

GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

**THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION, MARK,
AND FOR ALL OF THE GREAT WORK YOU DO AT
ORACLE.**

**COMMISSIONER FRANCIS SUAREZ, IT'S GREAT
TO HAVE YOU WITH US THIS MORNING. THANK
YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO TO SUPPORT THE
GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU ALL FOR
PARTICIPATING. AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO
ARE NOT FROM OUR WORLD-CLASS
COMMUNITY, WELCOME TO MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY!**

**IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE THIS MORNING TO
DISCUSS HOW WE CAN MOVE OUR
COMMUNITIES FORWARD THROUGH THE USE
OF TECHNOLOGY.**

**HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, WE'RE TAKING
MULTIPLE STEPS TO ENABLE DIGITAL GROWTH
AND INNOVATION.**

WE WORK HARD EVERY DAY TO FIND WAYS TO USE TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICES TO OUR 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS AND ALL OF OUR VISITORS.

DESPITE BEING A 62-YEAR-OLD GRANDFATHER, I CONSIDER MYSELF TO BE A TECH MAYOR, AND I'VE EMBRACED TECHNOLOGY IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT BECAUSE I'VE WITNESSED HOW MUCH TECHNOLOGY CAN IMPROVE OUR LIVES AND THE SERVICES THAT WE PROVIDE.

AND THAT'S WHY MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON ENHANCING THE COUNTY'S TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES EVEN MORE -- SO THAT WE CAN BETTER SERVE OUR RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND VISITORS.

AS A TECH MAYOR, I'D LIKE TO PUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ON THE MAP AS "TECH BEACH."

I THINK MIAMI-DADE COULD VERY WELL BE THE PLACE WHERE THE NEXT TWITTER, FACEBOOK OR GOOGLE IS BORN.

ACCORDING TO THE BEACON COUNCIL, WE HAD \$650 MILLION IN VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDING IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IN 2014. SO, INVESTORS ARE DEFINITELY NOTICING OUR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT.

AND WE CERTAINLY HAVE THE POTENTIAL AND TALENT TO BECOME AMERICA'S NEXT GREAT TECH HUB. THERE'S A REASON WHY THE ANNUAL KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION REPORT RECOGNIZED MIAMI AS SECOND IN THE NATION FOR STARTUP ACTIVITY... RIGHT?

WELL, I THINK MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CAN MAKE IT TO NUMBER-ONE. IN FACT, MY ADMINISTRATION IS ALREADY WORKING ON THAT!

BACK IN 2012, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MADE AN INVESTMENT IN A TECHNOLOGY START-UP CALLED VENTURE HIVE.

LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN MIAMI -- WHICH IS NOT TOO FAR FROM WHERE WE ARE HERE IN CORAL GABLES -- VENTURE HIVE HAS HELPED MORE THAN 30 TECH COMPANIES FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE FLOURISH IN OUR WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY.

AND THAT INVESTMENT PAID OFF IN ANOTHER WAY. TWO YEARS AGO, MICROSOFT OPENED THE FIRST MICROSOFT INNOVATION CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES AT VENTURE HIVE.

THE MIC BRINGS TOGETHER INNOVATORS, ALONG WITH STUDENTS AND OTHERS, TO ACCELERATE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES -- CREATING THE TECH JOBS OF TOMORROW.

AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WE'RE VERY PROUD OF.

WHILE THE COUNTY WAS INVESTING IN START-UPS LIKE VENTURE HIVE, WE ALSO PROVIDED THE SEED MONEY TO HELP LAUNCH THE INAUGURAL "EMERGE AMERICAS" CONFERENCE HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THAT FIRST CONFERENCE ATTRACTED THOUSANDS OF ATTENDEES FROM HUNDREDS OF TECH COMPANIES. AND I'M PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE THIRD ANNUAL EMERGE AMERICAS CONFERENCE IS TAKING PLACE AGAIN IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THIS IS YET ANOTHER SIGN THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS QUICKLY BECOMING THE "TECH BEACH" I KNOW IT CAN BE.

IN FACT, THE EMERGE TEAM IS EXPECTING 13,000 PARTICIPANTS AT THE MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER AND OTHER VENUES THIS APRIL. THAT'S A 30 PERCENT INCREASE FROM THE 10,000 PARTICIPANTS THAT EMERGE WELCOMED LAST YEAR!

THE EXCITEMENT FOR TECHNOLOGY THAT'S TAKING PLACE ALL OVER OUR COMMUNITY IS ALSO HAPPENING WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT. WE CAN'T ATTRACT INNOVATORS TO OUR COMMUNITY WITHOUT BEING INNOVATIVE OURSELVES.

THAT'S WHY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS COMMITTED TO OPEN DATA AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TO MAKE COUNTY HALL TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR RESIDENTS.

DURING INTERNATIONAL OPEN DATA WEEKEND LAST YEAR, WE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED OUR OPEN DATA PORTAL -- [OPENDATA.MIAMIDADE.GOV](https://opendata.miamidade.gov). OPEN DATA IS SIMPLIFYING PUBLIC ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENT DATA, INCLUDING PERMITTING, 311, G.I.S. AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WAS ALSO THE FIRST GOVERNMENT IN FLORIDA TO BE AWARDED A FELLOWSHIP FROM CODE FOR AMERICA. AND THROUGH THIS PARTNERSHIP, THE COUNTY WAS ABLE TO TACKLE CUSTOMER FEEDBACK LOOPS WITHIN OUR DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

THREE TECHNOLOGY SPECIALISTS, ALONG WITH COUNTY STAFF, CREATED “THE MDC DASHBOARD,” AN APP THAT ALLOWS CUSTOMERS TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK VIA A WEB OR TEXT SURVEY.

ALSO IN 2015, WE LAUNCHED THE NEW MIAMI-DADE AUDIO TRAFFIC APP TO PROVIDE USERS WITH UP-TO-THE-MINUTE TRAFFIC UPDATES, LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETINS AND COMMUNITY NEWS – THROUGH THEIR SMARTPHONES.

SPEAKING OF TRAFFIC, SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT WE HAVE A BIT OF A TRAFFIC PROBLEM IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

I BELIEVE TECHNOLOGY WILL HELP US SOLVE MANY OF THE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS WE’RE EXPERIENCING TODAY.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE'RE ALREADY MAKING PROGRESS WITH TRAFFIC-SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION IN SOME OF OUR MAJOR CORRIDORS -- WHICH HAS IMPROVED TRAFFIC FLOW.

BUT OUR COUNTY NEEDS MORE MOBILITY OPTIONS, ESPECIALLY ONES THAT INCORPORATE THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO CONNECT WITH USERS.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE COUNTY TOOK A BIG STEP FORWARD LAST MONTH WHEN COMMISSIONER ESTEBAN BOVO PRESENTED LEGISLATION TO REGULATE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES LIKE UBER AND LYFT. WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, I BELIEVE OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS WILL SOON BE ABLE TO LEGALLY USE THE SERVICES OF APP-BASED MOBILITY COMPANIES.

THIS IS A PRIORITY FOR ME AS MAYOR, AND I'M OPTIMISTIC THAT WE'LL SEE THIS HAPPEN BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, MY TOP PRIORITY, HOWEVER, IS PUBLIC SAFETY.

ALL OF YOU IN THIS ROOM KNOW THAT TECHNOLOGY IS ALSO KEY TO THE FUTURE OF OUR POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

MORE THAN THREE YEARS AGO -- WELL BEFORE EVENTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY SPARKED FIERCE DEBATE -- I ASKED THE DIRECTOR OF OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS ON OUR POLICE OFFICERS.

WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN TESTED, THE USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS HAS RESULTED IN A DECREASE IN THE USE OF FORCE, AND JUST AS IMPORTANT, RESULTED IN A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS.

I ALSO BELIEVE CAMERAS ARE CRITICAL TO RAISING THE LEVEL OF TRUST BETWEEN POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND RESIDENTS. IN FACT, SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS -- LARGE AND SMALL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY -- ARE INVESTING IN CAMERA TECHNOLOGY FOR THEIR OFFICERS.

IN OTHER WORDS, BODY-WORN CAMERAS ARE A 21ST-CENTURY TECHNOLOGY THAT I BELIEVE WILL BE A STANDARD PART OF THE OFFICERS' UNIFORM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

AND THAT'S WHY I'M PLEASED THAT 1,000 OF OUR POLICE OFFICERS WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH BODY-WORN CAMERAS BY THE FALL.

I BELIEVE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WILL BE ONE OF THE LARGEST, IF NOT THE LARGEST, POLICE FORCE IN THE NATION TO EQUIP OUR OFFICERS WITH THIS IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGY.

FOLKS, I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT BY POSITIONING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AS “TECH BEACH,” WE’RE NOT ONLY INCREASING THE INTERACTION AND PARTICIPATION BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE WE SERVE, BUT WE’RE ALSO CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

AND THAT’S WHY I REMAIN COMMITTED TO INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY THAT WILL GIVE OUR RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND VISITORS UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS TO THE MANY RESOURCES THE COUNTY HAS TO OFFER.

ULTIMATELY, TECHNOLOGY WILL HELP US BECOME A COMMUNITY OF 2.6 MILLION ENGAGED, EMPOWERED RESIDENTS. AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN I CAN OFFICIALLY WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO “TECH BEACH.”

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TODAY.

**I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR STAY IN MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY AND I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON!**

