

GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE!

THANK YOU, NANCY, FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION.

IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY. AND WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY WE'RE HAVING, A LITTLE COLD BY OUR STANDARDS BUT PLEASANT...

I'M VERY HAPPY THAT OUR RESIDENTS ARE SO INVOLVED AND COMMITTED TO MAKING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY A WORLD CLASS COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE ROTARY CLUB.

IT IS AN HONOR TO BE ABLE TO SHARE THIS TIME WITH YOU TODAY.

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO PUT A FACE TO THOSE THAT SHARE THEIR CONCERNS AND DEDICATE THEIR TIME TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY.

THOSE OF YOU THAT REGARDLESS OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS, DEDICATE TIME FROM YOUR BUSY SCHEDULES TO COME

TOGETHER AND WORK TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

YOU ALL SHARE A STRONG AND SINCERE DESIRE TO SERVE OTHERS AND HELP FOLKS IN NEED, WHETHER IT'S HERE IN OUR HOMETOWN OR HALF WAY AROUND THE GLOBE.

YOUR INSPIRING MOTTO OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF" SAYS IT ALL.

AS SOMEONE WHO HAS SPENT ALL OF HIS LIFE IN PUBLIC SERVICE, I KNOW THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

WE ARE CONSTANTLY FINDING WAYS TO IMPROVE HOW MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DELIVERS ITS SERVICES SO THAT WE CONTINUE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS.

FORTUNATELY, I THINK WE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH A LOT MORE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS THANKS TO THE RE-APPROVAL OF A BUDGET THAT IS BALANCED, FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE AND PUTS MIAMI-DADE ON A SUSTAINABLE FISCAL PATH. IN FACT, I BELIEVE WE HAVE TURNED THE CORNER AND WILL HAVE A

SMOOTHER BUDGET PROCESS THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

BUT THAT ISN'T ALL MY ADMINISTRATION IS FOCUSED ON.

I AM A FIRM BELIEVER THAT WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO ATTRACT TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES TO OUR COUNTY SO THAT WE CAN HAVE THE JOBS OF TOMORROW, TODAY AND IN MIAMI-DADE AS OPPOSED TO SOME OTHER PART OF THE STATE OR COUNTRY.

THESE EFFORTS ARE HELPING US TO RETAIN THE TALENT OF OUR YOUNGER MORE TECH SAAVY RESIDENTS, AND HAS HELPED REVERSE THE "BRAIN DRAIN" WE WERE EXPERIENCING.

THESE EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN THE OPENING OF THE FIRST EVER MICROSOFT INNOVATION CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES AT VENTURE HIVE RIGHT HERE IN MIAMI; THE INAUGURAL "EMERGE AMERICAS" CONFERENCE THAT ATTRACTED 6,000 ATTENDEES LAST YEAR. WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT WE WILL SURPASS THAT TOTAL IN 2015.

IN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY IN OUR GOVERNMENT, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS ON A PATH TOWARD OPEN DATA LIKE WE HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

WE WERE CHOSEN AS THE ONLY COMMUNITY IN FLORIDA, AMONG A SELECT FEW IN THE NATION, TO HOST CODE FOR AMERICA FELLOWS THIS COMING YEAR.

CODE FOR AMERICA BRIDGES THE GAP BETWEEN PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT AND STREAMLINES PROCESSES SO THAT WE ARE OPERATING MORE EFFICIENTLY.

SOME CONSIDER CODE FOR AMERICA TO BE "THE TECHNOLOGY WORLD'S EQUIVALENT OF THE PEACE CORPS..." I WAS PROUD TO HAVE TRAVELED TO SAN FRANCISCO TO MEET WITH THEIR CEO EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME THEM TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

ULTIMATELY, TECHNOLOGY BEYOND CONNECTING CITIZENS TO GOVERNMENT, ALSO TRANSLATES TO ANOTHER BENEFIT: JOBS.

BY POSITIONING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AS AN EMERGING LEADER IN TECHNOLOGY FOR THIS HEMISPHERE, NOT ONLY ARE WE USING TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE THE INTERACTION AND PARTICIPATION OF OUR CITIZENRY, BUT WE ARE CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

IT IS OUR DUTY TO CREATE A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THEM, AND WE HAVE A DUTY TO GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY HERE, JUST AS WE HAVE.

MY OBJECTIVE IS TO FOSTER JOB-CREATION EFFORTS BEYOND OUR USUAL STRENGTHS OF TOURISM, REAL ESTATE AND BANKING.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IS THE FASTEST GROWING SECTOR IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT PROGRESSION.

AND WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE WILL BE LAUNCHING "EMPLOY MIAMI-DADE"

-AN INITIATIVE I AM PROMOTING IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER LOCAL AGENCIES, TO OFFER CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATION TRAINING TO ELIGIBLE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESIDENTS.

THE OBJECTIVE IS TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOB SEEKERS RESIDING IN THE HIGHEST AREAS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE COUNTY THAT ARE TRADITIONALLY OVERLOOKED AND UNDERSERVED.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THIS PROGRAM WILL SET ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS ON THE RIGHT CAREER PATH TO FINDING EMPLOYMENT IN A HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATION AT NO COST.

WE ARE ALSO THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT INTERNATIONAL FASHION MAGNATE NAEEM KHAN WILL BE MOVING HIS OPERATIONS TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW HIM, HE HAS DESIGNED CLOTHES FOR FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA AND QUEEN NOOR OF JORDAN.

KHAN'S DECISION TO MOVE HERE WILL CONTINUE MIAMI'S RE-EMERGENCE AS A FASHION CENTER. WE ARE PUSHING HARD TO PROMOTE OUR COMMUNITY AS A FASHION AND DESIGN HUB TO TRANSFORM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INTO THE MILAN OF THE AMERICAS OR THE LATIN AMERICA'S VERSION OF NEW YORK'S GARMENT DISTRICT, WITH KHAAN'S MOVE AS THE IMPETUS.

MIAMI HOLDS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL - CULTURALLY, SOCIALLY, AND ECONOMICALLY.

FOR STARTERS, WE'VE GOT A DIVERSE, MULTILINGUAL WORKFORCE.

WE'VE GOT NATURAL BEAUTY, AS WELL - NOWHERE ELSE IN AMERICA YOU WILL FIND THE RICHNESS YOU FIND HERE, RIGHT IN BETWEEN TWO BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL PARKS... PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE GLOBE COME TO WITNESS IT!

LAST YEAR ALONE WE HAD OVER 14 MILLION VISITORS COME TO MIAMI TO ENJOY EVERYTHING THAT THIS BEAUTIFUL MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY HAS TO OFFER.

AND WE ALSO HAVE FIRST-RATE TRANSPORTATION HUBS, TOO:

THE AIRPORT AND THE SEAPORT EFFECTIVELY LINK US TO THE WORLD AND GIVE US A HUGE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE WHEN IT COMES TO TRADE, TRAVEL AND COMMERCE.

ALL THOSE THINGS ADD UP TO A STURDY FOUNDATION THAT WILL BE THE BASE FOR CREATING THE NEXT - GREAT WORLD CLASS COMMUNITY OF THE 21ST CENTURY RIGHT HERE IN MIAMI.

WE HAVE MANY REASONS TO FEEL PROUD!

HOPEFULLY, EACH OF YOU WILL BE A PART OF LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S NEXT GENERATION - I'M CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL BE!

BEFORE I WRAP UP MY REMARKS AND TURN IT OVER TO YOU FOR Q & A, I WANT TO COMMEND



YOU – AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS AN ORGANIZATION –  
FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO SERVICE.

AS YOUR MAYOR, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO  
CONTINUE PUTTING “PUBLIC SERVICE ABOVE  
SELF.”

AND YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO REDOUBLE MY  
EFFORTS AND DO ALL IN MY POWER TO MAKE OUR  
COMMUNITY THE BEST IT CAN POSSIBLY BE.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TIME THIS AFTERNOON  
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SERVICE.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

