

**THANK YOU, MAYOR LEVINE.**

**GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE.**

**OUR GATHERING TONIGHT SERVES AS A REMINDER THAT WE ARE ONE COMMUNITY, ONE STATE, ONE COUNTRY.**

**REGARDLESS OF OUR DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, WE ARE ALL MIAMIANS. WE ARE ALL FLORIDIANS. WE ARE ALL AMERICANS.**

**AND WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES ANY MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY, STATE OR COUNTRY, IT PERSONALLY AFFECTS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US.**

**WHAT HAPPENED IN ORLANDO EARLIER THIS MORNING IS TRAGIC ON MANY LEVELS.**

**WE HAVE LOST SONS AND DAUGHTERS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND FRIENDS TODAY.**

**THIS WAS A DIRECT ATTACK ON OUR COUNTRY ... ON ALL OF US AS AMERICANS ... AND ON THE FREEDOM AND INCLUSIVENESS THAT WE ENJOY HERE.**

SO, WE ARE REMINDED ONCE AGAIN, THAT WHILE WE ARE AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY HERE IN MIAMI-DADE, WE MUST CONTINUE TO FIGHT AGAINST AN UGLY HATRED OF WHAT AMERICA STANDS FOR, AND FOR THE RIGHT OF ALL OF US TO BE WHO WE ARE.

THAT IS WHY WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT. AND WE WILL.

BUT WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER TONIGHT, IS THAT WE WILL NOT BE DIVIDED.

FURTHER DIVISION IS WHAT TERRORISTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE. BECAUSE WHEN WE ARE UNITED ... WHEN WE COME TOGETHER ... OUR COUNTRY IS AT ITS BEST.

AND THAT IS WHY I'M CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL NOT LET ONE ACT OF TERRORISM SEPARATE US.

WE WILL UNITE EVEN STRONGER, AND TOGETHER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR WHAT IS RIGHT.

WHILE WE WILL MOURN THE LOSS OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TOGETHER, WE WILL CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK THAT YOU ALL HAVE DONE.

**WE WILL UNITE AND CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS OF EVERY SINGLE AMERICAN -- GAY, STRAIGHT, TRANSGENDER.**

**WE WILL CONTINUE TO CHOOSE LOVE OVER HATE, AND UNDERSTANDING OVER IGNORANCE.**

**AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, YOU HAVE MY COMMITMENT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE PLACE FOR EVERYONE.**

**AND NO ACT OF TERRORISM OR HATE ANYWHERE WILL CHANGE THAT.**

**THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TONIGHT.**

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND MAY HE COMFORT THE FAMILIES WHO LOST LOVED ONES TODAY.**