



Platinum LEED Certification Press Conference

Remarks presented by

The Honorable Mayor Shelley Stanczyk

October 23, 2012

Welcome everyone. And thank you for joining us on this historic day. It seems like just yesterday, many of you gathered here to celebrate the grand opening of this Village Hall Complex, our brand new home... in the winter of 2011. At that time, we promised we would stay-the-course to achieve a level of LEED design and construction that would be the envy of the community.

Well, we kept that promise. In fact, I am pleased to say we EXCEEDED that promise. In *“hoping”* for the Gold and *“shooting”* for the Platinum – we achieved the highest level of

"Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design." Today, we proudly announce the Palmetto Bay Municipal Center has officially received the elite, Platinum LEED designation by the US Green Building Council. It doesn't get any better than this!

I am so proud on this important day, to be in the position as the Mayor of Palmetto Bay, to share the news of this milestone accomplishment for our community, our state, our country – and the world. Just consider what we have accomplished. The Palmetto Bay Municipal Center is:

- The first and only government office building in all of Florida to attain Platinum-level status.
- It is among the highest-scoring government buildings in the Southeast U.S.; and
- We are now one of only three platinum city-hall facilities in the entire United States.

Not bad for a small town like Palmetto Bay.

This major accomplishment demonstrates that Palmetto Bay is a shining example of not just what a community CAN do together, but what a community SHOULD do together... And that is: Lead by example; promote smart, efficient, sustainable development, and healthier interior spaces; and be responsible stewards of this fragile planet.

I was not totally surprised with this news – because after all, this small city tends to think big on so many levels. As such, this news is part of a much bigger picture, part of a much bigger commitment made by this Council and staff to take leadership on important issues.

Let me take just a moment to consider how we got here. Through a process of community input, and open-ended commitment to create a green philosophy for our village, we developed a charette for a “downtown Palmetto Bay” right here in the commercial district in the Village’s southwest corner that would integrate sustainable development and smart growth.

We envisioned an attractive mixed-use, high-density, commercial / residential / retail hub situated right here along the main US-1 transit corridor – a perfect place, perhaps, for a new Village Hall... So this Charrette effort was our first baby step, if you will, toward leadership for a sustainable community.

We then took a first tangible step in our commitment to the environment, through smart green-design of a new concession stand at Coral Reef Park, which ended up being the first LEED-certified public facility in Miami-Dade County. And it's a great looking building with a practical purpose to serve the community.

You might say we got the “green fever” with this Park Facility project... that's because our next major Green endeavor was to consider building a net-zero / energy-ready Village Hall that would serve as a community hub for municipal services, public meetings, public safety administration, and an Emergency Operations Center.

It was in late 2009 when staff presented us with a proposal and we began this project in earnest. Under the leadership of then-mayor Eugene Flinn, I joined my fellow Village Councilmembers in forging a firm commitment to go “all-out” green with the design and construction of the Palmetto Bay Municipal Center. Could we? Should we? For me, it was not a difficult decision to give a green light to the project...

Palmetto Bay’s new 25,000-square-foot Municipal Complex is a veritable showcase of state-of-the-art LEED systems, all under one roof, so to speak. Just listen to what this building offers:

- One of the largest solar-panel arrays in all of Miami-Dade County;
- Low-energy, low-cost LED fixtures that supply 95% of all lighting needs;
- A combination of xeriscape landscaping and a low consumption drip-irrigation system;
- A 40,000-gallon cistern for landscape irrigation and a 20,000-gallon cistern for restroom fixtures;

- Interior glass walls that maximize daylight inside;
- Variable-refrigerant AC system 36 independent units operating individually and on-demand;
- Occupancy Sensors for Lighting & Exhaust Fans;
- Solar water-heater system;
- Permeable Pavers for water collection; and
- A set of free electric-car charging stations.

All of this will be further explained, if you plan to take a facility tour at about noon. So before I introduce our next speaker, I want to expand on what I meant by this “big news” today being part of a “bigger picture.”

As you know, Palmetto Bay is committed to the environment in so many ways:

- We’ve been designated as a Tree City USA community for four years and counting;
- In fact, we’ve been awarded the Tree City Growth Award for our continued commitment to our tree canopy;

- We are committed to the actions outlined in our Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan;
- This plan includes a significant investment in new sidewalks to promote connectivity and awareness of walking and biking through the Village;
- And lastly, as you know, we remain firmly committed to the Green Corridor initiative to which several of our neighboring cities are also committed; and
- Our growing role in the the “Property Assessed Clean Energy” program, or PACE, that encourages residents to take advantage of low-cost financing of home-based solar-power systems;

And lastly, allow me to share one other important piece of news: Today, we proudly announce our commitment to pursue the coveted “Green City USA” designation.

Thank you.

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