

1996-1997

Mayor Evelyn Langlieb Greer

STATE OF THE VILLAGE

The Village of Pinecrest is in a great state!

It is hard to believe that the Village of Pinecrest has been in existence only ten months, with an elected and functioning Council for only nine months. I believe that we have accomplished amazing progress in a short time.

First, my thanks to the members of the Village Council, who have worked so well together, have spent the enormous time and effort to carefully and cautiously take each step necessary to form a new government. We agree on so many things - conservative budgeting, careful spending policies, sensitive zoning, and complete citizen involvement in every decision.

Secondly, my heartfelt thanks to every resident who has participated in the formation of the Village, served on our numerous citizen committees and attended our Council meetings. Your input and ideas are what has made the Village a success.

Our first mission was to have create a functioning local government. A successful, citizen lead Village Manager search brought us Peter Lombardi, an experienced, low key and focused manager. Peter's philosophy of methodically and carefully assembling the personnel and the organization to run our government has been key. His instincts are excellent, his experience substantial, and his ability to adapt to the very different way of doing business in Dade County has been fun to watch. Thank you, Peter.

Secondly, we have begun our Police Department, which is our #1, #2 and #3 priority. Our police chief citizen search committee reviewed over 120 applications for chief, and spent hundreds of hours interviewing, consulting and investigating. Bruce Davis, who Peter wisely chose, has already put together the basis of our department, and begun to hire our staff. July 1, we go on patrol with the Village of Pinecrest Police Department.

One of the keys to our success is our reliance on citizen committees for input and recommendations. The Planning and Zoning Board was the idea and creation of our citizens Building and Zoning Committee and reflects our commitment to rational and controlled zoning and development in the Village. Our code enforcement ordinances, which begin enforcement proceedings with A Friendly Notice, not a warning, reflect our desire to have the cooperation and participation of our residents in beautifying our town. Cooperation, not coercion, in code enforcement is our motto.

We have made major strides in coraling our revenue sources and executed an Interlocal Agreement with Dade County, under which local services continued without interruption during a one year transition. Our contract for off-duty police officers has

had a major positive impact on our crime rate, and has promptly fulfilled one of the promises of incorporation.

I believe that the presence of two different and diverse newspapers covering Pinecrest has allowed residents to know, sometimes in excruciating detail, what is going on in the Village. The coverage has assured residents that no "hidden agendas" are at work and that their elected officials have acted responsibly and with only their interests at heart. More than anything, this complete openness, even to the point of printing our Village check register, has allowed us a peaceful and happy transition from the incorporation effort to the creation of a cohesive, unified Village.

I am more excited today about where we are going than I was when I was elected. The Council intends to hold a steady, responsible course, stick to the basics, and deal with issues on the merits. This is our promise to you.