



December 5, 2018

Open Letter to the Residents of the Town of Cutler Bay

Dear Friends, Family and Neighbors,

I thank each and every one of you for taking the time to participate in the November 6 Election and the Runoff Election. It is my honor and privilege to have been elected as your Mayor.

I have deep roots in our community, as I have lived in Cutler Bay since infancy. Cutler Ridge (how Cutler Bay was formerly known as) was a great place to live. We had a small-town feel and it was a delightful place to raise a family. However, as Miami-Dade County grew, the world around us started to change. We saw how growth exploded in Kendall and worked its way down south. Our community started to change and we seemed to have very little voice in shaping our world.

When our Town incorporated in 2005, a large part of the community was very skeptical. Government in the past had not done a great job in serving the residents of Cutler Bay, and I saw our incorporation as an opportunity to finally participate in the direction of our Town. Consequently, I had the honor and privilege of being the first Town Council Member of Cutler Bay ever sworn into office and have been extremely proud to represent my hometown ever since.

Growing up, my family taught me a very important lesson: If you want the world to be a better place you can't wait for someone else to do it. My mother, Glenda, and father, Ed, were very active in the community, working with the parks programs and the church to make this a better community. When I had children of my own, I followed in their footsteps. Whether it was coaching a little league team or leading the children's services at the church, I took part in serving the community whenever I could.

As your new Mayor, I will work hard to make Cutler Bay a better place to live work and play. I will address the issues our Town faces head-on and push to improve our community, while preserving its character and small-town feel.

One of the most pressing issues the Town is facing is the out-of-control growth and traffic we experience on a daily basis. We also need to do a better job in recruiting businesses and restaurants to our Town.

One way to improve our traffic dilemma is by reducing the travel to go to work or out to eat. As the prior business liaison, I actively recruited businesses and restaurants to our Town. I believe we are in a good position to be the right choice for businesses to relocate in our Town and we should take steps to make this happen.

I will also press for better services for our children and elderly by reengaging with the South Dade Coalition to ensure our seniors, students and commuters are provided the services they need. I will continue the roadway improvements we have achieved on Old Cutler Road and Caribbean Boulevard. Franjo Road is ready for beautification.

Finally, and maybe most imperatively, I will look for ways the Town can acquire more open green space and preserve it as parks, common grounds or natural areas.

I look forward to working together with my fellow Council Members, Town staff, local businesses, organizations and, most importantly, our residents, to make Cutler Bay an excellent place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

Tim Meerbott
Mayor