

**THANK YOU FOR THAT INTRODUCTION, JACK.**

**GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE. HOW'S EVERYBODY DOING TODAY?**

**IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE WITH YOU ALL IN BRICKELL.**

**AND I'M EXCITED THAT WE'RE CUTTING THE RIBBON THIS MORNING ON THE VERY FIRST PIECE OF WHAT WILL BE OUR COMMUNITY'S 10-MILE LINEAR PARK CONNECTING THE KENDALL AREA TO DOWNTOWN MIAMI.**

**WHEN I WAS A COUNTY COMMISSIONER, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF VOTING IN A UNANIMOUS DECISION TO APPROVE THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN. THAT PLAN INCLUDED 500 MILES OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS ENCOMPASSING WHAT'S NOW KNOWN AS THE UNDERLINE.**

**THE UNDERLINE RECEIVED A SIMILAR UNANIMOUS VOTE OF APPROVAL BY OUR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND WILL BE THE SPINE OF A FUTURE NETWORK OF MUCH-NEEDED TRAILS IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**SO, I WANT TO START BY THANKING EVERYONE WHO HAS PLAYED A ROLE IN MOVING THIS PROJECT FORWARD.**

**COMMISSIONER JOSE “PEPE” DIAZ HAS BEEN A BIG SUPPORTER, AND WAS THE PRIME SPONSOR OF THE LEGISLATION THAT BROUGHT THE UNDERLINE TO LIGHT.**

**THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE THIS MORNING, COMMISSIONER.**

**I ALSO WANT TO TAKE A MINUTE TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN THE CATALYST THAT BROUGHT SO MANY PEOPLE TOGETHER IN OUR COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF THE UNDERLINE: MEG DALY, FROM FRIENDS OF THE UNDERLINE.**

**MEG, THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU’VE DONE, AS WELL AS THE “BRICKELL BACKYARD” FOUNDERS, TO BRING THE UNDERLINE AND THIS POP-UP GYM TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

**AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, I WANT TO THANK THE COUNTY’S PARKS PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE GOTTEN THE UNDERLINE TO WHERE IT IS**

**TODAY – NOTABLY, PARKS DIRECTOR JACK KARDYS AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE MARIA NARDI.**

**THANK YOU, BOTH.**

**LADIES AND AND GENTLEMEN, LET’S GIVE EVERYONE WHO PLAYED A PART IN THIS PROJECT’S SUCCESS A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

**THE UNDERLINE REPRESENTS OUR COMMITMENT TO TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES IN THIS COMMUNITY THAT HELP RELIEVE CONGESTION, PROVIDE HEALTHY AND SAFE ALTERNATIVES FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS, REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT, AND GIVE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS A WORLD-CLASS LINEAR PARK WITH BEAUTIFUL, FUNCTIONAL PUBLIC SPACES, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND WONDERFUL PUBLIC ART.**

**AND THE BEST PART ABOUT THE UNDERLINE IS THAT WE ALREADY OWN THE LAND. SO RATHER THAN SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY TO ACQUIRE LAND TO BUILD A LINEAR PARK, WITH THE**

**UNDERLINE, WE'RE ABLE TO TAKE WHAT WE HAVE AND MAKE IT SAFER, MORE BEAUTIFUL AND MORE FUNCTIONAL.**

**TODAY IS JUST A PREVIEW – THE FIRST PIECE -- OF THE 10-MILE UNDERLINE THAT WE ARE UNVEILING.**

**THIS PROJECT IS A PRIORITY FOR MY ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE IT WILL, HOPEFULLY, ENCOURAGE MIAMI-DADE RESIDENTS TO WALK, BIKE OR RIDE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION INSTEAD OF DRIVING.**

**AND WE ARE BIG SUPPORTERS OF PROJECTS THAT REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND IMPROVE MOBILITY IN OUR COMMUNITY, BECAUSE PROJECTS LIKE THE UNDERLINE MAKE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AN EVEN BETTER PLACE FOR ALL MIAMIANS TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY.**

**YOU KNOW, I FIRST RAN FOR MAYOR BECAUSE I WANTED TO MAKE A BETTER MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.**

**I HAVE SIX GRANDCHILDREN NOW, AND I REALLY ENJOY BEING THEIR GRANDFATHER.**

**BUT IN ADDITION TO DOING OBVIOUS THINGS – LIKE MAKING SURE WE HAVE GOOD JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR RESIDENTS, A SAFE COMMUNITY TO LIVE IN, GOOD PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING, I ALSO WANTED TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AN EVEN GREATER PLACE TO PLAY...**

**A COMMUNITY WHERE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN HAVE BEAUTIFUL SPACES TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER, AND LIVE A HEALTHY, ACTIVE LIFESTYLE.**

**SO, TODAY, WITH THIS RIBBON CUTTING OF THE UNDERLINE’S “BRICKELL BACKYARD” FITNESS AREA, WE’VE COME ONE STEP CLOSER TO ACCOMPLISHING THAT GOAL.**

**AND I CAN’T WAIT UNTIL THE DAY WHEN WE ARE ABLE TO CUT THE RIBBON ON THE COMPLETE “BRICKELL UNDERLINE PARK,” WHICH WILL**

**FEATURE PICNIC AREAS, PARK BENCHES, A PLAYGROUND, A DOG PARK, BASKETBALL COURT AND ART INSTALLATIONS THAT WE CAN ENJOY WITH OUR FAMILIES.**

**I DON'T WANT TO DELAY THIS RIBBON CUTTING ANY LONGER.**

**I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M READY TO TEST OUT THE NEW FITNESS EQUIPMENT WE'VE GOT ON SITE HERE.**

**SO, THANK YOU AGAIN, EVERYONE, FOR BEING WITH US THIS MORNING.**

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