

Forward from Mayor Muoio, City of West Palm Beach, Florida



When I was first entered public service in the City of West Palm Beach in 2006, the challenges facing our community were predictable. Education, public safety, and the economy were the top three topics people were concerned about, as they historically have been. Fast forward to 2017, and the concept of what makes a city a great place to live has expanded. Creating cities where people want to live, work and play means addressing tough issues that are far from predictable.

Now, city leadership must look at an array dynamics affecting the daily experience of our residents. Cities are at the forefront of innovation, addressing equity, and leading environmental sustainability. Each and every day, we have the most to gain and the most to lose while facing these challenges. Cities are

creating best practices, sharing these ideas and fine tuning them with local academic leaders and other city leaders.

Florida Atlantic University's 2017 Incubator for Sustainable and Resilient Communities addressed two examples of the new normal facing cities in South Florida. First, a city must grow all segments of its community in new ways that create equitable opportunities for not only existing industries but also residents. An Innovation Hub is one way to address that need. Second is Climate Change. We now know climate change is real. Communities, specifically those on the coast, are considering all strategies for handling sea level rise and other climate related challenges. Cities are leading the way in to a sustainable and resilient future.

We do not have the convenience of time to debate these matters. Each year the tides get higher and our job demands grow, which is why opportunities to work with universities and with other cities are critical to our future.

I want to thank Florida Atlantic University and the City of Hollywood for working with the City of West Palm Beach to further invest in developing solutions for these challenges.