

GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE AND THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY RECOGNIZING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER AUDREY EDMONSON WHOSE DISTRICT WE ARE IN. THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER.

ALSO JOINING US IS DR. MARK ROSENBERG, PRESIDENT OF FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE LIBERTY SQUARE RESIDENT COUNCIL, MS. SARA SMITH.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO LIBERTY SQUARE.

SINCE FIRST BEING ELECTED IN 2011, I HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT I AM THE MAYOR OF ALL OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND ALTHOUGH THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE, WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING CRITICAL ISSUES THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY.

I MADE A COMMITMENT TO LIBERTY SQUARE AND LIBERTY CITY RESIDENTS WHEN I FIRST BECAME MAYOR AND HAVE CONTINUED THAT COMMITMENT OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

PART OF THAT COMMITMENT HAS BEEN THE REDEVELOPMENT OF LIBERTY SQUARE, WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT AND PROCESS WITH THE RESIDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT SARAH SMITH, RESIDENTS AND THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

INDEED, I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OUR DIRECTOR MICHAEL LIU TO ADDRESS CURRENT NEEDS IN LIBERTY SQUARE.

BUT WHILE THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT PROCESS CONTINUES, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS ALSO FOCUSED ON ENHANCING SECURITY IN AND AROUND LIBERTY SQUARE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ITS RESIDENTS.

THAT IS WHY TODAY I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT IN COLLABORATION WITH FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, THE LIBERTY SQUARE RESIDENT COUNCIL, COMMISSIONER EDMONSON AND THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, LIBERTY SQUARE RESIDENTS WILL NOW HAVE FREE

INTERNET ACCESS WITHIN THIS COMMUNITY CENTER.

THIS FIRST PHASE WILL ALLOW APPROXIMATELY 200 USERS TO CONNECT VIA THE FREE WIFI HERE, BUT WE HAVE PLANS TO EXPAND THE SERVICE.

LATER PHASES WILL REACH OUT TO OTHER PARTS OF LIBERTY SQUARE AND ULTIMATELY THE WHOLE COMPLEX.

THIS EFFORT WILL BE COORDINATED WITH THE REDEVELOPMENT OF LIBERTY SQUARE AS PART OF MY "LIBERTY CITY RISING" INITIATIVE.

THE TECHNOLOGY USED FOR INTERNET ACCESS IS CUTTING EDGE – UNLIKE OTHER CONVENTIONAL SET UPS THAT REQUIRE WIRING OF FIBER OPTIC LINES, THE TECHNOLOGY USED HERE IS COMPLETELY WIRELESS.

AND THE OVERALL DOLLAR INVESTMENT WAS LESS THAN \$15,000 FROM OUR PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT BUT POTENTIAL OUTCOMES WILL BE INVALUABLE.

THIS NEW TOOL WILL HELP RESIDENTS FIND EMPLOYMENT; HAVE ACCESS TO LEARNING

PROGRAMS AS PART OF A REGULAR SCHOOL CURRICULUM; AND RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL OR COLLEGE AS WELL AS ACHIEVING OTHER PROFESSIONAL GOALS.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK FIU'S SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION PROFESSOR SHUMOW AND FIU FOR THEIR COLLABORATION WITH THIS AND SEVERAL OTHER PROJECTS THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THE UNIVERSITY HAS PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE COUNTY AND OUR SCHOOL AND HEALTH SYSTEMS THAT BENEFIT OUR ENTIRE COUNTY AND I APPRECIATE THEIR SUPPORT.

I ALSO THANK OUR PROFESSIONALS AT PHCD FOR WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

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

AND NOW IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE YOUR COMMISSIONER, AUDREY EDMONSON. COMMISSIONER...