



Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners

Office of the Commission Auditor

**Legislative Analysis**

**Recreation, Culture & Tourism Committee**

January 11, 2010  
2:00 PM  
Commission Chamber

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**Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners  
Office of the Commission Auditor**

**Legislative Analysis  
Recreation, Culture and Tourism  
Meeting Agenda**

**January 11, 2010**

Written analyses for the below listed items are attached for your consideration in this Legislative Analysis.

**Item Number(s)**

4(C)
4(I)

If you require further analysis of these or any other agenda items, please contact Guillermo Cuadra, Chief Legislative Analyst, at (305) 375-5469.

Acknowledgements--Analyses prepared by:  
Mia Marin, Legislative Analyst



**Agenda Item: 4(C)**

**File Number: 093315**

**Committee(s) of Reference: Recreation, Culture & Tourism**

**Date of Analysis: January 6, 2010**

**Type of Item: Resolution Ratifying Submission of a Grant Application**

### **Summary**

This resolution ratifies the submission of a grant application in the amount of \$2,224,960 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009-Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program (BTOP).

### **Background and Relevant Legislation**

The Recovery Act signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009 includes measures to modernize the nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need. The Recovery Act seeks to create new jobs as well as save existing ones, spur economic activity, invest in long-term economic growth, and foster accountability and transparency in government spending. The Recovery Act intends to achieve this by the following:

- Providing \$288 billion in tax cuts and benefits for millions of working families and businesses;
- Increasing federal funds for education and health care as well as entitlement programs (such as extending unemployment benefits) by \$224 billion;
- Making \$275 billion available for federal contracts, grants and loans; and
- Requiring recipients of Recovery funds to report quarterly on the amount of monies spent, the status of the project, the number of jobs created and/or saved, and other details, all of which

are posted on [Recovery.gov](http://Recovery.gov) so that the public can track where the total \$787 billion Recovery funds are going and how they are being spent.

Under the Recovery Act, the U.S. Congress has appropriated \$4.7 billion to establish a Broadband Technology Program for awards to eligible entities to develop and expand broadband services to rural and underserved areas and enhance broadband capacity at public computer centers, and to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) website, the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Projects and funding include the following:

- Broadband Infrastructure (up to \$1.2 billion);
- Public Computer Center category (up to \$50 million); and
- Sustainable Broadband Adoption (up to \$150 million).

A BTOP press release on December 17, 2009 reflects initial BTOP grant awards from the first round application pool on a rolling basis into February 2010 which include the following recipients:

**Broadband Infrastructure Projects:**

Georgia: North Georgia Network - \$33.5 million

Maine: Three Ring Binder - \$25.4 million

New York: ION Upstate New York Rural Broadband Initiative - \$39.7 million

South Dakota: Project Connect South Dakota - \$20.6 million

**Public Computer Center Projects:**

Arizona: Arizona Public Computer Centers - \$1.3 million

Massachusetts: (Boston) City of Boston Public Computing Centers - \$1.9 million

Minnesota: (Minneapolis/St. Paul) Broadband Access Project - \$2.9 million

Washington: (Spokane) Spokane Broadband Technology Alliance - \$1.3 million

**Sustainable Broadband Adoption:**

New Mexico: Fast-Forward New Mexico - \$1.5 million

Washington: (Spokane) Spokane Broadband Technology Alliance - \$980,000

## **Miami-Dade County Updates**

As of March 2009, the Miami-Dade County Manager has provided over 13 updates on ways the County departments are reviewing, requesting and planning to use ARRA funds. The Office of Grants Coordination (OGC) is charged with actively researching the federal government's Recovery.gov and Grants.gov websites to find current grant opportunities associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

One of the last County Manager ARRA updates issued in September 22, 2009, provided a complete list of 80 ARRA related applications submitted by the County totaling \$480 million.

**Of the 80 ARRA related applications submitted by the County, the Miami-Dade County Public Library System (MDPLS) has only one application submitted on its behalf which is the BTOP through the U.S Department of Commerce-NTIA.**

As of November 2009, the County has applied for over \$578 million in ARRA funding; approximately \$230 million has been awarded.

## **Miami-Dade County Legislation**

On June 30, 2009, the Board of County Commissioners approved Ordinance 09-60 which extended the County Economic Stimulus Ordinance sunset provision to January 2013 and includes the capital projects and the acquisition of goods and services funded through ARRA.

## **Budgetary Impact**

The grant amount (\$2,224,960) requires a county match in the amount of \$544,231 (24% in-kind match) which will be derived from the Library's (MDPLS) Operating Budget.

## **Library Operating Expenditures (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>Budget FY09-09</b>	<b>Proposed FY09-10</b>
Administration and Support Services	\$16,230	\$17,131
New Facilities, Renovations, Repair and Maintenance	\$6,383	\$9,161
Office of Director	\$5,298	\$5,128
Outreach Services	\$3,561	\$3,062
Public Service	\$50,453	\$40,421
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,925</b>	<b>\$74,903</b>

The grant award will be used to enhance and expand public broadband access, speed, branch and infrastructure equipment, customer training and support services at 48 Library branch sites located throughout Miami-Dade County.

According to the Library Department, the grant amount plus the county match totals \$2,769,191 which will cover the entire cost of running the 36-month project. The project amount will include purchasing and installation of equipment, set up of the labs, development of training modules and facilitating training programs.

### **Questions**

When will the County be advised if the BTOP grant application has been awarded to MDPLS?

If the BTOP grant is not awarded to MDPLS, will this project be suspended?

If the BTOP grant is not awarded, will alternative funding sources be used to continue this project?

**Prepared By: Mia B. Marin.**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION AUDITOR**



Legislative Notes

**Agenda Item: 4(I)**

**File Number: 100018**

**Committee(s) of Reference: Recreation, Culture and Tourism**

**Date of Analysis: January 6, 2010**

**Type of Item: Resolution**

**Commission Districts: 8 and 13**

**Summary**

This resolution awards \$750,000 in Safe Neighborhood Parks (SNP) Funds, ratifies the submission of a grant application and awards \$346,100 of Discretionary Interest Earnings and Recaptured Funds to the Town of Miami Lakes (Town) contingent upon Resolution of Certain Payment Disputes between the County and the Town.

**Background and Relevant Legislation**

The Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 1376-09 which awarded \$6,201,008 in SNP Discretionary and Land Acquisition Funds to specific entities. Additionally, R-1376 approved the following:

- County staff recommendation to not include \$346,100 in SNP funds to the Town because the Town owes the County approximately \$600,000 in Quality Neighborhood Improvement Program (QNIP) debt service payments;
- \$346,100 to be used for other Safe Neighborhood Park Projects included in the SNP0809 RFP applications list reviewed by the SNP Citizens Oversight Committee (COC)<sup>i</sup>; and
- Support the Town of Miami Lakes application if they satisfy their financial QNIP debt service payments.

**At the December 16, 2009 SNP COC meeting, the COC awarded the Town of Miami Lakes \$346,100 of Discretionary Interest Earnings for Royal Oaks (\$200,000), Miami Lakes Park (\$46,100) and Sevilla Estates Park (\$100,000). However, at the December 1, 2009 Board of County Commissioners Meeting, staff was directed to hold any funds re-allocated to the Town in abeyance until such time as a**

**resolution of payment disputes between the County and the Town relating to QNIP funds were resolved.**

The Safe Neighborhood Parks Citizen’s Oversight Committee (SNPCOC) has awarded \$200 million from Bond proceeds, plus an additional \$11.4 million in Bond interest earnings and recaptured funds to more than 40 municipalities, not-for-profit agencies and Miami-Dade County (R-1-99).

**Policy Change and Implication**

Currently, the Town of Miami Lakes has not resolved its QNIP debt payment issue with Miami Dade County and therefore the County will continue to hold any re-allocated funds to the Town in abeyance until a resolution of payment disputes is resolved.

**Prepared By: Mia B. Marin**

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<sup>i</sup> **Projects included in the SNP0809 RFP applications list reviewed by the SNP Citizens Oversight Committee (COC). Furthermore, should the Town resolve its debt payment issue with Miami-Dade County a recommendation will be made to the SNP COC to support the Town’s application for any remaining SNP funds.**

**Projects recommended for the \$346,100 are as follows:**

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Scope of Work</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>November 10, 2009 RCTC Recommended amount</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>City of Miami</b>	<b>1814 Brickell Avenue Park</b>	<b>Land Acquisition 35,000 SF</b>	<b>\$500,000*</b>	<b>\$144,400</b>
<b>37</b>	<b>Miami-Dade County</b>	<b>A.D. Barnes Park</b>	<b>Park improvements, planning and design, project administration, concrete walkway along the perimeter of the park, lights to existing walkway</b>	<b>\$201,700</b>	<b>\$201,700</b>