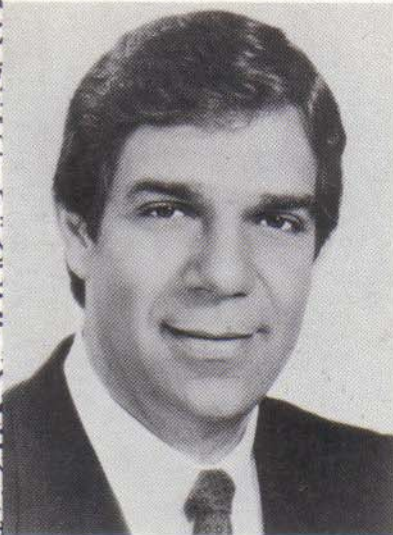


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THE STATE OF THE CITY 1987 - 88



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



MAYOR
Xavier L. Suarez

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s I stated in my message to the people of Miami last year, our city has turned the corner on the problems of the last decade and has entered a new age.

Special praise is due to the Commission and the Manager for resistance to those who would have us ignore the common good in favor of a particular project benefiting only themselves.

Preservation of resources has been coupled with a fiscal policy so tough and so comprehensive that it is unique in South Florida. These reforms have enabled us to reduce taxes while absorbing federal budget cuts, meriting extremely high marks for our administration.

Besides resisting improper influences and fashioning fiscal sanity out of fiscal chaos, our city has begun to move gigantic wheels of progress that were inertia-bound. First in line was Bayside. Here the missing link was minority participation. But Miami Capital was revamped just in the nick of time to finance the minority-owned businesses. After Bayside, the sports arena and "The Heat" exemplify how an entire community pitched in to make a successful project out of an unlikely location and take an indoor, Northern sport and place it in an outdoor, Southern city.

In the international trade area, we used volunteers not only to keep the Caribbean Conference in Miami, but to make it into the key yearly gathering of Central American political leaders, whose pronouncements on the future of Haiti (1986) and Nicaragua (1987) had enormous transcendence for the Hemisphere.

Today in our city there is a change in priorities. The miracle of Miami is happening because all these groups and institutions, led by one city government, have decided to make the public interest reign. But larger goals and dreams include moving those gigantic wheels which are a professional baseball franchise; a performing arts center; a downtown exhibition hall; a viable Overtown-Park West which reaches out to revitalize, without displacing, all of Overtown; and accelerated economic development nodes at the crucial neighborhood pressure points, calculated to assure full employment to all Miamians.

With God's help, we will turn these wheels. Other cities, other jurisdictions, will soon realize that idealism and common sense can prevail in government, fashioning a great city like Miami is in 1988.