

**CHAIRMAN...COMMISSIONERS...GOOD MORNING.**

**SINCE GOVERNOR SCOTT'S PRESS CONFERENCE A FEW WEEKS AGO ANNOUNCING THE HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF LOCALLY-ACQUIRED CASES OF ZIKA IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF DISCUSSION ABOUT WHAT WE NEED TO DO TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY FROM THIS VIRUS.**

**SOME OF YOU WERE AT THE E.O.C. FOR THE GOVERNOR'S FOLLOW-UP PRESS CONFERENCE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ON THURSDAY, AND ON FRIDAY, WE WERE PAID A VISIT BY SENATOR BILL NELSON -- WHO RALLIED LOCAL MAYORS TOGETHER TO URGE THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO ALLOCATE MORE FUNDING FOR ZIKA.**

**NEEDLESS TO SAY, ZIKA HAS BEEN DOMINATING HEADLINES. AND OUR COMMUNITY -- RIGHTFULLY SO -- HAS BEEN DEMANDING ANSWERS.**

**I BELIEVE THE REASON COMMISSIONER LEVINE-CAVA REQUESTED A SPECIAL MEETING THIS MORNING WAS SO THAT WE COULD HAVE AN OPEN DISCUSSION ABOUT ALL THAT WE'RE DOING -- WHICH IS A LOT.**

**I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF EVERY SINGLE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESIDENT, AS WELL AS OUR VISITORS.**

**AND THAT IS WHY MY ADMINISTRATION AND I, OUT OF AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION, HAVE RAMPED UP OUR MOSQUITO-CONTROL EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (C.D.C.), THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

**IN FACT, LAST TUESDAY, I AUTHORIZED OUR MOSQUITO CONTROL TEAM TO BEGIN ADULTICIDE AND LARVICIDE AERIAL SPRAYING -- USING THE SAME EPA-APPROVED CHEMICALS THAT ARE BEING USED ACROSS THE STATE AND THAT HAVE BEEN USED IN MIAMI-DADE SINCE THE 1970S -- IN THE 10-SQUARE-MILE AREA WHERE LOCALLY-ACQUIRED CASES HAVE BEEN REPORTED AND ARE BEING INVESTIGATED.**

**WE CONTINUED TO SPRAY OVER THE WEEKEND, AND WILL CONTINUE TO SPRAY ON WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY OF THIS WEEK, WEATHER PERMITTING.**

**AND AFTER THIS WEEK, WE WILL CONTINUE TO SPRAY AS WARRANTED BY OUR MOSQUITO-POPULATION SURVEILLANCE DATA.**

**SO FAR, OUR SPRAYING SHOWS THAT WE ARE MAKING A SIGNIFICANT DENT IN THE MOSQUITO-CONTROL POPULATION. BEFORE WE STARTED SPRAYING, WE HAD AN AVERAGE OF 25 FEMALE AEDES AEGYPTI MOSQUITOES PER TRAP. THESE ARE THE ONES THAT BITE AND CAN SPREAD ZIKA.**

**AFTER WE STARTED SPRAYING, WE SAW THAT NUMBER REDUCED TO AN AVERAGE OF 9 AEDES AEGYPTI MOSQUITOES PER TRAP, AND NOW WE'RE DOWN TO LESS THAN ONE. THIS MEANS THAT THE POPULATION OF MOSQUITOES -- OR MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE MOSQUITOES THAT CAN BITE AND SPREAD ZIKA -- HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 96 PERCENT BY SPRAYING.**

**ON ANOTHER POSITIVE NOTE, NONE OF THE MOSQUITOES WE HAVE TESTED IN THE AREA WHERE WE ARE SPRAYING -- AND THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY -- HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR ZIKA. AND AS OF YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, WE HAVE NO**

**ADDITIONAL CONFIRMED LOCALLY-ACQUIRED CASES.**

**AS OF YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, WE HAVE 106 CONFIRMED TRAVEL-RELATED CASES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. AND WE HAVE 15 CASES THAT ARE BELIEVED TO BE LOCALLY-ACQUIRED. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE IN THE AREA.**

**SOME MAY ASK WHY WE DIDN'T START SPRAYING SOONER, AND I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE PROTOCOL RECOMMENDED TO US BY OUR PARTNERS AT THE C.D.C., FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SINCE FEBRUARY.**

**THAT PROTOCOL WAS TO FIRST ELIMINATE MOSQUITO BREEDING HOUSE BY HOUSE – WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY DOING.**

**YOU MAY HAVE SEEN OUR TRUCKS AND CREWS TRAVELLING AROUND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY -- BOTH IN RESPONSE TO RESIDENTS' SERVICE REQUESTS,**

**AND IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM THE C.D.C. AND FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS COMPLETELY MOBILIZED AND IS ALLOCATING WHATEVER RESOURCES ARE NECESSARY TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE. AND BY “WHATEVER RESOURCES ARE NECESSARY,” I MEAN THAT THE BUDGET WE ARE ALLOCATING TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF ZIKA IS NOTHING MORE THAN A BASELINE FIGURE. AND THAT FIGURE CAN BE INCREASED IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, SUCH AS THIS.**

**WE HAVE ALSO BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE VARIOUS CITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THAT OUR ZIKA CONTAINMENT AND PREVENTION EFFORTS ARE COORDINATED AND MAXIMIZED.**

**I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK DEPUTY MAYOR ALINA HUDAK AND HER MOSQUITO CONTROL TEAM FOR THEIR TIRELESS WORK AROUND THE CLOCK TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY.**

**BEFORE I TURN IT OVER TO DEPUTY MAYOR HUDAK, WHO CAN GIVE YOU A FULL REPORT ON OUR MOSQUITO CONTROL OPERATION, I KNOW THAT A**

**LOT OF PEOPLE ARE AFRAID RIGHT NOW ... ESPECIALLY WOMEN WHO ARE PREGNANT OR ARE THINKING OF BECOMING PREGNANT.**

**AND THAT IS WHY, BASED ON THE C.D.C.'S RECOMMENDATION, I HAVE BEEN ADVISING WOMEN WHO ARE PREGNANT OR THINKING OF BECOMING PREGNANT TO AVOID THE ONE-SQUARE-MILE AREA NORTH OF DOWNTOWN MIAMI WHERE LOCALLY-ACQUIRED CASES ARE BEING INVESTIGATED.**

**AND PER GOVERNOR SCOTT'S ORDER LAST WEEK, ALL PREGNANT WOMEN ACROSS THE STATE ARE URGED TO GET TESTED FOR ZIKA. THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SET UP A CLINIC FOR TESTING ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY OF LAST WEEK, AND HAS ALREADY BEGUN TESTING PREGNANT WOMEN.**

**THERE IS A LOT MORE THAT COUNTY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DOING IN ADDITION TO SPRAYING AND TESTING.**

**WE'VE ORGANIZED A JOINT INFORMATION CENTER AT THE E.O.C. AND HAVE HELD DAILY CALLS WITH OUR FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH**

**PARTNERS AND OUR PARTNERS FROM VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES.**

**YESTERDAY, 200 PEOPLE FROM THE CITIES CAME TO MOSQUITO CONTROL FOR CODE-ENFORCEMENT TRAINING.**

**WE'VE ALSO BEEN DISTRIBUTING MOSQUITO-REPELLANT WIPES -- ONE OF THE BEST MECHANISMS OF DEFENSE -- IN AREAS WHERE CASES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED OR REPORTED.**

**WE ALSO CONTINUE OUR ONGOING OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT RESIDENTS AND VISITORS UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY CAN DO TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST ZIKA.**

**THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM ALL THIS IS THAT WE HAVE THE TOOLS AND INFORMATION AT OUR DISPOSAL TO PROTECT OURSELVES, AND WE MUST ALL CONTINUE TO DO OUR PART.**

**WE MUST CONTINUE TO ASK ALL RESIDENTS TO DRAIN STANDING WATER.**

**AND SPEAKING OF DRAINS, WE'VE GOT ABOUT 150,000 OF THEM THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. AND WE'RE WORKING TO DEPLOY PEOPLE**

**TO TREAT THE DRAINS WITH DUNKS THAT WILL PROVIDE 30 DAYS OF PROTECTION AGAINST MOSQUITOES.**

**BUT I NEED EVERYONE'S HELP TO GET OUR DRAIN-AND-COVER MESSAGE OUT. WE'VE BEEN WORKING WITH THE MEDIA ON THIS AND CONTINUING OUR AGGRESSIVE PUBLIC-INFORMATION CAMPAIGN, BUT ALL OF OUR COMMISSIONERS CAN ALSO HELP BY ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE TO USE MOSQUITO REPELLANT AND COVER UP WHEN GOING OUTDOORS, ESPECIALLY DURING EARLY MORNING AND EVENING HOURS.**

**I'M CONFIDENT THAT WE'RE DOING ALL WE CAN TO STAY ON TOP OF ZIKA CONTAINMENT AND PREVENTION, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO PROTECT THIS COMMUNITY.**

**AND BASED ON CONVERSATIONS I'VE HAD WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE C.D.C., THEY'RE OPTIMISTIC THAT BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, WE WILL HAVE A ZIKA VACCINE.**

**UNTIL THEN, LET'S CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO KEEP OUR RESIDENTS SAFE.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, COMMISSIONERS.**