

Welcome to the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Miami-Dade County League of Cities Installation Gala. I am both honored and humbled to have been chosen to lead this great organization for the next year. I must also express my excitement at being the very first President in League history to hail from the City of Homestead.

As I accept the responsibility of being your President, I want to show my full commitment to working hand-in-hand with the Board and making sure MDCLC grows with the ever-changing needs of our members. Together we will continue to protect Home Rule and give our residents the best possible services to ensure a high quality of life for them and future generations. Simultaneously we will solidify and strengthen the League's role as protector for its members.

In the coming year, we must focus on the issues important to our many diverse citizens such as transportation, education, and restoring their trust through great leadership. Today the League is in a better position than even a year ago. Thanks, in large part, to the success of our previous leadership. I look forward to a year of building on that growth as we turn the corner to tackle obstacles in support of our collective agenda.

In closing, let me say that MDCLC has become a model for how a League should function and with this Board's help I plan on leading us to becoming an even stronger organization. We will not only be an example for the region and the state, but for the nation. We should be very proud of what has been cultivated by our past leaders. However, we cannot rest on our laurels. We must keep striving and reaching to make the MDCLC even stronger.

Sincerely,

Councilman Jon Burgess

City of Homestead