONE OF MY TOP PRIORITIES HAS BEEN GETTING OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT BACK ON A SUSTAINABLE FISCAL PATH.**

**BETTER DAYS ARE AHEAD BECAUSE OF THE SACRIFICES WE MADE DURING DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES AND MY PROPOSED BUDGET IS A REFLECTION OF THAT.**

**THIS BUDGET PROPOSAL PRESENTS ENHANCEMENTS TO CRITICAL SERVICES, AS WELL AS INVESTMENTS IN EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES AND RESERVES, AND RESOURCES TO ADDRESS IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING OUR COMMUNITY, INCLUDING PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION.**

**OUR FIVE-YEAR FORECAST REMAINS BALANCED AND WE HAVE VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED THE USE OF ONE-TIME REVENUES TO SUPPORT SERVICES. IN OTHER WORDS, OUR FY 2015-16 PROPOSED BUDGET IS THE FOUNDATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL FUTURE FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**AS MY ADMINISTRATION DEVELOPED THE BUDGET**

**THIS YEAR, OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE WAS TO KEEP OUR COUNTY BUDGET ON A FISCALLY SUSTAINABLE PATH WITHOUT RAISING OVERALL TAX RATES.**

**WHICH IS WHY MY ADMINISTRATION HAS SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED NEW LABOR CONTRACTS WITH FIVE OF OUR TEN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNITS WHICH REPRESENT MORE THAN HALF OF OUR APPROXIMATELY 26,000 EMPLOYEES**

**THE REDESIGNED HEALTH PLAN REDUCED DEPENDENT PREMIUMS, AND SAVED THE COUNTY ABOUT \$30 MILLION THIS YEAR.**

**IF THAT PLAN WERE AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE FIVE BARGAINING UNITS THAT DO NOT YET HAVE NEW AGREEMENTS WITH MY ADMINISTRATION, SAVINGS WOULD CLIMB TO ROUGHLY \$60 MILLION.**

**MY ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH ALL LABOR PARTNERS SO THAT WE CAN HAVE NEW LABOR AGREEMENTS IN PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**THIS PROPOSED BUDGET WILL PUT APPROXIMATELY 100 MORE POLICE OFFICERS IN OUR COMMUNITY BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR.**

**ALSO, BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR 1,000 OF OUR PATROL OFFICERS WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH BODY CAMERAS.**

**MY ADMINISTRATION WILL ALSO PROCURE OVER 400 NEW VEHICLES FOR THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT. THAT IS IN ADDITION TO THE 600 WE PROCURED LAST FISCAL YEAR, BRINGING A TOTAL OF 1,000 NEW VEHICLES TO OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT FLEET BY 2016.**

**WE WILL HAVE MORE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND MEET THE FEDERAL MANDATES INTENDED TO ENSURE OFFICER SAFETY.**

**AND BY THE END OF THE YEAR, WE WILL ALSO HAVE ENHANCED MARINE SERVICES FOR MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE.**

**MY ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO ALLOCATE FUNDING FOR OUR CHILDREN, PARKS AND COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION.**

**PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN AND CAPITAL FUNDING IN OUR PARKS WILL BE EXPANDED, AS WELL AS INCREASED FUNDING FOR OUR TREE CANOPY.**

**LIBRARIES WILL BE OPEN MORE DAYS AND WITH A LARGER BUDGET FOR THE PURCHASING OF MATERIALS. TEN OF OUR LIBRARIES WILL NOW BE OPEN SIX DAYS INSTEAD OF FIVE.**

**IN ADDITION, FUNDING WILL BE RESTORED TO CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT WILL COMPETE FOR FUNDING UNDER A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION PROCESS.**

**OUR NEW ANIMAL SERVICES SHELTER WILL OPEN IN DORAL WITH A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PETS THAT CAN BE HOUSED, ALONG WITH FUNDING FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS TO TARGET AREAS THAT LACK EASY ACCESS TO ANIMAL SERVICES.**

**ADDITIONAL FUNDING HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED FOR MEALS AND HOME CARE SERVICES FOR OUR SENIORS.**

**THE MIAMI-DADE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT HAS REALIGNED VOTING PRECINCTS TO ALLEVIATE LONG WAIT TIMES AND TEN ADDITIONAL EARLY VOTING SITES WILL BE OPENED IN TIME FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION NEXT NOVEMBER.**

**THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION RECENTLY TOUTED THE IMPROVEMENTS OUR ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT HAS MADE SINCE 2012.**

**TWO CHANGES TO NOTE THAT ARE INCLUDED IN MY CHANGE MEMO: MY ADMINISTRATION HAS SET ASIDE \$3 MILLION IN ROAD IMPACT FEES FOR THE LUDLAM TRAIL WHICH IS THE SAME AMOUNT AS FOR THE UNDERLINE.**

**ALSO, WE CONTINUE TO RESPONSIBLY REDUCE OUR USE OF PTP DOLLARS FOR TRANSIT OPERATIONS. BECAUSE OF SAVINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT IN THE**

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, WE ARE ABLE TO LOWER OUR PROPOSAL FOR THE PTPs CONTRIBUTION.**

**I AM ALSO PROPOSING A \$5 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO THE COUNTY'S EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY RESERVES.**

**WHEN COMBINED WITH CONTINGENCY RESERVES IN THE GENERAL FUND, LIBRARY DISTRICT, AND FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT, OUR BALANCE TOTALS NEARLY \$60 MILLION. RESERVES EQUAL 4.3 PERCENT OF GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS.**

**WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ALL THIS WHILE KEEPING OVERALL TAX RATES FLAT.**

**THE TOTAL RATE PAID FOR ALL FOUR TAXING JURISDICTIONS REMAINS 12 PERCENT BELOW THE RATE IN PLACE WHEN I WAS FIRST ELECTED MAYOR IN JUNE 2011.**

**THIS PROPOSED BUDGET REPRESENTS A SAVINGS OF \$982 MILLION FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESIDENTS SINCE 2011.**

**THAT'S RIGHT – MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TAXPAYERS HAVE SAVED ALMOST A BILLION DOLLARS OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS.**

**IN FACT, THE FLAT TAX RATES I AM PROPOSING SAVE THE AVERAGE HOMEOWNER NEARLY \$1,000 IN PROPERTY TAXES SINCE 2011.**

**IN OTHER WORDS, OUR RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN GETTING MUCH MORE OUT OF THEIR TAX DOLLARS THAN THEY WERE BEFORE I WAS ELECTED.**

**COMMISSIONERS, THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HARD WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR RESIDENTS.**

**I AM THE MAYOR OF ALL OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THEIR CONCERNS - NO MATTER WHAT PART OF THE COUNTY THEY LIVE IN - ARE INDEED MY CONCERNS.**

**BETTER DAYS ARE AHEAD FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. TOGETHER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS.**

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