

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*H*ello, and welcome to the 21st Century Palm Beach County 2005 Economic Summit. As chairman of your Board of County Commissioners, my fellow board members and I are pleased that you have taken time out from your busy schedule to join us. Together, we will examine the key elements of Palm Beach County's complex economy and set goals to ensure a strong, stable and diversified economic base for our future generations.

Having lived here in Palm Beach County most of my life, I have watched this area grow into one of the most vibrant and desirable places in our nation. Maintaining our high standard of living takes careful planning, cooperation and a willingness to listen to our residents. That's why we have invited you here, to let us know the direction you feel our economic policies and programs should be taking. Everybody's input counts; we want to know what you want and what you think.

Your County Commissioners are committed to keeping our local economy healthy and balanced. We are moving ahead with plans for a state-of-the-art biotechnology research village that will mean thousands of new high-paying, high-tech jobs in the years to come. To improve the existing economic landscape, we're implementing tax incentive programs that make it easier for new businesses to get started and established businesses to expand their operations.

While tourism, construction and agriculture continue to be mainstays of the local economy, local governments are working with the business community to establish technology and information industries, and expand our transportation networks. New specialized schools and universities are needed to give our young people a competitive edge. The multimillion-dollar marine, golfing and equine industries want assurances that they will not be forced out by development. Banking and international investment should be thought of on a global scale. And we must find solutions to the current real estate crisis; our residents deserve to be able to live near where they work.

These are just some of the issues and challenges we will be exploring over the next two days. Again, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, I want to thank you for your participation and willingness to "help us build our future."

Sincerely,



Tony Masilotti, Chairman  
Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

