Good evening I’d like to start by thanking our Mayor, Mr. Bud Scholl, our Commission and City Manager Mr. Chris Russo, as well as all of our guests in attendance, and most importantly the men and woman of the Sunny Isles Beach Police Department for your support and confidence in me and for your dedication to the citizens of this community.

This evening is truly a bitter sweet moment for me, as we wish our chief of 20 years, Chief Fred Maas a fond farewell on his retirement, while on the other hand we usher in a new day for the Sunny Isles Beach Police Department.

Before I deliver my remarks as the incoming Chief of Police I must first acknowledge and thank Chief Maas on behalf of every officer who has ever served under his command for your unparalleled leadership, integrity and overall inspiration and for making a difference in the lives of everyone you have touched over the years. Ladies and gentleman, not that he ever asked for it, but that’s how one becomes a “Hall of Fame Chief” It’s not by accident, it’s not by choice. It’s about being a “once in a lifetime chief” and always having the backs of your officers.

Chief Maas always manages to shed a little humor in nearly every situation he speaks about and although I won’t try to tell you about the “three Irish Priests who walked into a bar”, I will share my own analogy regarding the challenges of following a true hall of famer. The question is “does anyone really remember the name of the Miami Dolphins Quarterback who replaced Dan Marino”, besides my son Adam? I thought so! Chief, one thing is for sure, other chiefs will follow you, but no one will ever replace you!

Although yes, this is a bitter sweet moment for me, I am also very humbled, proud and very fortunate to have been selected as the agencies next chief of police and being given the opportunity to build upon the tradition and legacy of this great agency, which **we all** built from the ground up over the last 20 years.

Tonight’s promotional ceremony is not just about any one person. It’s about all of us working together, it’s about the dedicated men and woman who serve and protect our community each and every day with professionalism and the precise purpose of making lives better. It’s about our elected officials, who in 20 years have never once voted no to any request made by their police department for equipment or resources needed to better safeguard and protect our residents and guests. That is truly unprecedented.

It’s about all of our city employees and their department heads who have always provided logistical support to the police department in times of need and visa-versa during special events. This night is about teamwork and loyalty to our community on a professional level, but also a reminder that we are a family, not in the traditional sense, but family nonetheless.

I have been so very blessed to have had a long and prosperous career in the greatest profession on earth, but one thing is for sure, I had a lot of help getting here today and I have so many people to thank, to many to actually mention all of them.

First and foremost, my family. My parents, who worked so hard to raise six kids to respect others at all cost, who I only wish were here tonight. My older brother Dave, who throughout my life has always been my best friend having always had my back.

My colleagues at work, Captain Mike Grandinetti who by far is the catalyst who keeps the agency running, Lieutenant Mulvey who oversees our Criminal investigation division and all of our administrative staff for all they do.

But the backbone of any law enforcement agency is its police officers, who risk their lives daily to serve and protect our communities and I am so very proud of each and every man and woman who proudly represent the City of Sunny Isles Beach and have forged a reputation based on fairness, compassion and tolerance for all.

Lastly, but most importantly is my lovely wife Kathleen, who has stood by side and endured the stresses of being a “cops” wife for the last 34 years, despite raising our family and managing her own law enforcement career. Sweetheart, I love you more than mere words can ever say.

I have also been blessed with two wonderful sons who I am so very proud of, Matthew my eldest who is one of the most genuine people I know and Adam, who I can proudly say followed in his father’s footsteps as a law enforcement officer in his home town of Davie. Gentleman, well done.

In closing, to our community, I stand before you as a representative of our police department and pledge our unyielding dedication and drive to provide the highest quality of law enforcement service available, to be readily accessible, accountable in all things and to keep the faith of our oath to protect and defend at all cost. “So help us GOD”

Thank You and God bless…