

I welcome you to the 57th Annual Installation Gala of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities. As your president I am committed to working together with each one of you to protect our Municipal Home Rule and to deal with the challenges that our cities face every day. Today our cities continue to face great challenges such as a shrinking revenue base coupled with demands to improve our communities' quality of life, unfunded federal, state and county mandates, onerous pension requirements and funding cutbacks. Despite all of that, our local elected municipal officials continue to serve as public servants many times giving up of their family and personal time to work every day to make their city a better place.

In the next year we must continue to work together as a League, with neighboring Municipal Leagues and the Florida league of Cities to make sure that we continue to protect Municipal home rule, eliminate unfunded mandates and face the economic and political challenges of today. The economic growth of our communities holds the key to overcoming some of the local issues which most affect our County. As local municipal officials you are at the forefront of helping create policies that bring new jobs, better education and prosperity to our South Florida community.

Our community is on the cusp of change and, for the first time in many years, real reform. As municipal leaders we must be a part of that process. We must bring forth creative and productive ideas that will serve to bring positive change to our citizens and return confidence in the electorate as to our roles as public servants. Government closest to the people, local government, has been the bedrock of American Democracy since the founding of our great nation. With great responsibility comes great opportunity and we as the Miami-Dade County League of Cities must not shy away from that chance to make a positive difference for our residents.

I want to thank our outgoing President, Councilman Michael Blynn of North Miami, for his work and leadership over the last year. I want to thank the Officers and Board of Directors of the Miami Dade County League of Cities and the many local elected officials who day in and day out work so hard for their communities.

I am honored and humbled by the trust you have placed in me to lead our league this year. I know that together we can and will work to bring a better quality of life to our citizens and to the many others who visit and work in our communities. In a year where the opportunity for positive change is possible, I commit to you that we, as the Miami Dade County League of Cities, will be at the forefront of bringing good positive public policy for all of the residents of our County.

Respectfully,

Juan Carlos Bermudez
President Miami Dade County League of Cities
Mayor, City of Doral