

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

**FELLOW RESIDENTS...**

**IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS JUST A FEW DAYS AGO THAT I PRESENTED MY PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16, BUT IN FACT, A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE JULY 7.**

**I HOSTED EIGHT TOWN HALL MEETINGS IN FLORIDA CITY, WEST KENDALL, PALMETTO BAY, AVENTURA, HIALEAH, ARCOLA LAKES, MIAMI GARDENS, AND THE WEST DADE REGIONAL LIBRARY.**

**WE ALSO HELD A FACEBOOK TOWN HALL AND TWITTER CHAT IN MY OFFICE.**

**I THINK I'M STARTING TO GET THE HANG OF THIS SOCIAL MEDIA THING...**

**BY NOW MOST ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS PROPOSED BUDGET:**

- THE MILLAGE RATES I PROPOSED BACK ON JULY 7TH WERE OVERWHELMINGLY ADOPTED BY THIS BOARD.**
- FOUR OF THE FIVE WERE FLAT, AND ONE - THE FIRE DEBT MILLAGE - WAS A REDUCTION.**
- THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE 100 VACANCIES FILLED. THAT MEANS WE ARE PROJECTING TO HAVE 100 MORE POLICE OFFICERS BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR EVEN WHEN ACCOUNTING FOR OFFICERS THAT WILL RETIRE FROM THE DEPARTMENT.**

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

**• MORE THAN 1,000 VEHICLES WILL BE REPLACED FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT FLEET BY 2016.**

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

**• WE ARE ENHANCING MARINE SERVICES FOR MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE.**

**• THERE IS MORE FUNDING FOR OUR CHILDREN, PARKS AND COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION INCLUDING ADDING TO OUR TREE CANOPY.**

**• LIBRARIES WILL BE OPEN MORE DAYS AND WITH A LARGER BUDGET, AND TEN OF OUR LIBRARIES WILL NOW BE OPEN SIX DAYS INSTEAD OF FIVE.**

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

**THE PROCESS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CBOS IS BEING EXPEDITED.**

**OUR NEW ANIMAL SERVICES SHELTER WILL OPEN IN DORAL. WE ARE ALSO INCREASING SPAY AND NEUTER FUNDING WITH THE SOUTH FLORIDA VETERINARY FOUNDATION BY A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.**

**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 BY NOVEMBER 2016.**

**ALL OF THIS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE SACRIFICES WE ALL MADE OVER THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS.**

**WE CONTINUE TO BE ON A SUSTAINABLE PATH AND OUR FIVE-YEAR FORECAST REMAINS BALANCED. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY WRITES OR SAYS.**

**OUR BUDGET FORECAST IS BALANCED FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.**

**IN OTHER WORDS, BECAUSE WE WERE “RESILIENT,” AS I LIKE TO SAY, OUR BUDGETARY OUTLOOK HAS IMPROVED TREMENDOUSLY.**

**I WOULD LIKE TO PAUSE A MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF OUR BUDGET DIRECTOR JENNIFER MOON, HER DEPUTIES BARBARA GALVEZ AND HUGO SALAZAR AND THEIR ENTIRE TEAM IN THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. THEY ARE ALL TRUE PROFESSIONALS AND I THANK THEM FOR THEIR HARD WORK PREPARING THIS BUDGET.**

**MR. CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS,**

**I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CLARIFY A KEY PIECE OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED BUDGET.**

**MY ADMINISTRATION FORECASTED 5.5 PERCENT GROWTH IN PROPERTY VALUES, WHICH MEANT WE ANTICIPATED ROUGHLY \$85 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL DOLLARS AVAILABLE TO FUND COUNTY OPERATIONS IN FISCAL YEAR 2015-16.**

**WE WERE HAPPY TO LEARN THAT GROWTH WAS ABOVE OUR PROJECTION AND VALUES GREW BY 9.4 PERCENT, OR ROUGHLY \$120 MILLION.**

**OUR PROPOSED BUDGET ALREADY HAD \$85 MILLION MORE IN PROJECTED EXPENDITURES FROM THE 5.5 PERCENT WE HAD FORECASTED.**

**THAT MEANS THAT THE ACTUAL DOLLAR AMOUNT THAT WE DID NOT PROJECT FOR WAS APPROXIMATELY \$35 MILLION. THOSE DOLLARS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO RESTORING AND ENHANCING SERVICES.**

**THAT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND.**

**I'VE HEARD SOME COMMENTS THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS \$120 MILLION MORE THAN LAST YEAR. WHILE THAT IS TRUE, THE ACTUAL AMOUNT THAT WAS ABOVE OUR PROJECTION IS APPROXIMATELY \$35 MILLION, NOT \$120 MILLION. THIS MONEY WAS USED TO FUND THE ENHANCEMENTS I JUST DESCRIBED.**

**MR. CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS,**

**AT OUR FIRST BUDGET HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 3RD, SEVERAL SPEAKERS VOICED THEIR CONCERNS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE, SEA LEVEL RISE AND SUSTAINABILITY.**

**THAT HAPPENED TO BE THE SAME EVENING THAT MY OFFICE ANNOUNCED THAT THE WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT HAD INVITED ME TO REPRESENT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AT THE U.S.-CHINA CLIMATE LEADERS SUMMIT IN LOS ANGELES.**

**IT WAS A HIGH-LEVEL GATHERING OF LEADERS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA WHICH INCLUDED EIGHT MAYORS EACH FROM BOTH COUNTRIES. I WAS THE ONLY COUNTY MAYOR INVITED.**

**WE MAYORS SIGNED A DECLARATION COMMITTING TO TAKING STEPS TO BETTER PREPARE OUR COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE. WHAT MADE ME PROUD WAS THAT MUCH OF WHAT WAS IN THE DECLARATION MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAD ALREADY BEEN DOING FOR YEARS AND IN SOME CASES, FOR DECADES.**

**IN ADDITION TO THE SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM BOTH THE U.S. AND CHINA, VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN ATTENDED AND PROVIDED CLOSING REMARKS YESTERDAY.**

**IT WAS A FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE AND WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE GREAT WORK DONE BY OUR COUNTY**

**PROFESSIONALS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY OUR COMMISSIONER FROM DISTRICT 6, REBECA SOSA.**

**COMMISSIONER SOSA'S LEADERSHIP ON THE SEA LEVEL RISE ISSUE AND HER TIME WITH THE SEA LEVEL RISE TASK FORCE HAVE LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR OUR CONTINUED WORK TO BETTER PREPARE OUR COUNTY. THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER SOSA FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION.**

**I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE COMMISSIONER LEVINE-CAVA'S DEDICATION TO THIS ISSUE, SHE ATTENDED THE CLIMATE LEADERS SUMMIT ON HER ACCORD.**

**AT THIS TIME, I SUGGEST THE BOARD ALLOCATE \$300,000 FROM THE FUNDING SET ASIDE IN THE FUTURE SERVICES RESERVE TO MITIGATE THE DAMAGE FROM OUR RECENT FIRE TO FUND THE TASK FORCE'S PRIMARY RECOMMENDATION SETTING ASIDE FUNDING TO ACCELERATE THE ADAPTATION PLANNING PROCESS THROUGH IDENTIFICATION OF ENGINEERING AND OTHER RELEVANT EXPERTISE TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE ON OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND DEVELOP A ROBUST PLAN OF ACTION.**

**I WANT EVERYONE TO LEAVE HERE TONIGHT UNDERSTANDING WHAT IT IS OUR COUNTY HAS DONE TO PREPARE FOR THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE.**

**I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY NEEDED TO GO FURTHER THAN SIMPLY ADDRESSING SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE.**

**MY VISION IS AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO MAKE OUR COUNTY A RESILIENT COMMUNITY AND THAT MEANS ANTICIPATING RISKS, ASSESSING OUR ABILITY TO LIMIT IMPACT, AND DEVELOPING PLANS FOR ADAPTATION AND GROWTH IN THE FACE OF TURBULENT CHANGE.**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WILL CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME WEATHER BY EXPANDING OUR ENERGY EFFICIENCY EFFORTS, CONTINUING TO STRENGTHEN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENSURING THAT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY IS RESILIENT.**

**THE PROPOSED BUDGET ADDRESSES EACH OF THESE AREAS AND CONTINUES US DOWN THE PATH OF MAKING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY A MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITY.**

**TO ADDRESS THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE WE CONTINUE TO INVEST IN THE ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) AND BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROGRAMS.**

**BOTH HAVE PROVIDED NUMEROUS ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO OUR COMMUNITY AND ARE NOW ALSO RECOGNIZED AS KEY STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATING THE IMPACTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE ON OUR COMMUNITY.**

**TO INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO DECREASE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT IN OUR OPERATIONS; PROMOTE THE GREEN DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF BUILDINGS THAT ARE DEVELOPED, CONSTRUCTED AND MANAGED BY THE COUNTY;**

**IMPLEMENT ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS IN SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS; INSTALL LEED BULBS AT TRAFFIC LIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY;**

**PURCHASE HYBRID VEHICLES FOR OUR FLEET, AND EXPEDITE THE REVIEW PROCESS FOR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL "GREEN" BUILDING-CERTIFIED PROJECTS.**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ALSO CONTINUES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE ADOPT A TREE, BAYNANZA, AND THE ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM BECAUSE THEY EACH PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY.**

**TO RENEW AND STRENGTHEN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE THE MIAMI-DADE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT WILL BE LEADING A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT THAT IS PROJECTED TO COST \$13.5 BILLION WHILE CREATING SEVENTEEN THOUSAND JOBS OVER THE NEXT 15-20 YEARS.**

**THE DEPARTMENT HAS IN FACT, BEEN ENGAGED IN PLANNING FOR POTENTIAL SEA LEVEL RISE IMPACTS SINCE 2006 AND HAS ACTIVELY INCORPORATED A VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS AND HARDENING STRATEGIES.**

**PART OF THE WORK HAS BEEN TO ASSESS THE ADDED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION COST TO MAKE THE CONSENT DECREE AND OCEAN OUTFALL PROJECTS RESISTANT TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS. THE CURRENT ESTIMATE FOR THOSE COSTS IS APPROXIMATELY \$55 MILLION OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS.**

**SINCE 2007, WASD HAS SPENT \$9 MILLION ON DATA COLLECTION, SALT FRONT MONITORING AND UPDATING THE SALT FRONT LINE,**

**AND SINCE 2008 MORE THAN \$2.5 MILLION HAS BEEN SPENT TO DEVELOP SOPHISTICATED GROUND WATER MODELS TO FORECAST SALT WATER INTRUSION AND TO SIMULATE STORM SURGE AND FLOODING RESULTING FROM SEA LEVEL RISE.**

**MOREOVER, IN JUST THE PAST YEAR, AN ADDITIONAL \$600,000 HAS BEEN INVESTED TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF SEA LEVEL RISE, STORM SURGE, FLOODING AND WIND UNDER THE OCEAN OUTFALL LEGISLATION CONTRACT.**

**FINALLY, TOO OFTEN ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE PRESENTED WITH A FALSE CHOICE -- EITHER OUR COMMUNITIES HAVE STRONG ECONOMIES WITH MINIMAL ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS, OR ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS ARE IN PLACE AND THEY STIFLE ECONOMIC GROWTH.**

**SOMETIMES WE ARE TOLD THAT WE MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO.**

**I DISAGREE.**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS PROVEN THAT BOTH CAN BE DONE.**

**CONSIDER THAT SINCE THE END OF THE RECESSION, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HAS CREATED ABOUT 115,000 PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS, WHICH IS MORE THAN ANY OF OUR STATE'S OTHER 66 COUNTIES.**

**AND YET, WE HAVE COMMON SENSE STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS IN PLACE BECAUSE THEY ARE NECESSARY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR LOW-LYING AREA.**

**IN ORDER TO FUND ADAPTIVE AND MITIGATING STRATEGIES, A COMMUNITY NEEDS A STRONG ECONOMY.**

**AND THAT IS WHY MY ADMINISTRATION REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE ONE COMMUNITY ONE GOAL INITIATIVE ALONG WITH OUR PARTNERS AT THE BEACON COUNCIL AND OTHERS TO RECRUIT QUALITY, HIGH-PAYING BUSINESSES TO OUR COMMUNITY AS WELL AS TO DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY.**

**AS I HAVE SAID ALL ALONG, SINCE BECOMING MAYOR IN 2011, I HAVE ADVOCATED TO HOLD THE LINE ON TAXES AND MAKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AS EFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE.**

**AND THAT IS WHAT THIS PROPOSED BUDGET REPRESENTS -- REASONABLE TAX RATES, EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT AND ENHANCED SERVICES BECAUSE OUR FINANCES HAVE IMPROVED.**

**I BELIEVE BETTER DAYS ARE AHEAD BECAUSE WE REMAINED DISCIPLINED AND COMMITTED TO A FISCALLY SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.**

**THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONERS AND RESIDENTS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU.**

