Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: November 15, 2005

Supplement to
Agenda Item No. 14(B)3

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Supplement to Agenda Item 14B3
Re: Legislative Priorities and Other Issues

Attached is an amended draft of the critical 2006 State Legislative Priorities and Appropriations Requests for your consideration which includes the following revisions from the November 9, 2005, Intergovernmental Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee:

1. Addition of $5 million appropriations request for tree canopy replacement from Hurricane Wilma.
2. Addition of priority request related to homeland security and water reuse
3. Each appropriations item is identified as recurring or one-time.
4. Raised appropriation request for the Miami-River Dredging Non-Federal Channel to $2,200,000.

Deputy County Manager

Attachments

DRAFT 2006 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

COST SHIFTS/BUDGET CUTS:

- To preserve funding for important county programs, oppose any additional cost shifts from the state to the county, and any reduction in county revenue, revenue sharing or funding from the state.

FINANCE:

- To ensure fairness among taxpayers, clarify laws governing the agricultural exemption so that the exemption does not apply to property actively being developed for a non-agricultural use.

HOME RULE AND IMPACT FEES:

- To preserve local home rule, oppose any efforts to preempt local authority, including any effort to limit or eliminate local government's ability to impose impact fees on new growth to offset related costs.

MEDICAID AND MEDICAL LIABILITY:

- Support issues related to the Public Health Trust related to Medicaid reform:
    - Oppose any cost-shifting or increase of uncompensated care related to Medicaid.
    - Oppose any reductions or freezes in provider reimbursements related to Medicaid.
    - Maintain JMH's Upper Payment Limit (UPL) program.
    - Support the University of Miami in its efforts to address medical liability related to JMH.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF:

- To help low- to moderate-income seniors and the disabled stay in their homes with rising property taxes:
    - Offer language freezing the assessed value of homestead properties of low-to-moderate-income senior citizens and the disabled.
    - Expand the Tax Deferral Program, which allows seniors to delay paying property taxes until the sale of the home, by reducing the age requirement from 70 to 65 years of age and increasing the minimum household income requirement for seniors from $12,000 between $23,260 or $25,000.
    - Increase the annual household limitation requirement from the current level of $23,260 to $25,000 to qualify for the Senior Homestead Exemption.
    - Provide a local option to increase the widow(er) and disability exemption on ad valorem property taxes to $5,000.
- To help seniors and the disabled trade down to smaller homes if they so desire, provide a one-time transfer of the "Save Our Homes" assessed value to smaller less expensive replacement homes.

SECURITY/ HURRICANE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

- To improve emergency response:
    - Increase funding for the Miami-Dade County Health Department, as the lead agency for the management of Special Needs Evacuation Shelters under Florida Statues.
    - Provide additional equipment and funding for increased interoperability among emergency responders.
    - Provide a redundant 911 system with a microwave component to serve as an alternative 911 system should the existing system be damaged or destroyed by a disaster.
- To protect our most vulnerable residents in an emergency:
    - Impose more significant requirements on nursing homes and Adult Living Facilities to include full facility generator power and a rigorous inspection process to ensure all emergency planning and preparedness requirements are being met.
- To ensure the security of our water supply, support legislation maintaining local control over feasibility, reuse, water pricing and comprehensive planning activities.

SEAPORT:

- To provide proper security for the Dante B. Fascell Port of Miami-Dade, support increased funding for security-related requirements and oppose additional security-related mandates from the state.
- To properly balance security and commerce and place Florida ports on a level playing field with other ports, ensure a proper balance of state seaport security regulation and U.S. Coast Guard regulation, now that the U.S. Coast Guard has implemented federal oversight of seaport security.

TRANSIT:

- To ensure that transportation services are available to those who are dependent on it, restore state funding for the Medicaid non-emergency transportation-disadvantaged program on a fair an equitable basis, or find a dedicated state funding mechanism.

WORKFORCE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

- To increase housing units available for persons most at risk of homelessness, increase the percentage of housing units in multi-family rental housing projects set aside for extremely low-income persons.

APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

NATURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
Miami River Dredging Federal Channel (one-time)	$1,800,000
Miami River Dredging Non-Federal Channel (one-time)	$2,200,000
South Miami-Dade Watershed Sub-Basin (one-time)	$726,500
Miami-Dade County Beach Erosion (recurring formula)	$1,740,000
Biscayne Bay Water Quality Monitoring (recurring formula)	$250,000
Hurricane Tree Canopy Replacement/Re-Greening (one-time)	$5,000,000
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
Mosquito Control Spraying Program - Storm Drain (recurring)	$1,900,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE	
Empowerment Zone Trust (one time)	$5,000,000
HOMELESS TRUST	
Supportive Housing and Services for Homeless Mentally Ill (recurring)	$1,000,000
HUMAN SERVICES	
High Risk Nutritional Program for Elders (recurring)	$871,250
Waiting List Reduction for Elderly In-Home Support Services (one-time)	$1,176,000
Waiting List Reduction for Home Care Services for Person with Disabilities (one-time)	$409,259
Revolving fund to provide benefits to defendants with mental illness upon discharge from incarceration(one-time)	$325,000
INTERNATIONAL TRADE	
International Trade Consortium (one-time)	$300,000
JUVENILE SERVICES	
Juvenile Services Diversion Program/formerly JASP (recurring formula)	$583,000
Juvenile Assessment Center (recurring formula)	$729,000
LAW ENFORCEMENT	
Enhancement of Crime Laboratory and Crime Scene Bureaus (one time)	$1,400,000
CULTURAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC LIBRARIES	
State Aid to Public Libraries (recurring formula)	$3,250,000
Performing Arts Center (one-time)	$2,500,000