

LOCAL WEEKLY REPORT

December 12–December 16, 2011

JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEMS

On Thursday, the Jackson board held its monthly committee meeting and it was reported the Jackson Health System lost \$9 million in November. The \$9 million loss was blamed on Jackson's inability to reach agreements with the University of Miami and its labor unions. The cash on hand is projected to drop to 11 days at the end of December.

Michael Bileca, a state representative and healthcare entrepreneur, suggested that Jackson executives come up with a "worst case scenario" strategic plan to avoid emergency measures if the hospitals come close to running out of money.

Martha Baker, president of the SEIU local 1991, presented the board with what she claimed were petitions signed by 1,500 employees who complained that the two-week furloughs affected service at Jackson. She further stated that the furloughs are causing Jackson to lose money. Chief Executive Carlos Migoya vehemently disagreed with the claims of furloughs affecting services. He further stated that the employees concerns were about "ebbs and flows" which occur in many hospitals.

Since union negotiations are at an official impasse, a magistrate will work towards finding a compromise. Should those efforts fail, Miami-Dade's County Commission will decide the employee compensation for the year.

Additionally, the annual agreement with UM is still in the works. Chief Strategy Officer Donn Szaro indicated that although UM will accept a reduction of \$16.5 million from the \$131.7 million that Jackson paid the university in 2011, difficulties remain in finding another \$36.5 million in efficiencies, which Jackson is requesting.

Migoya said that the agreement being negotiated with UM will not resolve all of Jackson's issues with UM. He indicated that next year's agreement will be different, based on paying UM doctor's specific fees for services performed , rather than lump sums for types of services.

MIAMI BEACH

On Wednesday, the Miami Beach Commission discussed as passed several resolutions related to the approval of its state legislative package and opposition to Destination Casinos.

The state legislative package was approved to include the following legislative critical priorities:

- Funding for the Miami Beach Convention Center & Conference Facility Expansion
- Opposition to the Destination Resorts / Gaming Bills
- Opposition to Enhanced County Authority over Community Redevelopment Agencies
- Beach Re-nourishment
- Interstate-395 Expansion Funding
- Miami Beach Funding

(please contact OIA for a copy of the legislative package)

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO REJECT ANY AND ALL EXPANSIONS OF GAMBLING, INCLUDING LEGISLATION TO LEGALIZE "DESTINATION CASINOS" IN FLORIDA.

Additionally, the commission voted to hire Miami-Dade Police to probe into allegations that the publicly subsidized Miami Beach Police Athletic League (PAL) was used as a slush fund for some board members and employees.

The decision to hire Miami-Dade Police came after City Manager Jorge Gonzalez wrote a letter to Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Rundle last month asking her to reopen a criminal investigation into PAL. Her public corruption unit looked at a city audit and a Miami Beach Police probe into the charity in 2009, but was found to lack evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

MIAMI

This week, City Manager Johnny Martinez announced that Manuel Orosa will serve as the new Chief of Miami Police. Orosa is inheriting a department which is currently under investigation by the Department of Justice for seven fatal police-involved shootings over a six month period last year. Since taking over as acting chief when Miguel Exposito was suspended in September, Orosa implemented changes including scaling back on aggressive undercover operations and putting

more uniformed police on local beats. Orosa will be challenged to solve “systemic deficiencies” federal prosecutors suspect.

CUTLER BAY

The nationally recognized SEED Foundation school is looking to open one its sites in Cutler Bay. Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart’s wife, Tia Balart, has led the efforts to bring SEED to South Florida and has been named the project director of the school.

The site that has been chosen had been previously leased to a boarding school for juvenile delinquent, which was shut down by the state in 2009 after repeated incidents of medical neglect, escapes, inadequate staffing and financial problems.

The 44-acre site has dormitory and classroom facilities and is owned by the Ethel & W, George Kennedy Foundation a local charity that hopes to lease the site to another nonprofit that benefits underserved children.

But after the town’s bad experience with the site, last week the town council voted to revoke the sites land use permits and wants the foundation to reapply for it. This could bring legal strife, since under the Fifth Amendment to the US Constitution, the government can’t “take” private property without paying for it, and courts sometimes hold that regulations limiting land use can amount to “taking”.

Currently talks between SEED’s attorney and the town are underway in hopes to reach an amicable solution.

KEY BISCAZYNE

Last week, the Key Biscayne Village Council unanimously voted (initially 5-2 vote) to hire John C. Gilbert as village manager. Gilbert was Key Biscayne’s fire chief. He has been serving as the interim manager and has worked for the village since 1993. He has held village positions that include deputy fire chief, acting public works director and public safety director.

MIAMI SPRINGS

On Monday, in a 4-1 vote, the Miami Springs City Council selected current assistant manager, Ron Gorland as the new city manager. Gorland was selected from a field pool

of 73 candidates that applied from across the county. Gorland replaces Jim Borgmann, who served as city manager since 2003 and retires in January.

Gorland's family is considered Miami Spring pioneers; He attended Miami Springs Elementary, Miami Springs Junior High and Hialeah Senior High. Gorland was an Army major in Vietnam and was awarded seven combat medals, including the Bronze Star for Valor. He lives nearby city hall with his wife and two daughters.

The city manager job pays \$100,000 a year plus benefits. Gorland will commence his new position in January.

BISCAYNE PARK

On Tuesday, December 6th, the Village of Biscayne Park held its municipal elections. Newcomers Noah Jacobs and Barbara Watts were elected to the village's commission, along with Bob Anderson who has held a commission seat for 15 years.

The two who received the most votes, Watts and Anderson will receive four-year terms. Watts, who received the most votes, will serve as the village mayor. Jacob's seat will be up for election in two years.

FPL Transmission Line Corridor Alternatives:

On Wednesday, several municipalities met in Coral Gables, including the City of Miami, Village of Pinecrest, City of Coral Gables, and Miami Dade's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, to identify and pursue viable alternatives to the proposed FPL Transmission Line corridors, including filing legislation with the Florida Legislature. The meeting was a brainstorming exercise where various options were discussed. The options identified will continue to be vetted and another meeting will be scheduled (TBA).

Save the Date:

What: Miami Dade League of Cities 58th Annual Gala

When: Saturday, February 18, 2012

Where: Jungle Island, 1111 Parrot Jungle Trail

