

LOCAL WEEKLY REPORT

December 5–December 9, 2011

JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEMS

On Tuesday, Jackson Health Systems officially declared an impasse with SEIU Local 1991. As a consequence, a magistrate will be selected to hear from management and the union, and if no agreement is reached, the Board of County Commissioners will make the final ruling on the contract.

According to the Herald, on Wednesday, Jackson spokesperson, Edwin O'Dell said, "We've got to maintain a balanced budget. It is an important step towards thriving as a next-generation healthcare system. We cannot achieve that balanced budget working under an outdated contract that guarantees lots of overtime and raises of up to 7.9 percent."

A statement on the local's website stated: "Our initial offer of \$36 million in employee concessions, plus our willingness to offer more as long as we receive assurances that the money will be spent wisely, has been rejected."

The website also stated that it will continue to demand a guaranteed 40-hour workweek, which it claimed management wanted to abolish.

Additionally, it was reported that Jackson Health System stands to lose \$133.5 million in Medicaid funds under the proposed budget of Gov. Rick Scott, according to a study released Thursday by the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida.

To read more: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/12/08/v-print/2537365/jackson-health-system-could-lose.html#ixzz1fzyYSCpj>

MIAMI BEACH

The City of Miami Beach has been searching for investors to help pay for the convention center expansion, which it cannot afford. Las Vegas casino mogul Steve Wynn has indicated an interest in financing the expansion as long as it includes a casino. While Miami Beach officials have made their objections to casinos known, the concerns and potential opportunities will be addressed at the next city commission meeting scheduled on December 14th.

MDCLC

On December 2nd, the Miami-Dade League of Cities held the first annual 2011 Best Practices Conference. The conference was well attended and participants included the MDCLC municipal members, private sector partners and Miami-Dade County's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Sustainability and Solid Waste Management, as well as the office of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Lynda Bell.

The purpose of the conference was to bring a highly regarded group of experts and professionals to conduct key sessions and discussions featuring successful strategies for improving municipal services.

Two legislative sessions were held and the panelists included state representatives Richard Steinberg, Erik Fresen, Jeanette Nunez, Oscar Braynon and Senator Rene Garcia. The discussions centered on the expectations for this legislative session, as well as the issues that will present the biggest challenges, including: the budget deficit, education, healthcare costs, constitutional amendments 5 and 6 (redistricting), and gaming.

Four County Regional Compact - 3rd Annual Climate Leadership Summit

This year's Annual Climate Leadership Summit was hosted by Monroe County. The two day summit, included members of the Regional Climate Change Compact, a consortium of elected officials, county leaders, and support staff from Palm Beach, Broward, Monroe, and Miami-Dade counties, which have been collaborating for more than two years to engage and broaden outreach and education on climate change issues facing the region. Miami-Dade County Deputy Mayor Jack Olsterholt delivered the keynote address, making the business case for the compact. The address explained how resilience and sustainability provide the context for S.E. Florida's future prosperity. Additionally, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Lynda Bell joined a panel of commissioners from the four counties, which addressed the need to continue the collaborative efforts and maintain the momentum that has been created to further help meet the agreed upon objectives. The collaboration has produced the first draft of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Action Plan, which was unveiled at the summit. This event also marked the Regional Climate Change Compact's transition from planning to implementation. A copy of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Action Plan will be made available through the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Announcements:

Save the Date:

What: FPL Transmission Line Corridor Alternatives

When: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 from 4pm-6pm

Where: Community Room of the Coral Gables Police Station (basement floor) located at 2801 Salzedo Street.

Participants: County representatives and members of the MDLC.
(Participants are encouraged to bring their Intergovernmental Affairs personnel to the meeting)

Purpose: Identify and pursue viable alternatives to the proposed FPL Transmission Line corridors, including, but not limited to, filing legislation with the Florida Legislature.

Richard Kuper (MDLC) will be sending an invite to all MDLC members.