

## Citizens for a Better South Florida, Inc.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) rescind a grant award in the amount of \$459,900 previously approved to Citizens for a Better South Florida, Inc. (CITIZENS) for the purchase of a facility in County Commission District 7 (D7).

Additionally, it is recommended that the Board approve a grant award to CITIZENS in the amount of \$459,900 for the purchase of a property to be located in County Commission District 5 (D5). The funding is provided by the Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program's (BBC GOB) Not-For-Profit Community Organization Capital Fund (Fund).

### Background

On November 2, 2004 voters overwhelmingly approved the referendum to fund more than 300 capital improvement projects throughout Miami-Dade County over the next 20 years. The \$30 million Fund is one of those projects.

On July 24, 2007, via Resolution No. R-884-07, the Board approved an allocation to 37 not-for-profit entities totaling the full \$30 million from this Fund through a competitive Request For Proposals process. CITIZENS was awarded \$459,900 for the purchase of a property that was to be located at 33 S.W. 31 Court. CITIZENS was unable to purchase this property because it was sold to someone else. On July 1, 2008 the Board rescinded their award for the purchase of a property at 33 S.W. 31 Court and re-issued an award to CITIZENS for the purchase of a property to be located in D7. An exhaustive search with the assistance of several realtors ensued in D7 to find a replacement property, but they were unable to locate a property that satisfied their needs. CITIZENS is now requesting that their award be rescinded and re-issued, this time, listing D5 as the location. They are currently in contract negotiations with a property owner in D5. Representatives from CITIZENS have met with Commissioners from both districts and they are amenable to the requested change. The Board will be notified of the property address chosen through the BBC GOB Quarterly Report.

### History of Citizens for a Better South Florida, Inc.

Since 1989, CITIZENS, a private, non-profit, non-advocacy environmental education organization has been dedicated to improving quality of life through instilling environmental awareness within the County's diverse communities. Their vision is to foster a society where residents and community leaders understand and respect the connection between their actions and the overall impact on their neighborhoods. The overall goal of CITIZENS is to provide a foundation of understanding on environmental issues in the community to diverse constituencies so that they can become active stewards of the environment and will be involved in making decisions that will lead to a stronger community and a healthier environment. Focusing on education rather than on advocacy is the key to achieving their goals. CITIZENS provides education through four main initiatives: 1) The Community Science Workshop - an after school program for at-risk children; 2) The Urban Greening and Community Forestry Program; 3) ReVive - The Virginia Key Restoration Project; and 4) GO NATIVE! a native plant and tree nursery.

In its 20-year history, CITIZENS has made a substantial impact in the County by providing multi-lingual environmental education to thousands of children and adults concentrating program and services to immigrants, particularly to those who have the greatest need. They have partnered with many non-profit and for profit organizations on projects to benefit all residents in our community.



**CITIZENS  
FOR A BETTER  
SOUTH FLORIDA**

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS, Citizens for a Better South Florida, (Citizens), a Florida not-for-profit corporation whose principal address is 3191 SW 21 Street, Miami, FL 33145, desires to amend the original grant application as it relates to the property to be purchased with funds from the Miami-Dade County Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program NFP Capital Fund that will be designated to Citizens for a Better South Florida, to address the need to change commission districts of said property.**

The wording is to be amended to read "the purchase of a property anywhere in Miami-Dade County District 7 to anywhere in Miami-Dade County District 5."

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of Citizens at a duly held not-for-profit corporate meeting on February 14, 2009 has considered the matter in accordance with the articles and by-laws of the not-for-profit corporation;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF** Citizens is committed to the completion of the project and dedicated to operation and mission of our organization for the next 25 years; and that Arsenio Milian, President of Citizens or Deborah Swain, Treasurer of Citizens or Gil Betz, Secretary Designee/Assistant Secretary of Citizens, is hereby authorized and directed to sign this resolution in the name and on behalf of Citizens for a Better South Florida, Inc.. with Miami-Dade County upon the terms and conditions contained in this proposed agreement to which this resolution is attached and Arsenio Milian as Chairperson/President and Kelly Altosino-Sastre as Executive Director are hereby authorized and directed to undertake any and all such matters related to this proposed agreement on behalf of Citizens for a Better South Florida, Inc. as a Florida not-for-profit corporation. It is resolved by

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009.

By: Arsenio Milian

Signature: Arsenio Milian

Title: President of the Board of Directors

SEAL/ATTEST:

By: Gil Betz, Assistant Secretary

Signature: [Signature]