

**BONJOUR, MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS. IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY.**

**I WOULD LIKE TO THANK SÉVERINE GIANESE PITTMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (F.A.C.C.) OF FLORIDA, FOR INVITING ME TO ADDRESS THIS DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF FRENCH LOCAL BUSINESSMAN AND WOMEN.**

**I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE HONORABLE PHILLIPE LÉTRILLIART, CONSUL GENERAL OF FRANCE IN MIAMI. MR. LÉTRILLIART, THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO TO FOSTER THE ROBUST RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE BETWEEN FRANCE AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, I WELCOME AND COMMEND THE CELEBRATION OF THE EIGHTH (8<sup>TH</sup>) EDITION OF "FRENCH WEEK" (OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 12, 2015), WHICH HAS BEEN ORGANIZED BY THE CONSULATE OF FRANCE IN MIAMI AND THE FLORIDA F.A.C.C. THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS.**

**THIS INITIATIVE SHOWCASES MIAMI'S DIVERSITY AND ASSETS AS A "GLOBAL HUB" FOR BUSINESS/TRADE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY.**

**DURING “FRENCH WEEK,” MIAMI-DADE COUNTY’S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS HOSTING A BUSINESS DELEGATION FROM MARTINIQUE. THE COUNTY IS ALSO ORGANIZING BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS MATCHMAKING MEETINGS WITH MIAMI-DADE COMPANIES.**

**I HAVE BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT A BUSINESS-AND-TRADE-DEVELOPMENT MISSION TRIP I MADE TO PARIS AND MARSEILLE IN JUNE, THE OUTCOME OF THAT TRIP, AND WHAT THE COUNTY WILL BE DOING NEXT TO ENHANCE OUR TRADE DEVELOPMENT WITH FRANCE.**

**ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF JUNE’S TRADE MISSION WAS TO STRENGTHEN THE COUNTY’S COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS TIES WITH FRANCE, WHICH IS MIAMI-DADE’S NUMBER-ONE EUROPEAN TRADING PARTNER, AND SOUTH FLORIDA’S TWELFTH (12<sup>TH</sup>) LARGEST TRADING PARTNER.**

**NUMERICALLY SPEAKING, FRANCE’S TOTAL TRADE WITH SOUTH FLORIDA WAS \$2.65 BILLION IN 2014, AND THIS NUMBER CONTINUES TO GROW IN 2015.**

**I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT, AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THIS TRADE MISSION, AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION FROM MARSEILLE/PROVENCE WILL VISIT MIAMI-DADE IN JUNE 2016. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS ALREADY WORKING WITH THE CITY OF MARSEILLE TO PREPARE FOR THIS IMPORTANT BUSINESS DELEGATION.**

**ANOTHER RESULT FROM THIS TRIP WAS THE RENEWAL OF THE "SISTER PORT" AGREEMENT BETWEEN PortMiami AND THE MARSEILLE-FOS PORT AUTHORITY. THIS AGREEMENT FOCUSES ON STRENGTHENING AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST -- INCLUDING INFORMATION-SHARING ON BEST PRACTICES FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS.**

**I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT MORE THAN \$1 BILLION IN CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ARE TRANSFORMING PortMiami.**

**THE PORT HAS ALREADY COMPLETED THE "DEEP DREDGE PROJECT," WHICH HAS DEEPENED THE PORT'S MAIN HARBOR CHANNEL FROM 42 FEET TO A DEPTH OF 50/52 FEET.**

**THIS MEANS THAT PortMiami IS NOW THE ONLY MAJOR LOGISTIC HUB SOUTH OF VIRGINIA THAT IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING FULLY LADEN POST-PANAMAX VESSELS.**

**ALREADY IN PLACE, IS A NEW ON-DOCK INTERMODAL RAIL SERVICE LINKING PortMiami TO 70 PERCENT OF THE U.S. POPULATION IN FOUR DAYS OR FEWER. WE ALSO HAVE A TUNNEL LINKING THE PORT DIRECTLY TO THE U.S. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM, ALLEVIATING TRAFFIC BY REMOVING APPROXIMATELY 14,000 VEHICLES FROM DOWNTOWN ROADWAYS EVERY DAY.**

**THIS LAST FEAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED NOT ONLY BY A FRENCH COMPANY, BUT IT WAS ALSO THE FIRST PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY THE COUNTY.**

**IN TERMS OF OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS IN THE PROCESS OF MODERNIZING OUR WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE. THIS PROJECT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY.**

**THAT'S WHY, DURING THE NEXT 15-20 YEARS, THE COUNTY WILL INVEST APPROXIMATELY \$13.5 BILLION TO ENHANCE AND UPGRADE OUR WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH THE USE OF STATE-OF-THE ART TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.**

**THIS ENHANCEMENT AND UPGRADE WILL BE THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT PROJECT IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HISTORY, AND WILL RESULT IN THE UPGRADE OF THOUSANDS OF MILES OF PIPES, PUMP STATIONS, AND WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS THAT PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

**THIS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IS PROJECTED TO CREATE MORE THAN 16,000 NEW JOBS AND WILL IMPROVE THE RELIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM. THIS PROJECT WILL ALSO GENERATE \$24.9 BILLION IN ECONOMIC OUTPUT.**

**GIVEN FRANCE'S PROVEN CAPABILITIES IN THIS AREA, I INVITE ALL OF YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECT.**

**IN CLOSING, I WANT TO REITERATE THAT MIAMI-DADE IS A FORWARD-THINKING, WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY THAT ENCOURAGES INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT, TRADE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.**

**WE WELCOME YOUR IDEAS AND EXPERTISE IN THESE AREAS, AND LOOK FORWARD TO ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE WITH YOU TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU AGAIN FOR BEING HERE TODAY. LET'S CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO SOLIDIFY BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FRANCE AND MIAMI-DADE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES.**

