

**THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION, RON, AND  
THANK YOU FOR THE GREAT WORK THAT YOU AND  
YOUR TEAM AT ZOO MIAMI DO.**

**GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE!**

**COMMISSIONER MOSS, THANK YOU FOR JOINING  
US. WE WOULDN'T BE HERE THIS MORNING  
WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.**

**THIS IS A GREAT DAY TO BE AT ZOO MIAMI. IT'S  
ACTUALLY ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE HERE  
BECAUSE THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING EXCITING  
GOING ON.**

**JUST LOOK AT THIS PLACE!**

**AND TODAY, THERE'S EVEN MORE TO SEE AS WE  
UNVEIL THE ZOO'S NEW ENTRY PLAZA.**

**I HAVE MANY FOND MEMORIES OF THE ZOO. I TOOK  
MY THREE CHILDREN HERE WHEN THEY WERE  
GROWING UP, AND NOW I GET TO COME BACK WITH  
MY SIX GRANDCHILDREN – WHICH IS EVEN BETTER  
THAN IT WAS WITH MY KIDS.**

**THAT'S WHAT THE ZOO IS ALL ABOUT, RIGHT? WE  
WORK HARD HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND**

**THIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO ENJOY SOME QUALITY TIME WITH OUR FAMILIES.**

**AND THAT'S WHY IT'S MY PRIORITY AS MAYOR TO CONTINUE TO INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY'S PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES.**

**DIRECTOR JACK KARDYS AND HIS TEAM WORK HARD TO MAKE SURE WE NOT ONLY HAVE GREAT PLACES WE CAN ENJOY WITH OUR FAMILIES, BUT WE ALSO HAVE PLACES THAT WILL ATTRACT VISITORS FROM OUTSIDE OUR COMMUNITY.**

**IN FACT, IN 2015, ZOO MIAMI BROKE ITS ALL-TIME ATTENDANCE RECORD. WE HAD MORE THAN 972,000 VISITORS AT ZOO MIAMI IN 2015!**

**I THINK THAT DESERVES A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

**AND NOW THAT WE'VE INVESTED EVEN MORE AT THE ZOO – WITH THIS ENTRY PLAZA, NEW EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMMING, ADDITIONAL STAFF AND MUCH MORE -- WE EXPECT TO BREAK EVEN MORE RECORDS. I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF WE WELCOMED 1 MILLION VISITORS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.**

**NO PRESSURE, JACK.**

**BUT, SERIOUSLY, WE REALLY DO HAVE AN AMAZING ZOO HERE IN MIAMI-DADE. MANY PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE THAT ZOO MIAMI IS THE LARGEST AND OLDEST ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN IN FLORIDA.**

**IT'S ALSO THE ONLY SUB-TROPICAL ZOO IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.**

**SO, I THINK THERE ARE PLENTY OF REASONS WHY PEOPLE COME FROM NEAR AND FAR TO ENJOY OUR ZOO.**

**AND NOW WE HAVE A NEW ENTRY PLAZA TO WELCOME ALL OF OUR VISITORS IN STYLE. AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ALL HERE TO CELEBRATE.**

**WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE TO THANK FOR OUR STATE-OF-THE-ART ENTRY PLAZA – WHICH IS THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS PROJECT TO WELCOME VISITORS TO ZOO MIAMI IN A WHOLE NEW WAY.**

**IN ADDITION TO COMMISSIONER MOSS AND DIRECTOR KARDYS AND HIS TEAM, I WANT TO THANK ZOO MIAMI DIRECTOR CAROL KRUSE AND ZOO MIAMI FOUNDATION PRESIDENT BILL MOORE.**

**I ALSO WANT TO THANK ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO WORKED ON THE PROJECT DESIGN, ENGINEERING,**

**ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION. I KNOW IT TAKES A TEAM TO MAKE PROJECTS OF THIS SCOPE A SUCCESS, SO MY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU.**

**LAST BUT NOT LEAST, I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF MIAMI-DADE'S "ART IN PUBLIC PLACES" PROGRAM, WHICH IS LED BY SENIOR ADVISOR AND DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, MICHAEL SPRING. WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITIES HAVE WORLD-CLASS ART. AND SO, I THANK MICHAEL AND MS. MIKYOUNG KIM, THE AWARD-WINNING INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE ARTIST WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING THE EVERGLADES-INSPIRED "MIST ZONE" OUR VISITORS WILL ENJOY AS THEY ENTER THE ZOO.**

**ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE TO CELEBRATE WITH US AT ZOO MIAMI THIS MORNING. BEFORE I TURN IT BACK OVER TO RON, I'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS IN SPANISH...**

**[SPANISH REMARKS]**

**HOY ES UN GRAN DÍA PARA ESTAR EN ZOO MIAMI.**

**ESTAMOS AQUÍ PARA INAUGURAR LA NUEVA ENTRADA AL ZOOLÓGICO.**

**TODOS SABEMOS LO MUCHO QUE SE TRABAJA TODOS LOS DÍAS, POR ESO ES QUE ESTE ES EL LUGAR PERFECTO PARA DISFRUTAR CON LA FAMILIA CUANDO NO ESTAMOS TRABAJANDO.**

**ES POR ESO QUE COMO ALCALDE ES MI PRIORIDAD CONTINUAR INVIRTIENDO EN PARQUES COMO ESTE.**

**YO RECUERDO CUANDO YO TRAÍA A MIS HIJOS AQUÍ Y AHORA QUE TENGO 6 NIETOS SÉ QUE SEGUIRÉ VINIENDO. Y ESO ME LLENA DE MUCHA ALEGRÍA.**

**EL DIRECTOR JACK KARDYS Y SU EQUIPO TRABAJAN DURO PARA ASEGURARSE QUE TODOS NOSOTROS TENEMOS LUGARES COMO ESTE PARA DISFRUTAR EN FAMILIA. PERO TAMBIÉN PARA ATRAER A MILES DE VISITANTES.**

**DE HECHO EN EL 2015, ZOO MIAMI ROMPIÓ UN RÉCORD AL RECIBIR MÁS DE 972 MIL VISITANTES Y**

**AHORA QUE HEMOS INVERTIDO MÁS EN ESTE BELLO ZOOLOGICO, ESTOY SEGURO QUE ROMPEREMOS MÁS RÉCORDS ESTE AÑO.**

**DE NUEVO, MUCHAS GRACIAS A TODOS POR VENIR A CELEBRAR CON NOSOTROS ESTA MAÑANA! QUE DIOS LOS BENDIGA A TODOS!**

**THANK YOU, EVERYONE! MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL, AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!**

