



MINUTES OF THE CITY OF MIRAMAR SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

MARCH 20, 2019

6:00 P.M.

A special meeting of the Miramar City Commission was called to order by Mayor Messam at 6:20 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, Miramar City Hall, 2300 Civic Center Place, Miramar, Florida.

Upon call of the roll, the following members of the City Commission were present:

Mayor Wayne M. Messam
Vice Mayor Yvette Colbourne
Commissioner Maxwell B. Chambers
Commissioner Darline B. Riggs

Upon call of the roll, the following member of the City Commission was absent:

Commissioner Winston F. Barnes

The following members of staff were present:

City Manager Vernon E. Hargray
City Attorney Jaime Cole
City Attorney Alison Smith
City Clerk Denise A. Gibbs

MAYOR MESSAM: Good evening everyone. Let's try that again. Good evening, everyone.

CHORUS OF VOICES: Good evening.

MAYOR MESSAM: Yes, yes, yes. The special meeting of the Miramar City Commission is now called to order. Please call the roll.

CITY CLERK GIBBS: Mayor Messam.

MAYOR MESSAM: Here.

CITY CLERK GIBBS: Commissioner Chambers.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: Here.

CITY CLERK GIBBS: Vice Mayor Colbourne.

VICE MAYOR COLBOURNE: Here.

CITY CLERK GIBBS: Commissioner Riggs.

COMMISSIONER RIGGS: Here.

CITY CLERK GIBBS: City Manager Hargray.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: Here.

CITY CLERK GIBBS: City Attorney Cole.

CITY ATTORNEY COLE: Here.

CITY CLERK GIBBS: City Attorney Smith.

CITY ATTORNEY SMITH: Here.

MAYOR MESSAM: At this time, let us all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

MAYOR MESSAM: At this time, let us observe a moment of silence for any condolences we may be experiencing in the community. Thank you.

RESOLUTION

MAYOR MESSAM: We now have a resolution certifying the results of the March 12th, 2019, Elections. So item number one, please.

1. Temp. Reso. #R6645 accepting the **certification** of the Broward County Canvassing Board and **declaring the results** of the **Regular Municipal Election held on March 12, 2019**. *(City Clerk Denise A. Gibbs)*

CITY ATTORNEY COLE: Item number one is a resolution of the City Commission of the City of Miramar, Florida, accepting the certification of the Broward County Canvassing Board and declaring the results of the Regular Municipal Election held on March 12, 2019, and providing for an effective date.

MAYOR MESSAM: Is there any member from the public that wish to comment on this item? Seeing none, back to the dais. No comments? May I have a motion?

VICE MAYOR COLBOURNE: Comments.

MAYOR MESSAM: Yes. Vice Mayor Colbourne, you're recognized.

VICE MAYOR COLBOURNE: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I just want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Mayor, on your reelection, and to also congratulate and welcome Alexandra Davis back to this Commission, and to wish Commissioner Darline Riggs all the best. Thank you.

MAYOR MESSAM: Thank you, Vice Mayor. Are there any other comments in regards to item number one? Commissioner Chambers, you're recognized.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mayor. Just want to say it was a great pleasure serving with Commissioner Riggs. You're a great person, always a friend. You love your community and you love your resident; you did a wonderful job. I have no doubt you're going to continue doing what you're doing for your friends and your family. Beautiful family, beautiful children, your husband, and I wish you great success. You're a woman with a great career, you have a lot to offer to our community, always with your nursing career, so I just want to thank you so much for all that you have done, and all that you will do in the past. And it was a great campaign, both you and Commissioner elect Davis, so I wish you well, and thank you so much.

MAYOR MESSAM: Thank you, Commissioner. I also like to congratulate Commissioner elect Davis for her victory, as well as to send wishes of farewell to Commissioner Darline Riggs. As many of us know, Commissioner Darline Riggs made history in the City of Miramar, when she became the first elected Haitian-American to this dais. She will forever be known for that accomplishment; it's something to definitely be proud of. In addition, Commissioner Riggs has made significant contributions to the community, especially in the nursing field, helping many aspiring nurses to prepare for their exams, and all the other initiatives she brought to the community. So her service of the last four years will definitely leave a void, but I'm sure she will continue to -- to inspire and be a role model for aspiring nurses, as well as her initiatives that she brought to the City of Miramar. And, again, we thank her for her service over the last four years. So, at this time, if there are no other comments from the Commission, I'll entertain a motion.

VICE MAYOR COLBOURNE: Motion to approve.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: Second.

MAYOR MESSAM: Record the votes, please.

CITY CLERK GIBBS: Commissioner Chambers.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: Yes.

CITY CLERK GIBBS: Vice Mayor Colbourne.

VICE MAYOR COLBOURNE: Yes.

CITY CLERK GIBBS: Commissioner Riggs.

COMMISSIONER RIGGS: Yes.

CITY CLERK GIBBS: Mayor Messam.

MAYOR MESSAM: Yes.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Colbourne, seconded by Commissioner Chambers, to approve Resolution #R6645, the Commission voted:

Commissioner Chambers	Yes
Vice Mayor Colbourne	Yes
Commissioner Riggs	Yes
Mayor Messam	Yes

Resolution No. 19-88

MAYOR MESSAM: At this time, I'd like to take the privilege to invite former Commissioner Riggs to give farewell remarks to the community. Commissioner Riggs.

COMMISSIONER RIGGS: It's not on. It's on?

MAYOR MESSAM: Speak directly to the -- it was. Try the handheld.

COMMISSIONER RIGGS: That one's on. Can everybody hear me?

MAYOR MESSAM: Yes.

COMMISSIONER RIGGS: Perfect. Thank you, Mayor Messam. Good evening, everyone.

CHORUS OF VOICES: Good evening.

COMMISSIONER RIGGS: First and foremost, please allow me to express my gratitude to my heavenly Father, first and foremost, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You all know I'm a Christian, and I'm going to die that way. So I'm here in front of you today, believing more than ever, that God is in control. God's plans are always, always greater than our plans. That I truly believe. Second, I want to take a moment to say thank you to my family, to my husband and my children, whom, in the last four years, have truly made a contribution and tremendous sacrifice, really, for me in order to accept God's calling and to serve the people of Miramar. When the call first came for me to serve, I was pregnant with my youngest, Daniel, so you can imagine how many times he said, "Don't leave, mom." And that has always broken my heart, so I'm looking forward to spending more time with my family, and I thank them for the sacrifice that they've made. I, you know, did it so willingly, but they don't understand, and they're young, so I thank my children and I thank my husband for all the times that I've missed, and I wasn't able to be there for them, because I was called to serve Miramar. I want to say a very, very special thank you to Ms. Sherry Abdin, who has done such a tremendous job of being my liaison, and I truly believe that we're so in sync that she can read my mind. So you are more than a liaison to me, Sherry, you are my friend. And the word friend is a strong word, it has a very strong meaning. It means one who loves, and it was used of Abraham as God's friend. So you are a friend to me for life, and I thank you for all that you've done. I appreciate it, and I will always -- we're stuck together. I thank you for that. I want to say thank you to my friends and to our community leaders who have stood by me, and continue to stand by me, not just in words, but in deeds. Because there are many who say they stand with you, or they will stand with you, but when time comes, you find that they didn't really mean it. So I thank those who not only said it in words, but showed it with their actions and in their deeds, so a very special thank you to Carolyn Lewis (sp), my prayer partner, the founder of God Is Bigger Than Cancer, Nadine Francois, Nefthaly Heisman (sp), and, of course, my nursing sisters, like Ameena (sp), Naomi and Nancy. As I was typing this speech, I really wanted to add so many other names and individuals, because I truly do appreciate them and their sacrifices. However, because of some of the unprofessionalism that we've seen and that we face, that is truly reality. I chose to omit them from this speech, because I won't want them to be the rebuttal of any type of future action. But please do know that some of you have had the opportunity within the last week to personally thank you, and others that will be coming soon. When I think of Miramar, I actually do think of professionals, I think of individuals who are classy individuals, you know, with high, moral, ethical values, good people. People that I would want my children to role model. I even hate to mention this, but it truly has saddened me that -- the direction that we have gone. Because this last election was what we would call dirty politics, and I have to say none of that came from me, and you will never see that from me. I don't believe that's Godly, I don't believe that's Christ like, I don't believe that's professional, and I can promise you that, as God calls me to continue to lead and to provide and to continue my initiatives that I started under the Commission umbrella, you will never see that type of behavior from me. Because I don't believe -- there's two reasons why I don't do these things. Number one, God sees everything, He really does. Even when -- if our residents don't know the details, even when the community has been fooled, God sees everything, he

knows the mind, he sees the heart, and he knows the intention. So, in God's eye, I want to be a woman of valor. I want to be a woman that my children look up to, and I want to be their role model. Because, as we sit here on the dais, we are the role models for your children, and we need to compose ourselves a certain way. We shouldn't be lying, cheating, conniving, deceiving the community. So I'm a little bit sad that I saw that, but I want you to know that you will never see that from me. Not my style, it will never happen. Because a woman of valor embodies strength, honor, character, virtue, and so much more, and I long very deeply to have that, because at the end of the day, I want my Father in Heaven to look down and say, "Job well done." And if we are doing this type of behaviors that will not happen. So that saddens me a little. The second reason why I will never ever behave in such a manner is because our children are watching. As adults and leaders, we need to be good examples for our children, our children in this very community. I will always conduct myself in a way that makes my family proud, okay. So that is what you can always expect from me. And, as far as my continued tenure, in the last four years, I've always voted in the best interest of this community, because it was never about me. And since 2014, I've invested over \$100,000.00 of personal funds, and I can say that without hesitation, because it's the truth. And I've impacted the community with initiatives, such as Taste of Miramar, Faith Leaders Brunch, Free Hands Only CPR, Wellness Before Sickness, Haiti Relief, Candlelight Vigil, Haitian Flag Day, National Day of Prayer, Book Bag Drive, Free Turkey Giveaway, free mammograms, Unity Day, free health fairs, Earth Day, Adopt-A-Street, several food banks, senior brunch, new student orientation, free swimming lessons, NCLEX reviews, and so much more. Sometimes I think back, wow, how did I have the time to do all of that, plus keep a full-time job, plus homeschool. But I honestly love it. I love helping people. It flows through my veins, and I will continue some of these initiatives under a different umbrella, because I don't have to be commissioner to have the -- these impacts. It's just who I am. So you will continue to see some of those, and I pray that those of you who have the need will take advantage. I've also supported initiatives like the development of the Fire Station 107. When I first got here, I didn't understand why our firefighters didn't have a home, so I championed for that, the development of that fire station, which is now a beautiful station in our city. Organizing the Historic Miramar Board, establish boundaries through Historic Miramar, creation of the Economic Development Fund and, ladies and gentlemen, I only share these things with you, so that you know that I truly am committed to Miramar. This isn't about fame for me, or power, or money. If anything, I'm giving. I will never take. So that's who I am, and that's what I will continue to do, because that's God's calling for me. I don't know what the plans of our elected officials sitting on the dais is, I don't know the Mayor's plan, I don't know the Commissioners' plans, but I know that whatever God calls me to do is what I will do. So if he calls me back to represent our beautiful city, and to continue to be whom I've just portrayed to you, that is what I will do. So before I end, I have two special gifts that I would like to give to two individuals, and -- Easter is around the corner, so these are two beautiful Bibles that are leather, they have the index, they have the -- the notes, which is great, and I -- the Bible -- this book has changed my life, and I'm hoping it will change the life of these two individuals. So I'm praying that not only do they cherish this book, but they actually read it, because it truly

is life changing, and I'm giving them this gift with all of my heart, and pray that God will penetrate their hearts, but what penetrates his. So these two gifts -- these two gifts, one goes to Commissioner Yvette Colbourne, and the other one goes to your newly elected Commissioner Alexandra Davis. God bless you, everyone, God bless you, ladies, may the Lord, again, do his will in your life. I love you, everyone, and I look forward to seeing what God's plans are, not just for me, but for our beautiful City. Thank you. Have a wonderful evening.

MAYOR MESSAM: Thank you, Commissioner Riggs. At this time, I think we have a presentation from City staff for Commissioner Riggs. Ms. Gayle, Mr. Hargray.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: Good evening, everyone.

CHORUS OF VOICES: Good evening.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: You know, I can look back and hearing my grandfather use these words, and I keep it with me. God has a time and a season for all of us, and it might not be your time, because you don't want it to be that way or season, but God always have control. And life, as it goes on, and you learn a whole lot of things, as we go through different stages in our life. And I've gone through several stages in my life and understand that everything has a purpose. I can remember sitting down with Commissioner Riggs and having this conversation. And my conversation with her was that God has a purpose for you, he has a calling for you, and no matter what difference we have, stay focused on the calling he has for you. Because, at the end of the day, it's about going to that graveyard and looking at my sister's grave in here, and it says: Jackie Suarez, and it says: born 1969 and it has a dash, and it says 1999. It's about the dash. It's about the dash. That's what it's all about for all of us. Commissioner Riggs understands that. Yes, she told my wife, "You know I -- I know your husband -- he says all kind of things about you." But I keep it real simple, is that we're all here for a purpose, and our purpose is to do something that's greater than what we've been doing we can on this world. Because from the time that we're born, we're dying. So we don't have the time to mess around in here. Commissioner Riggs, it's been a journey. But it's a journey that's not over. You said, "You know, sometimes I feel like I'm a social worker. I want to be a social worker." Well, you know what, all of us are social workers. We should always, because we need to reach out and touch those who are less fortunate. We may not always agree with this here, but one thing about God, and one thing about being a Christian is that you've got to stay focused on what He has given you and direct your path, not you direct your path. So it's been a journey that we've had together, and we may have had our differences, but that was -- that's not important. What's important right now is that we keep moving forward, all right. And keeping our faith focused on His vision, not ours, but His. I thank you for this journey, because, yes, I've learned. I've learned a lot from you, all right. Even though we sometimes go through different channels to get there, but we always can learn something from anyone in here, and I can say that I have learned, and I look at things a little different, just

because there has been some interaction. Thank you. You know it's show time. We got your weakness.

COMMISSIONER RIGGS: Sherry, will you help me? Oh, that's beautiful. Thank you. Thank you so much. I appreciate this. I -- I definitely am hypnotized by the chocolate. Thank you so much, everyone. I am truly going to miss the calling, but, as you said, God has much bigger plans, and we'll see what He tells me to do. And, whatever it is, I will obey. That much I can tell you. So thank you, everyone. Thank you to a beautiful city. I love the people, I love representing and being an advocate and a voice for our seniors and our youth, and I will continue to do that, just in a different platform, and we'll see what God's plan is. But I know He loves Miramar; we have such a wonderful community, and that I will definitely miss. So, thank you so much for all your love, and for the privilege to have served you. So thank you again.

OTHER BUSINESS

Swearing-In Ceremony

MAYOR MESSAM: At this time, we've come to the portion of our meeting that is other business, which is the swearing in ceremony, and I would like to invite our police chaplain, Pastor Earle Richards forward to do our invocation. All rise for the -- all rise for the Presentation of the Colors.

PASTOR RICHARDS: Let us pray. Dear God, we come with hearts deeply thankful for all the gifts we have. We are thankful to those who have helped us get to where we are, and we are thankful to our current City council members and our reelected Mayor Messam for all their hard labors, and all their endeavors for our City and its people. Indeed, we all come from many places, backgrounds, ethnicity, and by many paths. Yet, this evening, we all come here inspired by a single mission, to struggle for the wellbeing of all those who inhabit this beloved, beautiful city we call home. As our newly elected Mayor Messam and Commissioner Davis assume their new responsibilities to lead our city, may they be empowered to bear the responsibility of leadership with the utmost integrity, courage, and humility. May we always see in them dedication to service, and may they always see in us a willingness to give them support. May they be inspired with courage, wisdom and compassion that they may stand in solidarity with the needy and the poor, defeat prejudice, and unify our city. May they be guided to know and to do what is right, to challenge and defy anything, anything at all that will diminish justice in this city, in our counties, nation, and the world. May we all view this remarkable moment as an invitation to move forward with purpose and intention with the work of repairing a world filled with injustice, hate, greed, pride, and intolerance. May we understand that we can never become enlightened until we become occupied, not with being right, but with lifting the lives of people around us, and healing our families and communities. Bless our police department, bless our fire department, bless our first responders and all our people. May our intentions be

sincere, oh God, our labors selfless, and may our beautiful city and our people become a shining example for all to follow. In Christ, may we pray. Amen.

CHORUS OF VOICES: Amen.

MAYOR MESSAM: I would ask everyone to remain standing, and invite Assistant City Manager Shaun Gayle to lead us in the National Anthem.

Assistant City Manager Shaun Gayle sang the National Anthem.

MAYOR MESSAM: Please remain standing until the retirement of the Colors. You may be seated. Now it's time for the swearing in of Seat 4. I would like to invite Commissioner-elect Davis and family up on the dais. Yes, let's give a round of applause. Commissioner-elect Davis is joined by her son, Dr. Chevon Davis-Raglan, yes, who will administer her oath to office.

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: Well, before I start, I just want to congratulate you, mom. You're an amazing role model to myself, as well as the City. I'm so proud of you and excited to see what you'll do in this next iteration of your Commission.

MS. DAVIS: Thank you very much, my only child.

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: All right. So I'll have you repeat the City of Miramar oath of office after me. All right, so, I, --

MS. DAVIS: I, -

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- Alexandra P. Davis, --

MS. DAVIS: -- Alexandra P. Davis, --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- do solemnly swear or affirm --

MS. DAVIS: -- do solemnly swear or affirm --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- that I will support, --

MS. DAVIS: -- that I will support, --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- protect,

MS. DAVIS: -- protect, --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- and defend --

MS. DAVIS: -- and defend --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- the Constitution --

MS. DAVIS: -- the Constitution --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- and Government of the United States, --

MS. DAVIS: -- and Government of the United States,

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- and of the State of Florida, --

MS. DAVIS: -- and of the State of Florida, --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- and of the Charter of the City of Miramar, --

MS. DAVIS: -- and of the Charter of the City of Miramar, --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- that I'm duly qualified to hold office --

MS. DAVIS: -- that I'm duly qualified to hold office --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- under the Constitution of the State --

MS. DAVIS: -- under the Constitution of the State --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- and the Charter of the City of Miramar --

MS. DAVIS: - and the Charter of the City of Miramar, --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- and that I will well and faithfully perform --

MS. DAVIS: -- and that I will well and faithfully perform --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- the duties of City Commissioner --

MS. DAVIS: -- the duties of City Commissioner --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- upon which I am now about to enter, --

MS. DAVIS: -- upon which I am now about to enter, --

DR. DAVIS-RAGLAN: -- so help me God.

MS. DAVIS: -- so help me God.

COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Well, a very exciting evening. We have a packed house here. Can you hear me very well on this mic, or should I use the other one? Good evening, everyone. Bonsoir tout monde. Buenos noches a todos. I'm not very good at languages. That wasn't my, you know, best subject, but I just wanted to be inclusive. I want to wish our former Commissioner Riggs well. We want to thank her for her service. I'm very pleased to see all of you here that took the time out of your busy schedule to attend today's swearing in, and I thank you. I would like to recognize -- I'm not sure if the Jamaica Consul General is here. Are you here? He was to be here today. That would be Oliver Mair. My good friend and mentor, Vice Mayor of Broward County, Dale Holness, my colleagues on the dais, Mayor Messam, my close friend, Vice Mayor Yvette Colbourne, and Commissioner Maxwell Chambers, as well as the other elected officials in attendance from neighboring cities. There is Deputy Mayor Mark Douglas from the City of Sunrise, Commissioner Ighodaro from the City of Miami Gardens, and former State senator, Daphne Campbell, as well as Circuit Court Judge Frank. Team Davis, are you in the house? Team Davis, you rock. It's because of you why I am here, and I thank you. I thank you, thank you. I'd like to recognize our clergy. I did see Reverend Green here, Reverend Richards, and the rest of our clergy and our chaplains. Thank you for your presence here today. Any of my opponents that are here, aside from former Commissioner Riggs, you're welcome. We will be working together, I'm sure. I would be remiss if I did not mention my only son, Dr. Chevon Davis-Raglan, of whom I'm well pleased. He flew in all the way from Chicago to swear me in today, and the rest of my family, my cousins who are here, my sister should be coming later, my father, who's in attendance. I thank you, I thank you to my family. I'm grateful to God for his mercies, and to you, the residents of Miramar for allowing me to serve as your Commissioner yet again. I will work as hard as I have worked for you in the past, always putting Miramar first. We have come a long way from the sleepy town of 50,000 residents when I moved here nearly 30 years ago. And now, today, we're a vibrant, diverse city of over 140,000 strong. I take pride in having lived all over this great city, from SW 68th Avenue to Sherman Circle, Sherman Circle, to Villages of Renaissance, and beyond. And that has given me a very unique experience of knowing firsthand the needs of the different communities that I serve. I will immediately set about accomplishing my campaign promises to you, the residents and business owners of this great city. Whether it's making sure our police officers are equipped with body cameras, or that small local and minority-owned businesses get a fair shake of City contracting opportunities, and to work -- working hard on the revitalization efforts in the historic neighborhoods. And ensuring the growth in our western suburbs is properly managed. There is much work to be done, and I work to ensure that your voices are heard loud and clear. So, please, feel free to contact me any time with your concerns and your suggestions, as we work together for an even greater Miramar, always putting Miramar first. Thank you.

MAYOR MESSAM: Commissioner Davis, you're a commissioner now. Join us at the dais. For those of us -- for those of us who have run campaigns, you -- you campaign for so long, it's kind of hard to get out of the campaign mode, but you're on the dais now, Commissioner. At this time, I would like to invite my wife, Angela Messam, the

Messam family to join me at the podium, as well as Ms. Norma Martin, who will swear me in for my second term. So, at this time, would everyone join me at this -- join me at the -- at the dais.

MS. MARTIN: Mayor-elect, would you please say after me --

MAYOR MESSAM: You have to speak into the mic.

MS. MARTIN: Mayor-elect, would you please say after me: I, Wayne Messam,

MAYOR MESSAM: I, Wayne Messam, --

MS. MARTIN: -- do solemnly swear or affirm --

MAYOR MESSAM: -- do solemnly swear --

MS. MARTIN: -- or affirm --

MAYOR MESSAM: -- or affirm --

MS. MARTIN: -- that I will support, --

MAYOR MESSAM: -- that I will support, --

MS. MARTIN: -- protect and defend --

MAYOR MESSAM: -- protect and defend --

MS. MARTIN: -- the Constitution and government of the United States, --

MAYOR MESSAM: -- the Constitution and Government of the United States, --

MS. MARTIN: -- and of the State of Florida, --

MAYOR MESSAM: -- and of the State of Florida, --

MS. MARTIN: -- that I am duly qualified to hold office --

MAYOR MESSAM: -- that I am duly qualified to hold office --

MS. MARTIN: -- under the Constitution of the State --

MAYOR MESSAM: -- under the Constitution of the State --

MS. MARTIN: -- and of the Charter of the City of Miramar, --

MAYOR MESSAM: -- and of the Charter of the City of Miramar, --

MS. MARTIN: -- and that I will well and faithfully perform --

MAYOR MESSAM: -- and that I will well and faithfully perform --

MS. MARTIN: -- the duties of Mayor --

MAYOR MESSAM: -- the duties of Mayor --

MS. MARTIN: -- upon which I am now about to enter, --

MAYOR MESSAM: -- upon which I am now about to enter, --

MS. MARTIN: -- so help me God.

MAYOR MESSAM: -- so help me God.

MS. MARTIN: Congratulations.

MRS. MESSAM: I'll take this personal privilege. Mayor Messam, I just want you to know I am extremely proud of you, and I am so proud to support you as my husband. You walk the talk you say. And I tell you, as an African American woman, we support our men when they are God-fearing men, and you are God-fearing. And I want you to know I will support you forever. Love you.

MAYOR MESSAM: Thank you. Wow. I know. Thank you and I love you. For those of us who've been in public service like my colleagues, it's a lot of work, and a lot of hours away from home. And a lot of times, the balance of all that time is left for the family, and it's an empty seat. And I would like to thank you, Angela, for allowing me to serve the community. And to my family, my -- my three kids -- and they don't like me calling them kids, because they're all in college now, but they're still my kids, and our kids, and I'm proud of you. Continue to soar, continue to chase your dreams. And, to my eldest sister, Dawn, who was able to make it, I love you, and thanks for being that -- that model of a sister, big sister for me, and I appreciate you. I've lost -- oh, there she is, there she is. She -- she doesn't look like it. She's short, but she packs a mighty punch. She defends this nation as one of our defenders of the nation of federal government. I won't state which agency, but thank you for your service and thanks for being here today. And to Ms. Norma -- she was surprised when I asked her to swear me in. and Ms. Norma has a special place in -- in my heart and -- for those of you, you know my mother passed away in 2009. She never saw me become an elected official, and -- and Ms. Norma, in so many ways, has filled that void as one of our matriarchs of the City. And -- so thank you for standing in the gap for her in swearing me in, and I love you. Commissioner Davis, congratulations. Welcome back to the Commission. I look forward to working with you, along with Commissioner Chambers, Commissioner

Barnes, and Vice Mayor Colbourne. The sky's the limit for the City of Miramar, and there's nothing that we can't do when we work together. We will be -- we will agree on 90 percent of most issues that come before us without even debate, I'm sure. And for the ten percent of those items, I look forward to -- I'm sure at times maybe spirited debate, but -- but in the end, we know that we will work in the spirit of cordiality, community, and just love for the City of Miramar, and I know that will be what drives each of us as we continue to serve our 142,000 constituents here in the City of Miramar. So, again, welcome and congratulations. I won't be long, but what I will share is a bit of brief history of Wayne Messam, and the City of Miramar, where we are, and where I see us going working together. Every city has a mayor in some capacity, but I don't take that title as an anarchy, I take the title as what our Charter states: a member of the Commission, the -- the spokesperson for the City, as well as the leader that everyone is expecting for the community. I'm the son of immigrant parents from Jamaica. My father was a contract sugar cane cutter in the Glades, just about an hour north of here. He worked under borderline slave conditions cutting sugar cane for 75 cents per row of sugar cane, so that he can have an opportunity to come to this country to chase the American dream for myself, my four other siblings to have an opportunity. And my mother and father have since deceased, but I am living that American dream that they left their native country -- here to provide, but instilling in us their very conservative Jamaican values of hard work, love of God, and that you can be and do whatever you aspire to be, and that on one can stop you. And I've always held true to that. And when I think about the City of Miramar, Miramar is that American dream. Miramar has come a long way as a community, as a city. Each era, each phase getting better and better, standing on the legacy of the community and the leaders that came before us. So, as we may be the contemporary leadership of the community right now, we have to govern and plan and prepare for the community and the leaders that will come after us, and do it with excellence. And in that charge, we have to and must be bold. We must be bold, because we are a blessed city. We are a blessed city, because we have each of you as our constituents. We are a blessed city, because we have thriving small businesses, medium-sized businesses, large businesses, the home of more Fortune 500 companies in any city in the tri-county area, that's Miramar. We are blessed. Because of that blessing, we must never forget with that blessing, we're obligated; we're obligated to serve. We're obligated to represent those who cannot represent themselves. We're obligated to the taxpayer. We're obligated to ourselves, that's Miramar. And because of that obligation, we have a wonderful opportunity to exude and express and illustrate leadership: leadership in service, leadership in execution, leadership in public safety, leadership in public works, leadership in utilities, leadership in parks and recreation, leadership in information technology, leadership in community and economic development. Leadership in all the departments that we have in this city that provides the level of service that our community represents. And the last letter D in bold, if you didn't recognize, I was spelling bold. We have to dare to be great as a city. We cannot rest on our laurels. I can sit here and name all of the initiatives that I've brought forward, or any of my colleagues may have brought forward that makes Miramar who we are today, and that is great. Because it's great to be able to say that we passed the living wage in the City of Miramar. It's great to say that. It's also great to say that we

made Miramar a safe city, where immigrants -- if they are in any of our Miramar facilities, our parks, City Hall, community centers, that they don't have to fear unwarranted immigration enforcement in our community. It's great to say that. It's also great to say that Miramar stood up, and continues to stand, even at this moment, when a company is trying to drill oil right on our city borders in the Everglades, threatening our water supply. It's great to be able to say that. For the City of Miramar to stand up to say that we should have a voice in determining what gun safety looks like in our city, and sue the State of Florida to say that we're not going to be afraid that you have a law that if the mayor or a commissioner brings forward an item on the agenda to talk about if we want to allow guns in our parks and in our facilities, that we shouldn't have to fear that the Governor will remove us from office, fine us \$5,000.00, and expose the City to lawsuits up to the statutory limit. It's great to say that. Those are just some of the accomplishments. But what we have to think about today is where will Miramar be 20 years from now, because this world is changing. This economy is changing. The definition of work is changing. What will do when your job is replaced by automation, artificial intelligence? How will you provide for your family? How will your kids and your grandkids be competitive in a marketplace where that job that they are in the classrooms right now preparing for no longer exist? This is what this Commission has to prepare for. What will you do when you're at the red light, and a car pulls beside you and there is no driver, but it's moving? Yes, autonomous vehicles will be here in the City of Miramar sooner than you think. But we cannot be afraid of advancement. We cannot be afraid of innovation; we must embrace it. In fact, we must lead in it. We should be recruiting every thought-maker, every producer, every innovative thought person to come here in Miramar, and Miramar be ground zero in every one of those emerging markets. That will be the only way we will remain the number one city for small, medium, and even large businesses. We took a bold step and did a disparity study, because we knew that black-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, Hispanic-owned businesses were not getting their fair share of contracting opportunities. And we're in our first phase right now, and we will soon have contracting opportunities that will level the playing field for minority and women-owned businesses in the City of Miramar, the only municipality in South Florida with such a program. That's Miramar. We have to continue to help those who want to help themselves. That's the future that we must prepare for. We have to make decisions today that doesn't give us glory today. But when the next mayor and the next commissioners, and the next vice mayor is here 15 years from now, they can look back and say: in 2019, we're so glad that they made the tough decisions to put in the proper infrastructure. Right now, all of our offices are ringing off the hook on the phone, because residents are complaining because of the dirt, the dust, and disruption in east Miramar, because we're putting in storm water drainage. There have been no infrastructure improvements since the founding and the development of the communities east of University Drive, which began back in 1955, and that's going on right now. Over \$100 million of infrastructure work going on right now. It's that type of commitment, that type of infrastructure we have to have that will spark the redevelopment. East Miramar is not going to look like west Miramar, and west Miramar is not going to look like east Miramar, but that doesn't mean that all of our city can't be a world-class city. And I

know that the Commissioners on this dais, along with myself, are committed to quickly getting east Miramar completed, but we have to work together. So pardon the dust, pardon the dust; you asked for it, and it's here. Right? We're about to break ground on a new police substation in east Miramar. The 441 corridor is completed. We have the last section of Miramar Parkway between 68th Avenue and 64th Avenue that is about to start, so don't call our offices. You're going to see bulldozers; you're going to see dirt; the work has begun. I'm so excited about the future of our city. I'm so excited for you, because you have been an active participant in ensuring that you have the leadership in the City that will get the work done to ensure that our children will not only be proud of our city, but if they go off to college or serve in our armed forces, and they are looking for a community to raise their own children, that they can feel proud to know that they can come back home and raise their children in a safe community, which -- by the way, kudos to the Police Department. The City of Miramar -- out of 401 municipalities, the City of Miramar is the 12th safest city in the State of Florida, out of 401. So don't believe the hype when people are saying that our city is not safe, because our Police Department is working hard, and our fire rescue is working hard, and Utilities Department is working hard, and our Public Works Department is working hard. Every one of our thousand plus employees work hard every day to ensure that this city moves forward. So if you see them out in the community, say hello to them. Pat them on the back, because, trust me, I've been out there, I've seen them when they are digging up those ditches and a sewer line breaks, and it is our men and women that are down in the ditch to repair it. That is service. It's easy for us to sit up here on the mic and approve resolutions, pass ordinances, but call any of us at 2:00 in the morning because a sewer line break, and see how many of us are there 2:00 in the morning. That's the truth. That's the truth. So we thank you. We thank each and every one of you who do the work that no one else wants to do. So Miramar -- and I'll close with this. I have so much fun and pleasure going across these entire United States, and even internationally, bragging about you. Bragging about what we're doing here in the City of Miramar. Yes, I know there's a lot of speculation and things about, you know, what is next for Mayor Messam, and I'll tell you this, whatever the answer will be, it will not be possible without you, without the City of Miramar, without our successes, without our challenges, without us working together to solve and meet those challenges, without us together identifying what our challenges are and making a plan to address it, so that we can be a sustainable community, so I thank you. I thank you for the opportunity to serve you over the last four years. I thank you for the opportunity for electing me for another term, for wherever Wayne Messam goes, Miramar is right along with me, and Miramar will always be on the top. So I thank you, Miramar, for everything you've done. We still have a lot of work to do, and I enjoy working with my colleagues when we agree, when we don't agree. But one thing I will guarantee as the Mayor of this City, as long as I'm the Mayor of the City, there will always be decorum, there will always be excellence, and there will always be an "I can" spirit coming from this dais, and I know my colleagues share that sentiment with me. So thank you all for coming out. We look forward to seeing you at the reception. God bless you, and God bless Miramar. So now, at this time, we'll have our benediction by Police Chief -- police chaplain, Pastor Donald S. King, followed by a public meet and greet reception next door in the Miramar

Cultural Center in the banquet hall. So, at this time, I call Pastor Donald S. King, our police chaplain, to provide us with our benediction.

PASTOR KING: Ladies and gentlemen, let us bow our heads. Almighty God, whose great power and eternal wisdom embraces the universe, we give you thanks for your blessings upon everyone who is gathered here for this memorable occasion. We pray your rich blessings be added to our Mayor, Commissioners, Chief of Police, commanding officers, department heads, and all our guests. Instill in these wonderful men and women who have been established to lead our city, the City of Miramar to make it a great community, a great place for residents, a great place for business, a great place for fellowship, worship, reliance, self-reliance, loyalty, and responsibility. I pray, oh God, that you watch over our Mayor and every officer and minister or individual who leads this city to make it a place of joy, peace, and nonviolence. We pray that thou will help them to keep the City's streets and homes safe day and night. We commend them to your loving care, because their duty is so important, and cause great freedom and justice that we enjoy. We pray this prayer in the name of our Lord, Amen.

CHORUS OF VOICES: Amen.

MAYOR MESSAM: We'll see everyone next door in the Miramar Cultural Center to your left and my right in the banquet hall for a meet and greet. This meeting is adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Denise A. Gibbs, CMC
City Clerk
DG/cp