



MAYOR MANNY DIAZ - STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS 2006 “THE NEW FACE OF AMERICA” SUMMARY

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY PROVIDES TAX RELIEF

“We take our role as the guardians of the public purse with great seriousness. Make no mistake, our first duty and obligation comes to our taxpayers. We will not sacrifice their well-being for the sake of perpetuating government.”

- Total millage reduced by one full mill with a tax savings of \$55 million for residents.
- Millage to be cut by a further ½ mill – will result in \$230 million in savings for taxpayers.
- Fire fee to be reduced another 25% - slashed in half since 2005.
- Healthy level of reserves.
- A+ Bond Rating from Wall Street.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE & RECOVERY

“A more efficient and customer driven culture allowed us to plan and prepare to face one of the greatest challenges of last year, the record breaking hurricane season. Our distribution sites were operational within 22 hours after Hurricane Wilma, prompting Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to call it ‘perhaps the quickest response in the history of domestic disaster relief.’”

- Responded effectively to a record breaking hurricane season.
- Supply distribution sites operational within 22 hours of Hurricane Wilma.
- Praised by Federal and State Governments.
- Launched Miami Recovers- First post-hurricane relief effort of its kind.
- Established \$2 million housing fund protecting storm-impacted low to moderate income citizens from being evicted, paid relocation costs, and funded home repairs and reconstruction.
- Miami Recovers will now move towards a neighborhood based model. Every NET area will have its own distribution point for supplies.

MIAMI POLICE – PROFESSIONALISM AND RESULTS

“In Miami, we don’t keep criminals guessing, we put them behind bars... a national leader in crime reduction - with another 5% drop in crime last year, a 12% drop for the first quarter of this year, and a 21% drop in the murder rate, the lowest it has been in nearly 50 years.”

- Will hire an additional 160 police officers this year.
- Dramatic decrease in police shootings over the past 39 months.
- Regained professional accreditation that was lost prior to Chief Timoney’s arrival.
- Received a clean bill of health upon the completion of the Department of Justice’s Patterns and Practice Review.
- Operation Shield –anti-terrorism initiative that enhances security at public venues.
- Initiated Operation Red Light, Green Light to address tragic traffic related fatalities through education and enforcement.
- New Drug Mapping Program complements the highly acclaimed Operation Difference.

ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

“Expanding opportunity means we reach out to everyone - including the men, women, and children for whom the streets means home. Our 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness has served thousands of people with a 78% success rate, and has helped reduce the number of homeless in our City by 39%.”

- Established Miami Cares Project - mobilizing hundreds of volunteers to service 650 homeless during a day of assistance. 250 of those in attendance placed in treatment or shelter programs.
- Commitment to conduct Miami Cares three times a year.
- Helped broker a partnership between Camillus House and the University of Miami, resulting in a long term home for the acclaimed center.

THE PROMISE OF QUALITY EDUCATION

“The key to the American Dream is ensuring that future generations will be academically equipped to succeed. Our education plan became the basis for the Miami Compact - a partnership with the School Board - that recognizes that as we lift our schools, we lift our city.”

- Miami Compact has become a model for other municipalities to follow.
- City awarded close to \$1 million dollars worth of funding to enhance youth services in Miami.
- Ensure that in 5 years no Miami school earns less than a B grade as part of Miami Compact.
- Improve the physical condition of existing schools.
- Build 8 new schools, including 4 early childhood centers in new high rise buildings.
- Creation of Miami Future Scholars Award college scholarship program, a \$5,000 award to 100 students based on merit and need.

MILESTONES IN HOUSING PRODUCTION

“Today, the availability of affordable housing is a national problem - but we began to prepare from the moment I took office. In spite of state and federal funding cuts, we created our own plan. A plan that has generated a half billion dollar investment to expand affordable housing. I announced this milestone in Overtown, where over 700 affordable housing units are being made available. Our efforts do not end there.”

- 3500 units completed or in progress citywide.
- Little Havana Home Ownership Zone has given keys to 30 new homeowners and is expected to create another 60 homeowners within the next six months.
- New plan for the Model City Homeownership Trust has yielded results: 21 homes have been completed or are under construction with another 40 homes will break ground within a year.
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund - Grown to \$8 million with another \$10 million in the pipeline.
- \$2.5 million set aside for City Employee Housing Program.
- Protected rental market from taxation that has resulted in skyrocketing property tax appraisals.
- In-fill housing program reduced number of available lots by 98%.
- Lobby state legislation to require other governments that own property in the city to create an inventory of sites available for housing.

- Will ask legislature to extend ad valorem tax abatement for housing built for first time home buyers in enterprise zones.
- Lobbying for the elimination of the funding cap on Sadowski funds.
- Goal to create 500 rental and 200 home ownership units each year.
- New ordinance to facilitate the foreclosure of abandoned and vacant buildings.

PROVIDING CITIZENS ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY

“We are tackling the greatest barrier to opportunity-the poverty that robs people of the hope for progress. Our anti-poverty campaign has now become ACCESS Miami - offering a continuum of services that equips the entire community with wealth building tools needed for economic self-sufficiency.”

- City is national leader in job creation.
- Financial literacy program served more than 25,000 newly arrived immigrant families
- Financial literacy program recognized as best in the nation by the US Conference of Mayors.
- Established a Living Wage Ordinance for city employees and contractors. Raises wages far above minimum requirements.
- Residents now have the opportunity to triple their EITC refunds through City sponsored Individual Development Accounts (IDA).
- Business owners can apply for small business or micro-loans, increasing their take-home income an average of 38%.
- Our Benefit Banks enable residents to simultaneously complete forms for a variety of State and Federal benefits.

A CLEANER, MORE LIVABLE CITY

“We continue our commitment toward becoming one of the cleanest large cities in America... tackling the problems that cause a decline in the livability of our neighborhoods... ”

- \$120 Million Flood Mitigation Plan citywide, will also include the historically neglected western neighborhoods of our city.
- 55 miles of roadways paved.
- 25% of City’s sidewalks and curbs restored or replaced.
- Code Enforcement has seen a 50% increase in activity.
- Parks funding at record levels.
- Expecting an additional \$8 million in impact fees for City Parks collected from development projects.
- Cleaned parks, bays, waterways, storm drains and brown fields.
- Creation of Clean Watch neighborhood based program for residents to monitor illegal dumping.
- Goal to have a city park within a half mile of every resident.
- Develop a plan to open all city pools year round.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

“Guided by the words of an ancient Native American saying: ‘We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.’ We have launched an ambitious environmental program to clean our parks, our bays and waterways, brown fields, storm drains, and improve our water quality, erasing decades of environmental neglect.”

- Launched environmental programs to erase decades of environmental neglect
- 5-year Water Quality Plan ongoing.
- Creation of Greening Miami Commission to preserve environment and restore tree canopy.
- New Miami Green Fleet will convert 1,000 city vehicles to hybrid or other fuel efficient engines by 2012.
- Mayor’s own car is first in the Green Fleet.
- Green Buildings – plan to make new and existing buildings more energy efficient, lowering energy costs and pollution.
- Ordinance will expedite permitting process for Green Buildings.

MASTER PLANS ASSURING MIAMI’S FUTURE

“And I want to thank the thousands of residents who have lent their voices to help plan our City’s future through Miami 21, and the Parks and Open Spaces, Virginia Key, Coconut Grove Waterfront, and Museum Park Master Plans. As these plans are completed - We will all take pride in the knowledge that we planned ahead, and that we paid homage to the code of our humanity.....”

- Miami 21 – City Master Plan
- Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan
- Virginia Key Master Plan
- Coconut Grove Waterfront Master Plan
- Museum Park Master Plan