

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.

THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION, MAJOR LLEVAT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MY TOP PRIORITY AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF EVERY SINGLE ONE OF OUR 2.7 MILLION RESIDENTS AND THE MILLIONS WHO VISIT OUR COMMUNITY EACH YEAR.

AND WE ALL KNOW THAT TECHNOLOGY IS IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND OUR OFFICERS' ABILITY TO PROTECT AND SERVE OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE HOSTING THIS PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY -- TO DEMONSTRATE THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE IN EQUIPPING OUR OFFICERS WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY ...

TECHNOLOGY THAT WILL MODERNIZE OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT AND EQUIP OUR MIAMI-DADE OFFICERS TO BETTER PROTECT AND SERVE OUR COMMUNITY'S FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND VISITORS OF ALL AGES.

BACK IN THE FALL OF 2012 -- WELL BEFORE EVENTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY SPARKED FIERCE DEBATE -- I ASKED OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS ON OUR POLICE OFFICERS WHO PATROL OUR COMMUNITY.

I WAS AN EARLY SUPPORTER OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS BECAUSE WHERE THEY'VE BEEN TESTED, THEIR USE HAS RESULTED IN A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN THE USE OF FORCE.

AND JUST AS IMPORTANT, BODY-WORN CAMERAS HAVE RESULTED IN A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS.

THEY'VE ALSO SERVED AS VEHICLES TO TELL -- OR SHOW -- THE GOOD WORK OUR OFFICERS DO EACH AND EVERY DAY.

ANOTHER REASON THAT I'M A STRONG SUPPORTER OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS IS BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THEY'RE CRITICAL TO RAISING THE LEVEL OF

TRUST BETWEEN POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND RESIDENTS.

LIKE I'VE SAID BEFORE: IT TAKES ALL OF US TO PROTECT ALL OF US. SO, WE MUST CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A SAFER MIAMI-DADE FOR US ALL.

A BIG PART OF PROTECTING ALL OF US IS INVESTING IN AND DEPLOYING THE LATEST POLICING TECHNOLOGY.

THAT'S WHY I'M PLEASED THAT ON MONDAY, WE'LL BEGIN DEPLOYMENT OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS AT M.D.P.D.

WE'LL BEGIN BY EQUIPPING OFFICERS IN OUR MIDWEST DISTRICT, FOLLOWED BY OUR NORTHSIDE AND SOUTH DISTRICTS.

OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE 1,000 OFFICERS EQUIPPED WITH BODY-WORN CAMERAS BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

THAT MEANS THAT BY THE END OF OUR FISCAL YEAR, WE'LL BE ONE OF THE LARGEST POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN THE NATION TO EQUIP OUR PATROL OFFICERS WITH THIS IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGY, AND THE LARGEST IN FLORIDA.

AND THAT'S NEWS WE CAN ALL CELEBRATE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'M CONFIDENT THAT THESE CAMERAS WILL SERVE AS ANOTHER TOOL FOR OUR WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY.

THE CAMERAS WILL ALSO PROVIDE US WITH ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THE GOOD WORK THAT OUR OFFICERS PERFORM EVERY DAY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

AND TO HELP PROVIDE INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE MEDIA, WE'VE CREATED A NEW BODY-CAMS WEBPAGE, WHICH IS LIVE TODAY. THAT PAGE IS WWW.MIAMIDADE.GOV/POLICE/BODYCAMS.ASP.

AS MEDIA, YOU'RE PROBABLY INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT MOST OF THE BODY-CAM FOOTAGE

THAT OUR OFFICERS CAPTURE WILL BE CONSIDERED PUBLIC RECORD. MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK THROUGH M.D.P.D.'S MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE TO MAKE PUBLIC-RECORDS REQUESTS.

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC CAN MAKE REQUESTS VIA A FORM HOUSED ON OUR NEW BODY-CAMS WEBPAGE.

A COPY OF M.D.P.D.'S BODY-WORN CAMERAS POLICY IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AND DOWNLOADING ON THAT PAGE.

BEFORE I TURN IT OVER TO DIRECTOR PEREZ, I WANT TO MAKE A FINAL POINT: AND THAT POINT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS THAT AS GOOD AS THE BODY CAMERAS WE'RE DEPLOYING ARE, I REALIZE THAT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO END ALL OF OUR COMMUNITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS.

THAT'S WHY, IN ADDITION TO BODY-WORN CAMERAS, M.D.P.D. IS LOOKING AT OTHER TECHNOLOGIES -- LIKE AN APP THAT WILL SOON ALLOW THE COMMUNITY TO REPORT NON-

EMERGENCIES ANONYMOUSLY FROM THEIR CELL PHONES.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO PURCHASED 1,000 AR-15 RIFLES TO BETTER PROTECT AND DEFEND AGAINST THE AK-47'S CRIMINALS ARE CARRYING THESE DAYS.

WE'VE ALSO PURCHASED 500 BALLISTIC PLATES AND CARRIERS TO PROVIDE OUR OFFICERS WITH EXTRA PROTECTION FROM HIGH-POWER RIFLE ROUNDS.

WE PLAN TO PURCHASE AN ADDITIONAL 500 OF THOSE THIS SUMMER.

AND PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT INVESTMENT OF ALL THAT WE'RE MAKING IS IN THE HIRING OF ADDITIONAL OFFICERS. IN FACT, WE'RE PROJECTED TO GRADUATE 265 POLICE OFFICERS BY THE FALL TO SUPPORT OUR EXISTING 2,582 SWORN OFFICERS.

DIRECTOR PEREZ IS REALLY LEADING THE CHARGE TO BRING M.D.P.D. WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE. IN FACT, HE'S DOING SUCH A GREAT JOB THAT THE WHITE HOUSE JUST HONORED HIM YESTERDAY.

IN ADDITION TO ADDING MORE OFFICERS ON THE STREET, DIRECTOR PEREZ IS UPGRADING EQUIPMENT TO ENHANCE OFFICER AND PUBLIC SAFETY. AND HE'S INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY, LIKE THE BODY CAMS WE'RE SHOWING YOU TODAY, THAT WILL IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR OFFICERS AND THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE.

AND MAKING CHANGES OF THIS SCALE IS NO EASY TASK WHEN YOU HEAD UP ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

SO, THANK YOU, DIRECTOR PEREZ. WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND FOR ALL THAT YOU DO TO PROTECT AND SERVE OUR WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME THIS MORNING.