

## *Forward from Mayor Levy, City of Hollywood, Florida*



Standing in a neighborhood street, knee deep in saltwater on a sunny day during a King Tide, it is clear that sea level rise is a pressing issues facing Hollywood. When I was elected as Mayor in 2016 I knew sea level rise and associated flooding, both current and projected, would offer me challenges to overcome for the City. More than just problems to solve however, the challenges faced by today's coastal cities also provide unparalleled opportunity to redefine our community and create a Hollywood that is resilient, sustainable, and desirable now and into the future.

One of the greatest opportunities of sea level rise is that it cannot be tackled completely in isolation. Certainly, the City has taken and will continue to take steps to improve infrastructure and relieve some of the burden felt by flooding, but a global and regional problem requires global and regional action. Recently, I joined with other Mayors across the country to reaffirm our commitment to addressing the causes of climate change and its impacts, like sea level rise, head on. The City is also extremely fortunate to be in a region that is rife with opportunities for collaboration to develop regional tools and approaches. Florida Atlantic University has been an invaluable partner in this effort.

The 2017 Florida Atlantic University Incubator for Sustainable and Resilient Communities allowed us to focus in on one neighborhood on the front lines of sea level rise and develop ideas that do so much more than simply solve a problem. The suggestions resulting from the Incubator not only will help alleviate the burden of flooding, but they do so while at the same time addressing other areas that are important for a sustainable and resilient community. The solutions enhance the natural environment and environmental quality, incorporate mobility, increase economic opportunity, and create value that will benefit the entire City, not just the neighborhood in question. This is the way to create sustainability and resiliency. We must do more than simply solve problems, we must use those problems as opportunities for making our City even better.

We want to offer many thanks to Florida Atlantic University and the panel of experts they organized to give our City's challenges a fresh perspective. Only through collaboration and openness to different ways of doing things will we be able to move forward better and stronger than we were before.