

## Remarks by Philip Levine – As Prepared for Delivery

Our thoughts today are with the victims and families in New York City who have witnessed another attack. It is a sad reminder that terror is still around us and we must unite together to confront these challenges with steadfast leadership.

This morning I am very humbled to have such dedicated leaders and friends by my side. They have all made a difference for so many others, and for that they deserve to hear from all of us how much we appreciate them.

We are surrounded today by images of heroes.

Those whose principles and achievements were powered by one simple yet timeless truth: we are only as strong as we are together, united as one.

Like America's greatest generation, these heroes devoted their lives—even sacrificed their lives—to help all who would follow.

Leaders, like John F. Kennedy, who fueled a space race, then won it—not by excusing the past, but by challenging the future—who said to all of us that in America, we lead from the front of the pack, not the back of the herd.

Leaders like Harriet Tubman, who created an Underground Railroad to defend what many opposed above ground: the right of every person to live free.

But Harriet didn't stop there, as she worked to empower every woman with the right to vote, at a time when gender alone bore a scarlet letter.

Leaders like Cesar Chavez, who bridged the barriers of language and culture to spark a national labor movement built on human dignity, who reminded all of us that the strength of America is not endangered by immigration, but powered by it.

Leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who won a Nobel Peace Prize because he pursued principle backed by courage.

One day, before more than 2000 people at Oberlin College's Finney Chapel, King distilled leadership into these 10 words: "The time is always right to DO what is right".

Today, here in Florida, it's time to do what is right.

It's time to address climate change by changing Tallahassee's climate of denial.

It's time to restore power back to the local level, where people live, instead of conceding more control to Tallahassee, where politicians live.

It's time to make a day's pay enough to avoid a lifetime of dread, fearing that one event, one illness, one bad break could break an entire family.

It's time to acknowledge that unless we put our teachers and our public schools first, we have no right to say we're putting children first. Because we're not.

Finally, it's long past time to say we've had enough of the political bickering and posturing, enough of the calculated words of hate—enough of those who would tear us down and tear us apart just to score a political point.

They've had their turn. Today belongs to us.

And so today, before friends and family, and inspired by the heroism of those who dreamed big and achieved big, I am announcing my candidacy for Governor of the State of Florida.

*Es con mucho orgullo que anuncio mi campaña para ser Gobernador de la Florida.*

Because, like Dr. King, I believe it's time to do the right thing.

As Mayor of Miami Beach, we didn't ignore rising sea levels with rhetoric; we took it on with state-of-the-art pumps, infrastructure and renewable energy programs that are now being studied – and recognized – as a role model for cities around the world.

We are now the focus of climate change documentaries, and of scientific studies looking for remedies a coastal state like Florida must find before the next Irma blows through.

As Governor, I will make Florida an international leader, not just in climate change and sea level rise, but also in solar and renewable energy.

After all, we are the Sunshine State, not the partly cloudy state.

But government should not act alone, but act in partnership with innovators in the private sector.

As Governor, rest assured protecting Florida's precious lands and water won't be a talking point, but an urgent priority.

Because to protect the future, we must be able to sustain it.

Why? Because it's the right thing to do.

When workers are paid \$8.10 an hour, and our current Governor runs ads bragging about it—it's callous and it's wrong.

Because when you live on caviar and champagne, you have no right to come down on those who worry about the price of bread.

I know, because I didn't start life with a silver spoon and a first class ticket, but with \$500 and a pocketful of dreams.

That's why I am fighting for a statewide living wage, like the one we passed in Miami Beach, because it's not fair to ask anyone to work harder and harder, only to fall further and further behind.

Because I know, better than anyone, that the most successful companies in the world have employees that are respected, and motivated to succeed.

Why a living wage now? Because it's the right thing to do.

When Irma finished doing her number on Florida, with a weather shock that pulled the people of this state together like never before, Irma's hurricane cousin, Maria, hit Puerto Rico with a once-in-a-

century body blow, wiping out power, wiping out access to drinking water, wiping out lifetimes of hard work.

It was a moment when Puerto Rico needed a lot more Eisenhower, and a lot less Trump.

When the President finally showed up, he descended on the people there with rolls of paper towels, and a boatload of criticism.

His message to the people of Puerto Rico, who were fighting to put their lives back together, was to take them apart.

As if to say: "It's your fault. It's your problem. You're on your own."

So as Washington politicians pointed fingers at each other, I pointed a cargo plane, filled with life-saving supplies, to San Juan.

Together with their valiant Mayor, Carmen Yulín Cruz, I said we will never turn our back on the people of Puerto Rico. I meant it, and I always will.

*Nosotros siempre estaremos con Puerto Rico...*

You see, being there for others is not a political issue, but a human one. And I, for one, will lead the state that way.

Why? Because it's the right thing to do.

In the weeks and months ahead, together with the people of Florida, I will present my vision for making Florida a true leader in America's 21st Century economy, where we're not just a service economy but an innovation economy, led by Florida's Silicon Valley on the Space Coast, NASA, where Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos and so many others are creating new "mission controls" every day, built on ingenuity and powered by imagination.

A 21st century state, where we protect our water and our environment from manmade pollution and the greed of over-development. Where we protect our coastlines from rising seas and rising political neglect, and are prepared more than ever to meet Mother Nature's worst with humankind's best – more shelters, better evacuation routes, and more relief faster to those who are in need.

A 21st century Florida that will become known for some of the best universities in the world, fed by some of the best school systems in the nation, where everyone is given a chance to attend college without being burdened by crippling debt.

A rejuvenated Florida where we replace deteriorating roads, crumbling bridges and depleted transportation systems with some of America's best, and most up-to-date infrastructures.

A Florida where you aren't treated differently for your gender, your sexual orientation, or the color of your skin, but are cherished for the diversity you bring to all of us.

A state where Tallahassee doesn't tell us what to do and what to think before sticking us with the bill, but a Florida that thrives with local people making local decisions about the best path forward.

We live in a place where people come every day to enjoy nature's best.

Where families live every day expecting a shot at the American dream, not a threat to their health care.

Where Floridians show up every day believing hard work will be rewarded, not discouraged.

A Florida where children hope every day the environment they inherit has been protected.

This is the Florida I'm fighting for.

*Juntos vamos a luchar para una Florida en cual todos tengan una voz.*

And this is the Florida I am ready to lead.

Yes, Dr. King, it's time to do the right thing.

And our journey begins today—right here, right now.

And so I ask everyone here...

*Get on your feet.*

*Get up and make it happen.*

*Get on your feet.*

*Stand up and take some action.*