

**GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE! WELCOME TO THE MIAMI-DADE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT.**

**FIRST AND FOREMOST, I WANT TO THANK YOU AGAIN FOR AGREEING TO BE A PART OF THIS ADVISORY GROUP. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN WITH US SINCE WE FIRST CONVENED IN NOVEMBER 2012, THANK YOU FOR THE WORK THAT YOU HAVE DONE UP TO NOW.**

**SINCE WE LAST MET AS A GROUP -- A YEAR-AND-A -- HALF AGO -- WE HAVE ADDED A FEW MEMBERS. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE OUR LATEST ADDITIONS: MIAMI-DADE COMMISSIONER DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA, TONY LIMA FROM "SAVE DADE," AND DANIEL TAPIA FROM THE GREATER-MIAMI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**

**COMMISSIONER, TONY, AND DANIEL -- THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK IN HELPING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IMPROVE ITS ELECTIONS PROCESS AND MAKING IT AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE FOR OUR RESIDENTS.**

**I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF EACH MEMBER OF THIS GROUP, AND THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TIME AND SERVICE.**

**IN ADDITION TO NEW GROUP MEMBERS, WE ALSO HAVE A NEW SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS DESIGNEE. MS. CHRISTINA WHITE WILL ASSUME HER NEW ROLE ON MAY 31, 2016, WHEN THE COUNTY'S CURRENT SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, PENNY TOWNSLEY, WILL RETIRE AFTER A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**PENNY COULD NOT BE WITH US TODAY, BUT PLEASE JOIN ME IN GIVING HER A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR HER LOYAL SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

**NOW, LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT OUR NEW SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS DESIGNEE...**

**CHRISTINA WHITE HAS SERVED MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IN VARIOUS ROLES SINCE 2002. SHE PRESENTLY ASSISTS SUPERVISOR TOWNSLEY IN OPERATING THE LARGEST ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT IN FLORIDA, WITH AN ANNUAL BUDGET OF \$27 MILLION, 783 PRECINCTS, 587 POLLS, 25 EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS AND NEARLY 10,000 POLL WORKERS.**

**DURING HER TENURE HERE AT MIAMI-DADE ELECTIONS, CHRISTINA HAS OVERSEEN THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT.**

**SHE HAS ALSO ASSISTED SUPERVISOR TOWNSLEY IN SUCCESSFULLY ADMINISTERING THREE COUNTYWIDE ELECTIONS AND 49 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. CHRISTINA HELPED LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNTY'S FIRST ELECTRONIC VOTER CHECK-IN SYSTEM. SHE UPGRADED EXISTING ABSENTEE BALLOT EQUIPMENT TO ACCOMMODATE INCREASED DEMAND FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS, WHILE FINALIZING COUNTYWIDE RE-PRECINCTING AND INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN THE DEPARTMENT'S SUPERVISED VOTING PROGRAM BY 50 PERCENT.**

**GIVEN HER IMPRESSIVE TRACK RECORD, I'M CONFIDENT THAT CHRISTINA HAS THE EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE NEEDED TO SUCCESSFULLY LEAD THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF SUCCESS AS WE ENTER THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEAR.**

**IN OTHER WORDS, I EXPECT CHRISTINA WILL HIT THE GROUND RUNNING! LET'S GIVE CHRISTINA A WARM WELCOME!**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU HAVE A FULL AGENDA TODAY, SO I WILL TURN THE FLOOR OVER TO CHRISTINA.**

**CHRISTINA WILL GIVE YOU A COMPLETE UPDATE ON THE COUNTY'S OPERATIONAL AND TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS AND HOW WE ARE PREPARING FOR THE MARCH 15, 2016 PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION. THIS OVERVIEW WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF THIS FACILITY AND OUR TECHNOLOGICAL UPGRADES.**

**COMMISSIONERS, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF OUR ELECTIONS ADVISORY GROUP -- THANK YOU AGAIN FOR BEING HERE TODAY. TOGETHER, YOU REPRESENT THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY, AND I HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT YOU WILL SEE TO IT THAT OUR RESIDENTS' CONCERNS ARE ADDRESSED.**

**LET'S MAKE THE UPCOMING ELECTION YEAR A MODEL ONE! LET'S SHOW THE NATION THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY KNOWS HOW TO RUN ELECTIONS THE RIGHT WAY AND CAN BE A MODEL FOR THE REST OF THE STATE AND NATION!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND SERVICE!**