

2015 STATE OF THE VILLAGE MAYOR EUGENE FLINN

Good evening. Thanks for that introduction. I am pleased to once again stand before you at this State of the Village Address. Tonight, I will be telling you about our efforts, our accomplishments, our ambitions, and the financial health of Palmetto Bay. I am honored to be your Mayor.

I want to thank my family – for putting up with me and allowing me to embarrass them on a daily basis. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank my wife, Alexandra, and my two young girls – Katie and Meredith. And, thank you so much to my mother, Dorothea, who is also joining us tonight. I'm glad to see my sister, Phyllis, is here, with my sister-in-law, Jennifer. My brother couldn't be here this evening, as he has been deployed once again. And thanks to my in-laws, Robert and Manya, for coming. Thanks to all our families for your support.

We have a great deal to share with you tonight. I do see some new faces, some old friends – all of us working together to start fresh with exciting initiatives. This is the perfect time for action. I am very fortunate to be serving with such a remarkable Council – smart, focused, energetic – I couldn't ask for a better group of co-workers. And work, we will. I intend to join together with this Council and dedicate ourselves to driving this Village forward. Palmetto Bay is an outstanding community, but, it could be better – there is always room for improvement. We've planned and planned - now is the time to take action. Speaking of action – wasn't that an amazing show of talent here on center stage by the Palmetto Senior High Drama Club. Just wonderful. Great job! These "Little Women" certainly have a big future ahead of them.

This performance, along with the wonderful music by the students of Palmer Trinity, thanks to Priscilla Carlo for the national anthem and thanks to Isabella Swift and Wynne Owre for the beautiful interlude, is an example of what the new era in Palmetto Bay is about – collaboration. This Council and staff will be working smarter – joining together with our stakeholders, friends, and neighbors – to get things accomplished. You've all heard the expression, "It takes a village," well, for Palmetto Bay, the Village is ALL of us – the entire South Dade community. We are ALL one team – and our team is determined to be successful.

So, without further ado, allow me to introduce my Council members, the main players on our team:

- Vice Mayor John DuBois;
- Councilmember Karyn Cunningham;
- Councilmember Tim Schaffer; and
- Councilmember Larissa Siegel Lara.

Let's give them a round of applause. Thank you... And some of the others who carry the ball for us, our Charter Officers:

- Village Manager Edward Silva;
- Village Clerk Meighan Alexander; and
- Village Attorney Dexter Lehtinen.

And, our administrative leadership:

- Olga Cadaval, Human Resources Director;
- Fanny Carmona, Parks and Recreation Director;
- Desmond Chin, Director of Finance;
- Darby Delsalle, Director of Planning & Zoning;
- Corrice Patterson, Director of Public Works;
- Lt. Gady Serralta, Village Police Commander;
- Bill Kress, Communications Manager.

And, to all employees, including those who are having a great time, mixing out in the lobby, please know that we deeply appreciate your service. And your commitment to this Village. Seriously, we know how hard you work, and I believe that because of you, Palmetto Bay sets a standard in customer service that no one can match.

And, while I continue to express my appreciation, I also wish to thank our sponsors and community partners present this evening, specifically...

- Baptist Health South Florida
- 1st National Bank of South Florida
- Civil Air Patrol – Honor Guard

I would also like to acknowledge the elected officials and dignitaries who are with us this evening:

- Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
- County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava
- Mayor of Cutler Bay Peggy Bell
- Cutler Bay Councilwoman Marianne Mixon
- Cutler Bay Councilwoman Sue Loyzelle
- Cutler Bay Councilman Roger Coriat
- Pinecrest Councilman Bob Ross

And finally, a special thank you to those familiar Very-Important Village folk:

- Former Councilman Dr. Ed Feller and his wife, Arlene
- Palmer Trinity Headmaster Patrick Roberts
- Palmer Trinity Communications Director Suzanne Calleja

The state of the Village is strong, and I have returned to office with renewed enthusiasm and a commitment for a stronger and better Palmetto Bay. We have many triumphs to celebrate, and I am proud of the fact that so many of them took place during my tenure as your first Mayor: the amazing improvements made to Coral Reef Park, which included the new concession stand/storage building/bathroom, which was, by the way, the first LEED certified government building in Miami-Dade County, the expansion of Palmetto Bay Park, the transformation of Perrine Wayside, our LEED-Platinum Village Hall, our street signs and entrance monuments, our sidewalk and street drainage program, our award-winning Master Plans, our very own public library and community room, the beautiful Thalatta Estate Park, and so much more.

All of these accomplishments were realized because our residents wanted their community to be exceptional – and we engaged them in reaching those goals. This year, we are regaining our sense of community and once again putting into action exciting new plans, policies, and programs that will ensure our community does not become stagnant and that we do not become complacent – but that we work together to make Palmetto Bay better place to live, work, and play. This is the year of collaboration – and collaborate we will – in all that we do, as we explore ways to improve traffic, parks, schools, events, finances, and services.

Let's start off with what drives our ability to deliver services– budgeting-and how we structure government. Our budget this year is \$14,378,865 for operations with an additional \$5 million for facilities and downtown

infrastructure, and \$4.3 million for road and stormwater improvements, resulting in a grand total of \$9.3 million in capital investment

I am proud that this Council, once the new members were sworn in, we hit the ground running to address those issues that led us to run for office. Your Council ended the last fiscal year strong – revising the budget we inherited. We did NOT dip into the reserves as planned for under that Budget, instead we enhanced them.

Here are just a few key points:

We have combined the maintenance operations for parks and public works rather than having two distinct departments do the same operations.

We have divided our reserves into two: maintenance and capital reserve.

This provides clarity for the future – there is not a large pool of unallocated funds, rather, there is a purpose to our reserves.

We recently refinanced our Library Building Bond, which saves us over \$200,000.

We had an opportunity to slightly lower our millage rate for this budget year. We did not, as some felt it was largely symbolic. You've heard the expression, "how do you eat an elephant?" Well, "with small bites." I felt lowering the millage rate was accomplishing a small bite; however, others didn't agree. I'll keep trying and maybe next year I'll be successful.

Your Village Council kept our same 2.447 millage rate this year.

However, regardless of the rate, the future is bright – the State of our Village is sound. Thank you to the Manager and the Finance Director for offering the Council an outstanding budget that represents our actual needs.

The planning of the Budget was an example of my Council's focus on encouraging public participation. We held many public workshops, which provided a remarkable platform for citizen engagement. This year we have created a renewed emphasis on community-centered Advisory Boards. When Palmetto Bay was in its infancy, we relied heavily on Advisory Boards, made up of residents who were truly dedicated to this community, to advise us and assist us in building our Village framework. Now, once again, we are utilizing our Advisory Boards in a more productive manner – and have created several new Boards that have been provided clear direction as to what our goals are.

I'd like to thank Councilwoman Larissa Siegel Lara for her efforts on creating these Boards – due to her strong background in the corporate world, her customer-centered approach to management translated well into organizing these Committees with clear purpose. If you are a member of an Advisory Board here in Palmetto Bay or have ever served on a Board, please stand and be recognized. Thank you.

Collaboration is key to meeting our goals. Currently, serving as the liaison to the Education Advisory Committee, I have been witness to this dynamic group of volunteers who collaborate closely with Miami-Dade County Schools: namely, the principals, region superintendents, and the PTSA's of our local schools. Through the diligent efforts of the EAC, we are making great progress in meeting the provisions of the Compact – the agreement we have with our public schools to work together to make certain that all of our schools remain competitive and our goal is that our residents want to assist in supporting our local community schools.

Speaking of which, Palmetto Senior will be holding prospective student/parent tours – grab a flyer from the lobby for more information. It's a great school!

The EAC is hard at work to complete items in the compact so we can move on to even newer and exciting things. We have a new chair to our Education Advisory Committee - Rusty Mayo. In addition to bringing his vast experience as an educator, Chairman Mayo is also helping us beautify our village. Working with Fairchild Tropical Gardens and BioTech at Richmond Heights High School, Rusty and the students will be introducing thousands – no, correction – millions of native orchids throughout our landscapes.

We are proud of the efforts of BioTech and their dedication to conservation via real world authentic research. And, I just have to mention one cool thing about this program: The Bio Tech students are involved in the study of vitamin K in spinach plants to be used on the International Space Station - eventually, this research will be a part of the future mission to Mars in the next decade.

I want to thank all the members of the EAC, and I am proud that we will also be engaging our Village Tree Advisory Board to be part of the million orchid effort.

A positive outcome of the efforts of the EAC, was my sponsorship of Palmetto Bay's first Youth Advisory Council. I really look forward to working with Councilwoman Karyn Cunningham as joint-liaisons with these young people, so that we can truly listen to the voices and ideas of our youth. Not since the first Parks Master Plan have we asked our children what they want to see in the Village. In fact, I recently toured Palmetto Bay Park and was proud to see that the original plaque remains at the skateboard park – recognizing the work of our teens who assisted in its design.

This Youth Advisory Council is going to be a lot of fun – and will greatly assist in getting teenagers active in our village – a priority of both Councilwoman Siegel Lara and myself – and our entire village council.

Speaking of fun, this year is also going to be “The Year of Great Events.” We have formed a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee that is going to help us put our ideas into action. Councilman Tim Schaffer has been tapped to be the council liaison with this Committee. It's going to be very exciting. Palmetto Bay has beautiful park assets and now we need to maximize the opportunities for our residents to take advantage of them.

You may say to me, “Gene? You're encouraging me to ride a bike, but I don't have one. What do I do?” Tonight, I have the answer. I am formally announcing Palmetto Bay's collaboration with the Deering Estate to bring you an exciting new way to get out and enjoy the parks of Palmetto Bay – the Bike Share Program. Special thanks to Village resident Bonifacio Diaz, owner of City Bike, who is kick-starting our Bike Share program with a generous donation of 10 beautiful bicycles – branded with a shiny new Palmetto Bay logo. Check our website for more information. Let's give a big hand to Bonifacio and City Bike.

And, just three days from now, we are hosting a Florida Department of Transportation “Safety Awareness” event called “Bike on the Bay.” This is the first event of its kind, and we are hopeful to offer more of these types of activities to ensure that our bicyclists and automotive commuters live in harmony together. Come join me, October 17th at 7:30 am, for registration at the Deering Estate at Cutler, and the bike ride begins at 9, heading north on Old Cutler and then meandering back to the Deering.

Also, on October 17th, the Palmetto Bay Garden Club is holding their annual fund raiser/garage sale. Grab a flyer from the lobby for further information.

Another big bike event comes up during Earth Week. April 22 of 2016 is the start of Palmetto Bay Earth Week – although, I think every day should be Earth Day. Our Earth Week celebration also allows us to join with many of our local public and private schools. We have 5 more months to plan, so contact me if you have any fresh ideas for Earth Week activities.

Speaking of trees, don't forget to flex your resident status and pick up a free tree at Ludovici Park during that week. Public Works gave away 125 Trees of varying species at the Annual Free Tree Event last April. But allow me to branch off for a moment by mentioning that the department also established a tree-management plan for the first time in Village history last year as well as completing a street-tree inventory. We also accomplished certification for the Village as a "Tree City USA" Community for the 8th Year and received the Growth Award for the 3rd Year.

But back to the present. October is a fun month for Palmetto Bay. One of my favorite movie nights is being held on October 30th at Coral Reef Park, starting at 6 pm with Trick-or-Treating at the park – then, 7 pm the "Book of Life" plays on the big screen. For those of you who haven't been to one of these movie nights, pack up the cooler, grab your blankets, and get ready for some fun. I hear there may be a ghoul or two wandering around the crowd – and, no, I'm not referring to the Council.

Halloween Night will be the evening for the continuation of our Date Night series in Palmetto Bay: the "Costumes & Cocktails event." Guests in the 21-and-older crowd can purchase a ticket and come in your best costume ready to enjoy a haunting walk through Thalatta's old main house, and then enjoy a ghoulish evening of dancing, food, and cocktails. Get your tickets quickly – you'll scream like a banshee if you wait and the tickets sell out.

Our Parks & Recreation department has really stepped into action over the past year, haven't they? Not only did they make significant enhancements to facilities at all five of our parks, and *FINALLY* recently re-opened the Parkside Café for hot dogs and sodas at Coral Reef Park, they continue to expand the popular educational programs at Thalatta Estate. Our gardening workshops, eco-system lectures, and kayaking outings are an absolute hit among residents, and are quick to fill to capacity. And, for my fellow yogis out there, I have been informed that Yoga by the Bay is coming back soon – keep an eye out for calendar information to get your zen on.

Coming up next, look for news about a Valentine's Day Movie Night, Open Mic Night, and the Florida Rock Stars concert – all at Ludovici Park. In all, our amazing Parks host a total of 34 community events throughout the year, including my all-time favorite, the Annual Celebration Picnic at Coral Reef Park.

It's so easy to brag about our amazing Park system – and, I speak the truth. We have been recognized as the “Village of Parks” for over a decade and we also are a Playful City USA. We continue to attract major grant funding for Park improvements, such as the \$200,000 we were just awarded last Friday from the Recreational Trails Program. Now that's big news... This funding will go toward the development of the Coral Reef Park Trail Extension under the Recreational Trails Program. This project is the long-awaited upgrade to our walking path in Coral Reef Park. The wait will be worth it – because this project is so important to our community, I will ask that our manager update the public at all future meetings.

Our Parks give so much... and now we need a little in return – in the form of community input. Back in our early days, we conducted surveys and held public workshops to create our Parks Master Plan documents. Those workshops resulted in significant transformations of Perrine Wayside and Palmetto Bay Park. Before incorporation and public input, Perrine Wayside was, honestly, a little scary. No one visited, it was completely overgrown, and definitely under-utilized. Now, man's best friend rules that beautiful lakeside park.

Palmetto Bay Park was also just a run-down building in front of a dilapidated playground. Now, look at it. As I said earlier, we can always make things better. Public participation in the process resulted in these great improvements – and, we need you to take action and provide input again. Obviously, standing still is not what we do best.

Join us, work with us – help us make Palmetto Bay even better than ever. Come visit Village Hall on November 19th and December 9th for two public workshops where we invite everyone to tell us what you think – what works, what doesn't, what you want to see more of. So many of the great things you enjoy at our parks came through suggestions by one or more of our residents.

One idea will be whether we pave green space to build ‘a world class tennis center’. We really need to involve the community as Coral Reef is so heavily

used now, as is. Years ago, so many in the community fought hard to preserve the free play areas at the Park; perhaps, public opinion has changed – come to the workshops and let us know what you think.

During these workshops, we will also take time to discuss development within our community. Shortly after incorporation, in 2004, Palmetto Bay conducted several Charrette workshops that focused on this downtown area. Many of our residents worked together, and in small groups, and offered great ideas that helped formulate some of our Zoning Ordinances. We are now forming a Palmetto Bay Partnership – a committee of resident stakeholders to formulate a plan to move from planning into implementation and recruitment - revitalizing our commercial corridor and surrounding areas.

We want to make certain that our plans will be successful – and this is where you, again, come in. Please come to these workshops – we need your input. We can't stand idly by and watch communities north and south of us thrive due to a vibrant commercial district – action is important.

This revitalization of our downtown will be a collaborative effort with other governments and agencies, as well. I am hopeful that our County Commission will be able to offer the complete grant funding that we have requested through a General Obligation Bond application for \$7.5 million. Our County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava has been our champion on this money. Thank you Commissioner.

While we look forward to the revitalization of downtown, we have celebrated several great ribbon cuttings in the last year. Notable new businesses in Palmetto Bay include:

- Giardino Salads
- Aldi
- Demand Fitness
- Dress Barn
- And
- Correa & Company

One issue that I am proud to announce is finally behind us - we have settled the Palmer Trinity School litigation. It took compromises – and all sides compromised. We had to stop the bleeding. We did. Now we can move on

and have the relationship with PTS as we all want it to be. Remember – collaboration – partnership.

We are about to be sued by a long-time partner – Alexander Montessori Schools. Not out of malice, but because they cannot meet the Charter provisions relating to private school expansion. Your village council has the duty to defend the charter and the lawsuit.

We may have a zoning hearing on October 19 to consider and possibly approve changes in a site plan that will halt the litigation on the North side County Fire Station in Palmetto Bay. Our village attorney has been clear that there will be no zoning hearing without a signed settlement between the parties.

While we do our best to continue the positive forward momentum, we can't forget a crucial aspect of our past: our veterans. Recently, we have been considering the most appropriate recognition we can provide to honor our American Veterans. Men and women from all walks of life joined together as a military unit and became the backbone of our country. Without them, there would be no life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Obviously, this is an issue near and dear to me – my brother, Walter, would be here this evening, but he has again been deployed overseas.

Now is the time we act and acknowledge our veterans. I'm grateful to Palmer Trinity School for agreeing to host an annual Veteran's Day function. This will truly be event to be proud of. Additionally, at the next Council meeting, we'll be finalizing the creation of a Veteran's Park Advisory Committee that is going to be an effort made up of several of our remarkable advisory committees and members of the American Legion Post. This soon-to-be formed committee will help us decide the best way to recognize our veterans. It's an exciting prospect and I'm looking forward to it. As Mayor, I will be co-liaison on that effort along with Councilman Schaffer. We will work to be inclusive of any and all who are interested in this effort.

There is one subject that I know everyone seems to have an opinion on ... traffic. Unfortunately, traffic seems to be an ever-increasing problem. It's irritating and we are doing all that we can. We did not create the traffic, but we will do everything possible to assist our residents. We recently gained permission to install no-turn signs at key intersections where congestion is a serious problem throughout the Village. We are also working diligently with

the County to try to improve the timing of our traffic lights and see what we can do to make signage work for us.

But, one thing this Village will not tolerate is reckless or distracted driving. Safety begins at home – your home - my home. Not every block has a sidewalk. We have yet (glare at manager and council) to build a single bike lane in Palmetto Bay. Area drivers must share the road with walkers, joggers and bicyclists. Too many drivers ignore speed limits, run stop signs, and barely move an inch to let a bicyclist or pedestrian travel safely. Reckless driving cannot be pardoned in Palmetto Bay. Seriously, your car is a formidable foe, weighing in at two tons – you can easily kill someone by doing something as stupid as speeding or texting while driving. Our Public Safety officers are committed to safety. Enforcement is the right thing. We have budgeted \$7.2 million this year for our police operations. Our Village Commander has assured us that your Village Council has provided the Policing Unit with the tools needed to be successful in their efforts this year.

Yes, we have achieved one of the best response times to calls for services of all Miami-Dade Police Department districts. And last year, we achieved the second lowest crime rate in South Miami-Dade County, thanks to the dedicated men and women assigned to our Policing Unit. So now we're setting our sights – and radar guns – on the high rate of moving violations in this Village. This Council is responsive to the complaints from residents suffering from traffic nightmares. We have held town hall workshops. Councilwoman Siegel Lara has fought to properly budget for our police and public works on traffic initiatives. Councilman Schaffer has led the effort on temporary 90-day traffic calming. And, Councilwoman Cunningham and I have actually walked the neighborhoods. I have been out there on bike, on foot (and yes, even in car) to see firsthand what our residents are experiencing. We are working on fixes now and we are moving from neighborhood to neighborhood to address the individual issues. Thanks to resident and realtor Miami Hal Feldman for assisting us by using his drone to give us an aerial view of the traffic.

This council has given clear direction to our Village Manager that we want reckless driving to end – I hope we establish a reputation where people say, “Palmetto Bay is a great place to live, but watch out driving there.... Those cops are on you like sunscreen on a tourist.” Let's all slow down and be more mindful of the conditions – and fellow commuters – around us. This will allow

our police to focus on those from the outside who see our village merely as a cut through.

Residents should feel safe riding (or having their children ride) their bikes throughout Palmetto Bay.

I challenge my fellow members of this village council and our County Commissioner to finally do something that has been in our capital plan for over 5 years – build some bike lanes. It's safer for the bikes and provides additional maneuvering room for our motorists. It's a matter of updating our roads for the realities of today's use of roads. Take a look next time you drive down 168th Street – there is no shoulder to ride along. It goes from white lane line to grass or debris. We all have been lucky so far. No fatalities. We are on the clock – and on notice.

Here are some of the bike-related initiatives for this upcoming year:

- Bike Repair Stations – donated by Palmer Trinity
- Bike lanes – county and municipal roads
- LED lighted bike lane markers
- Bike related activities – such as the Bike by the Bay event
- Annual Participation in Bike to Work Day in May
- Participation in the Wheels event.
- Others will go on and will be announced throughout the year.

We are the Village of Parks – and share infrastructure with Miami Dade County that includes the Old Cutler Bike Trail/Path. We have access to hundreds of acres of County and Palmetto Bay Parks. There are fitness trails and equipment.

We also have events – remember collaboration? Let's look at just November 2015:

- November 7 - The morning starts early for Alexandra and I, as we once again run in the "Reason to Run 5K" – a race at Deering to raise money for pediatric cancer research., but hey, why stop at 5 K when Alex and I can go for 10...so,

We are collaborating with Palmetto High School – the inaugural 5K Color Run and Concert – the event starts at 3 PM at Palmetto Bay Park – the 5K fun run starts at 4 – and concert begins at 5. This may be a Palmetto HS event, but

our own Coral Reef Elementary is in with both feet – Alex and I are part of the “CRE on the Run Team” – you have to love how our school PTAs are all in this together!

And as an aside – my official congrats to Eric Watts, CRE PTA prez and member of the EAC, Principal Guerra, and all the organizers and participants for the hugely successful CRE Get Fit Week held by the CRE community earlier this month – we share your pride in your D9 schools, Vice-Chair Dr. Feldman!

- November 11 – 15 – South Miami, the only city in South Florida where trains and trail directly pass through downtown, takes the lead on an awesome bike tourism event through partnership with Wheels, for a Family Festival, the first-ever South Miami Bike-In Street Bash with live bands. The Wheels events are all free! Palmetto Bay is participating, so join us on Saturday - November 14 for a group ride with a route that includes a "bike train" ride that starts in South Miami, goes south and starts picking up groups in Cutler Bay, Palmetto Bay, Pinecrest, and back to SoMi! About 40 miles round trip. More at www.wheelsflorida.org
- 20th of December – we have our first Jingle Run – a 5K that will be held at the Palmetto Bay Village Center.

We'll let you have the holidays, but, beginning January of 2016, the Mayor's Git Fit Challenge will begin. I look forward to a healthier Palmetto Bay.

But, you can't get fit if you can't leave your house, so let's talk a minute about weather and another form of congestion. We have budgeted over \$500K this year for drainage and plan on addressing several areas throughout the Village. Fortunately for us, our Public Works team comes to the rescue, year after year.

Working closely with the County and various consultants, Palmetto Bay's Public Works Department spends a significant amount of time, effort, and funds on improving our drainage system. It shows, too. Sure, some of you may find roadways in your neighborhood temporarily flooded after experiencing a heavy downpour, but with the dedication and diligence of Public Works, keeping our storm drains clear – and installing better, more efficient drainage systems – the pooling fades away.

Certain events can't be resolved – Mother Nature can be rough. Just last month, a rare red-moon lunar eclipse brought a great deal of joy to our local Southern Cross astronomy lovers, but it also brought tears to the eyes of Miami Beach residents, as their roads went underwater due to the unusual tides. We will continue to work with other agencies to do what we can, and hopefully our efforts will continue to be successful. In the meantime, thanks for driving carefully on our roads.

Public Works also oversees our Safe Routes to School program that aims to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to and from schools. The big news here is that Public Works just last week was awarded \$990,000 in grant funding to continue supporting this program.

Safe, well maintained streets and neighborhoods are what we want to be known for – it's what draws new families and businesses into town and it's what keeps the rest of us happy to stay in Palmetto Bay. One important program is the "Mow & Go Initiative" that takes action when an eye-sore is spotted in your neighborhood. During a five-month period last year, our Planning & Zoning department mowed and cleared 29 abandoned properties and recovered \$13,234 in the process. We have our Code Compliance Officers to thank for staying vigilant in helping to maintain the integrity and appearance of our neighborhoods. They may not be the most popular kids in the class, but they do their job and do it well – and they work weekends now, too, at no extra cost the taxpayer.

So, welcome to the new and improved Palmetto Bay. Our Village Hall has a beautiful, brightly lit dome, but we don't work in a dome here: we reach out and ask for help when we need it. Your Council remains receptive to all input. Call us, email us, watch us on WBAY, and definitely come to the Council meetings. Basically, keep communicating and collaborating with us – we are going to keep working and talking with you. Be sure to "Like" our Facebook, tune into our Tweets, or visit our YouTube for the latest commercials promoting our events. Get some fresh air and visit our parks. Really look around, kick the tires as they say... tell us what you think.

We have selected the team and the actual work on developing our strategic plan begins now, but it will not work without your participation. This plan will assist us with a major goal – I have signed on with our County Mayor's Challenge for an age friendly community – to create a community for all ages, where older adults in Miami-Dade can stay active and healthy with dignity and

enjoyment. This is a timely endeavor, as we work to improve our parks and business districts – we can and will do so to be age-friendly. The age-friendly initiatives will be a multidisciplinary effort – strategic plan and through parks, public works and alongside our business development. Its more than just activities for seniors – it is making sure our development, our infrastructure, is age-friendly.

I cannot possibly go into all Palmetto Bay has accomplished in creating a more sustainable community, but suffice to say, it includes:

- Promoting biking and use of non-emission vehicles such as golf carts.
- Championing and working toward truly transit-oriented development – smart growth along the transit corridor – designed to ride the bus lanes and future light rail we support – rather than placing more cars onto already overburdened streets.
- Our Platinum LEED Certified village hall and green certified concession stand at Coral Reef Park
- Updating our electric car charging stations, which are currently located here at our municipal center.
- Protecting our environment by fighting for smart growth.
- Educational programming throughout the year, including earth week events.
- Our Green Page to our website – a toolbox for sustainability.
- Green friendly public works – drainage.
- An award winning transportation masterplan including a stand along Bicycle & Pedestrian Masterplan completed back in September 2009.
- Use of native, more drought resistant landscaping.
- November community cleanup of our pineland preserve at Coral Reef Park).
- We will pursue LEED Neighborhood rating for all of our future downtown redevelopment.
- And finally, this Village will be applying for FGBC Green Local Government Certification program, as we had finished our Green friendly Code in 2009 and had opened our LEED Platinum Certified Village Hall in 2011. We are moving forward on obtaining Palmetto Bay's rightful membership to FGBC Green Local Government Certification program.

Palmetto Bay is my home – your home. We are in this together. We will make good stuff happen. I stand here humbly before you as Mayor and ask

you to work with us to make our home as great as I know it can be. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you again. Good night.