

I WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THE 56TH ANNUAL INSTALLATION GALA OF THE MIAMI-DADE LEAGUE OF CITIES. AS YOUR PRESIDENT, I AM COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU THIS COMING YEAR TO FACE AND OVERCOME THE SERIOUS CHALLENGES THAT FACE ALL OF US AS MUNICIPAL LEADERS.

IT IS MY HONOR TO HAVE WORKED WITH MY PREDECESSORS IN OFFICE, WHO HAVE SERVED THE LEAGUE WITH SUCH DISTINCTION, PROTECTING AND DEFENDING OUR CITIES IN THE FACE OF BUDGET SHORTFALLS AND FUNDING CUTS, NOT TO MENTION LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST THE PASSAGE OF NEGATIVE LEGISLATION THAT HAS THREATENED OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE OUR CITIZENS WITH BASIC SERVICES. MY IMMEDIATE PREDECESSOR, SHIRLEY GIBSON, WILL BE A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW, AND WE HOPE TO HEAR HER VOICE IN CONGRESS, FIGHTING FOR OUR CITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

IN THE COMING YEAR, WE FACE GREAT ECONOMIC CHALLENGES, AND IT WILL BE NO EASY TASK TO GET THE NEEDED FUNDING TO MAINTAIN, LET ALONE, IMPROVE SERVICES FOR OUR RESIDENTS. HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, THE INCREASING RISE IN MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES, AND FUNDING CUTBACKS AT ALL LEVELS THREATEN THE FABRIC AND INTEGRITY OF OUR CITIES.

WE ALL SHARE A STRONG COMMITMENT TO FAMILY AND COMMUNITY, AND TOGETHER WE CAN BE A POWERFUL FORCE TO ENLIST OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTY LEAGUES, THE FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE OF CITIES, AND THE NATIONAL LEAGUES IN OBTAINING FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, TO MAINTAIN OUR ECONOMIC STABILITY, AND FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, WITHOUT COMPROMISING OR GIVING UP THE LOCAL CONTROL OF OUR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS.

I AM HONORED AND HUMBLLED BY THE TRUST YOU HAVE PLACED IN ME TO LEAD THE LEAGUE TO EVEN GREATER SUCCESS IN THE COMING YEAR. WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE CAN CONTINUE TO BUILD OUR LEAGUE AS A POWERFUL, UNIFIED FORCE TO MAINTAIN AND RETAIN THE POWER AND CONTROL OF OUR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RESIDENTS OF OUR CITIES.

RESPECTFULLY,



MICHAEL R. BLYNN,
PRESIDENT, MIAMI-DADE LEAGUE OF CITIES, 2010
COUNCILMEMBER, CITY OF NORTH MIAMI