Miami-Dade’s economic development agency accomplished Thursday what the nation has not, healing the election-year political divide with a “Vote Miami”-themed annual meeting. “We feel we can all endorse Miami — and I’ll stop with the endorsements there,” said council chair Ernie Diaz, who is regional president of TD Bank.

In a humor-filled video, leaders of the Beacon Council championed a campaign to vote for Miami as the No. 1 place in the country to do business, lauding its diversity, academic institutions, airport, medical facilities, real estate and growing tech sector. “I’m Joe Roismann,” popped up an
image of long-time Beacon Council supporter and Perry Ellis executive, at the video’s close, “and I approved this message.”

Diaz, Mayor Carlos Gimenez and outgoing CEO Larry Williams praised the organization’s efforts resulting in the relocation and/or expansion of 43 companies in the past year, for a total $188 million in new capital investment, during the meeting, held at the Miami Marriott Dadeland.

Gimenez, Williams and incoming chair Jaret Davis, co-managing shareholder of Greenberg Traurig, pointed to the continuing need for support of Miami’s innovation ecosystem. “We have all the pieces here,” Williams said. “Now we need to connect them.”

Jane Wooldridge
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