



**MAYOR MANNY DIAZ - STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS 2005**  
**“THE NEW DESTINY” SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS**

**ON POLITICAL STABILITY AND RESTORED PUBLIC SERVICE -**

“There was a time not too long ago when the Commission engaged in turf wars, fighting over parochial issues... City Hall came to be known as Silly Hall, a circus famous for entertaining the many, but serving the very few. Today, I am proud to say that our Commissioners help each other, they work together, and act in concert to promote the best interests of the entire City.”

**ON MILLAGE RATE REDUCTION, ¾ OVER 4 YEARS, \$42 MILLION IN SAVINGS -**

“During the last decade, our City took your money to bail itself out of bankruptcy. Higher taxes, higher fees, the highest millage rate in history – making an already poor city the poorest in the nation... I made a pledge to you that during this decade, we would give your money back... As a result of our unprecedented economic revitalization and greater operational efficiencies we will reduce our millage rate by ¾ of a mill over four years, a greater reduction in less time than I pledged.”

**ON POVERTY, TOP 10 IN NEW JOBS, UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CUT IN HALF -**

“Poverty was the most important challenge facing us. Job creation became a top priority – because having a job is the best way for someone to control their own destiny. What was once the poorest city in the nation is now among the top 10 generators of new jobs. In the last two years, we have cut our unemployment rate by more than one half.”

**ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING, 17,000 NEW PRIVATE WORKFORCE UNITS, 3,000 SUBSIDIZED UNITS -**

“We set out to make it possible for our people to achieve the dream of homeownership. During the last decade, homeownership rates in Miami were among the lowest in the nation. We have attracted private development – nearly 17,000 affordable housing units targeted at the working middle class. We have also quadrupled the investment and production of subsidized housing – creating 3,000 new units for low income families.”

**ON ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION -**

“Recognizing that a failing public school system short changes our children and our future we have taken control of an area where past Mayors adopted an “It’s not my job” attitude... Our parks are now centers of learning and offer year-round after school programs and tutoring in reading, math and science... Because children benefit from positive role models, my Mentoring Initiative has now spread to eleven city of Miami elementary schools.”

**ON THE NEW DESTINY -**

“Now is the time to stop talking about potential. Now is the time to end the years when our city was resigned to failure, when getting by was good enough; when we dreamt small because we lacked confidence or when we failed to dream at all. Now is the time to take our rightful place as one of the world’s greatest cities.”