



Memorandum

TO: Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Greenberg Traurig

DATE: May 6, 2011

RE: April Report to the Board of County Commissioners

Below please find a summary of Greenberg Traurig's efforts on behalf of Miami-Dade County in April.

Overview of Legislative Activity in April

Even though Congress was out of session for more than half of April, members continued to battle over federal funding issues while in town. In fact, Congress took the federal government to the brink of a government-wide shutdown. Another continuing resolution was required to extend the negotiating deadline of April 8th. Eventually, the package passed wrapped up the fiscal 2011 appropriations process about six months after the fiscal year began.

Neither side was pleased with the outcome. Many Republicans thought that the cuts did not go far enough in reducing what they consider to be out of control federal spending. For their part, liberal Democrats were unhappy with the more than \$60 billion in cuts made. Shortly after the passage of this package, the Congressional Budget Office released its estimates of the package's effect on the federal budget. Because of the way in which the federal government funds projects and programs, the true 2011 impact of the cuts would be just over \$300 million. This was a far cry from the \$60 billion claimed by the Republicans.

As Congress left DC for Easter break, the next fight on the horizon was set to begin, the 2012 appropriations process. Prior to signing a deal on FY 2011, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) released the House budget plan for FY 2012. The plan sought to make large cuts to such programs as Medicare and Medicaid. The budget was immediately criticized by Democrats and even President Obama weighed in and called it irresponsible.

The next series of negotiations on federal funding and deficit control is now in full swing as the Administration continues to hold high level meetings with leadership in the House

and Senate. GT continues to follow the appropriations issue to identify opportunities for the County's federal funding priorities.

Aviation

During April, GT assisted MIA with activities pertaining to a task force of large gateway airports. MIA, along with these other airports, is working to develop and implement a strategy of congressional and executive advocacy on three issues of critical importance to MIA. These issues include modifying the alternative minimum tax so airports can more easily raise funding for critical infrastructure projects; increasing passenger facility charges; and increasing funding Customs and Border Protection (CBP) staffing. GT participated in a conference call of the large airports to discuss these matters on behalf of MIA. We continue to work with Tony Quintero to help execute the strategy. MIA, with New York, has been given the lead on the CBP staffing issue.

Harbor Dredge Project

GT understands the County's efforts to utilize all existing resources to pressure Congress and the Administration to provide the funding needed for the Miami Harbor Dredge. As part of this effort, GT's Joe Corrigan has been continually working with Miami Dade County to supplement the efforts of other lobbyists on the County's federal team. Joe spent several years of his career working for the US Army Corps of Engineers and has utilized both his institutional knowledge and extensive contact base to advocate for the dredge's funding. He has also provided an analysis of the current obstacles to obtaining the desired federal funds. Joe continues to hold calls with the County and the Army Corps of Engineers. GT will continue to work with the County to supplement the efforts of others and will continue to lend our expertise in this area.

Homeless Trust Fund

In April, the Executive Director of the Homeless Trust, David Raymond, came to Washington, D.C. for an annual conference. While in Washington, Mr. Raymond requested meetings with the delegation members and staff. Our team scheduled all of the meetings for Mr. Raymond and accompanied Mr. Raymond to these meetings. The meetings were held to both thank members for their past efforts and to raise awareness of current efforts by the Homeless Trust to eradicate homelessness in the County. Additionally, we discussed the funding sources which the Homeless Trust utilizes to undertake all that it does in relation to the County's homeless. To that end we advocated for full funding of the HEARTH Act.

Media Updates

GT continues to send media updates on legislative and political issues to the County in order to ensure that the Commission and staff remain up-to-date on developments within the Beltway. Our team has continued to send those interested individuals information regarding issues such as job creation, immigration, renewable energy standards and

transportation, among others. We will continue to monitor the issues most relevant to the County and provide timely and accurate information in order to make certain that the County is aware of any developments which may provide an opportunity to accomplish established legislative goals.

If you have any questions, or we can be of any further assistance, please let us know.