

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND ON BEHALF OF OUR 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS, IT'S MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR DYNAMIC AND MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY!

NOT ONLY IS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY WITH GREAT WEATHER, COUNTLESS CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT OFFERINGS...

BUT WE ALSO HAPPEN TO BE THE UNDISPUTED "GATEWAY TO THE AMERICAS."

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMPETES NOT ONLY WITH CITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, BUT WITH PLACES FROM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

ALL OF US KNOW THAT WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF MOBILE CAPITAL AND RESOURCES – QUITE FRANKLY, PEOPLE CAN LIVE, INVEST, AND WORK ANYWHERE NOWADAYS.

BUT WHAT SEPARATES ONE PLACE FROM ANOTHER IS THE WILLINGNESS OF THOSE IN GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, AND OTHER SECTORS TO MAKE THE COMMITMENTS NECESSARY TO CREATE THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE THAT WILL ATTRACT PEOPLE TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO CREATE A WORLD-CLASS ECONOMIC CLIMATE BY INVESTING IN THE THINGS THAT ADD VALUE TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR PEOPLE:

EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, PARKS AND GREEN SPACES, ARTS AND CULTURE, AND OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

WE ARE ALSO MAKING UNPRECEDENTED INVESTMENTS IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE – AND ARE ALWAYS WORKING DILIGENTLY TO IMPROVE OUR TRANSIT MOBILITY.

WE HAVE COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS TO PORTMIAMI WHICH IS NOW ONE OF THE FEW PORTS ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD CAPABLE OF SERVICING THE NEWER LARGER SHIPS THAT WILL NOW CROSS THE WIDENED PANAMA CANAL.

AND WE ARE PROUD TO SAY THAT WE ARE OFFICIALLY READY TO WELCOME THE LARGEST CARGO SHIPS IN THE WORLD TO OUR PORT WHEN THE NEWLY-EXPANDED PANAMA CANAL OPENS FOR BUSINESS.

THAT MEANS MORE TRADE & LOGISTICS JOBS FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND MORE PROSPERITY FOR OUR COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

WE ARE ALSO UNLEASHING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF OUR COMMUNITY BY SUPPORTING START-UP INCUBATORS AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY-BASED BUSINESSES.

IN ADDITION, OUR URBAN CORE AND DOWNTOWN HAVE BECOME ONE OF THE HOTTEST REAL ESTATE MARKETS IN THE WORLD.

MOST OF THE BUILDINGS YOU SEE AROUND THE COUNTY WERE NOT HERE 10 YEARS AGO.

OUR LOCATION HAS MADE US THE GATEWAY NOT ONLY TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, BUT INCREASINGLY TO AFRICA, EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND BEYOND.

OUR STATUS AS A NATURAL GEOGRAPHIC “CROSSROADS” HAS HELPED US EMERGE AS ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE PLACES IN THE WORLD.

MIAMI HAS ALWAYS BEEN BLESSED BY GREAT WEATHER AND BY OUR BEAUTIFUL NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING SOME OF THE BEST

**OCEANFRONT PROPERTY IN THE WORLD,
SANDWICHED IN BETWEEN TWO NATIONAL PARKS:
THE EVERGLADES AND KEY BISCAYNE.**

**BUT WITHOUT A DOUBT OUR GREATEST RESOURCE
IS THE QUALITY OF OUR PEOPLE.**

**PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD COME HERE –
WE HAVE LEARNED TO LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER
TO CREATE WHAT YOU SEE ALL AROUND YOU
TODAY.**

**WE'RE ALSO A PLACE WHERE NEW IDEAS ARE
ALWAYS WELCOMED. WE HAVE A CONTINUOUS
POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE, AND FULL OF
OPPORTUNITIES.**

**AND THAT IS WHY WE ARE ALWAYS WORKING TO
STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE TIES BETWEEN OUR
COMMUNITY AND THE REST OF THE WORLD...**

**WE ARE TRULY HONORED TO HOST YOU, AND WE
ARE PLEASED THAT YOU CHOSE OUR COMMUNITY
TO HOLD THIS IMPORTANT FORUM.**

**IT IS MY HOPE THAT YOUR TIME TOGETHER IS
PRODUCTIVE, AND THAT YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO**

EXPLORE OUR BEAUTIFUL, WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY WHILE YOU ARE HERE WITH US.

BUT I ALSO HOPE THAT YOU'LL FIND SOME FREE TIME TO EXPLORE OUR COMMUNITY BEYOND OUR NORTH MIAMI AREA.

MIAMI IS A DIVERSE PLACE – WE HAVE NEIGHBORHOODS LIKE LITTLE HAVANA, COCONUT GROVE, LITTLE HAITI, AND BRICKELL THAT ALL HAVE THEIR OWN UNIQUE SOUNDS, PEOPLE AND FLAVORS. AND, OF COURSE, THERE'S ALWAYS SOUTH BEACH!

IF THIS VISIT PROVES TO BE TOO QUICK, PLEASE COME BACK AND SEE US AGAIN – WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!

ENJOY YOUR STAY. GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!