

WASHINGTON WEEKLY REPORT JANUARY 6 – JANUARY 10, 2014

(The following is an overview of D.C. activities concerning Miami-Dade County, the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, the County's Congressional Delegation & the Administration)

THE SENATE WAS IN SESSION

THE HOUSE WAS IN SESSION

REP. ROS-LEHTINEN PENS OP-ED LAUDING MIA'S BOOMING GROWTH & BRIGHT FUTURE

MIA — FLYING INTO A NEW ERA

Flying back and forth to Washington almost every week, I spend as much time as anyone at Miami International Airport, or MIA.

In 2013, a record 40 million passengers passed through MIA's doors on their way to their destinations. MIA's international passenger growth rate of approximately 24 percent over the past five years has been nothing short of astounding for South Floridians who remember what it looked like only a decade ago. Whether they were coming or going, these passengers all experienced one of the best places Miami has to offer, the airport. Yes, that's right, the airport.

MIA has benefitted from steady leadership and guidance. Emilio Gonzalez and his expert team have worked diligently to secure federal funds and increase efficiencies in a place that many would consider ungovernable. One only needs to stand at a terminal for five minutes to appreciate the breadth of their task.

However, the South Florida delegation and I have been dogged in our determination to get the federal resources necessary to make MIA a world-class airport. I've worked to make sure Miami's reputation for sparkling beaches and plentiful sun is enhanced by its airport, our gateway to much of the world. Our community recently benefitted from a grant of \$101 million from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) — the second-largest grant ever from the agency.

This Other Transaction Agreement, or OTA, is crucial to funding construction of a new automated checked baggage system for MIA's Central and South terminals and will absorb 90 percent of the construction's cost. There will also be construction of more passenger corridors for ease of travel. The federal alphabet soup notwithstanding, this is good news for MIA and South Floridians.

Recently, self-service passport kiosks were installed at MIA's North Terminal. These kiosks will help alleviate wait times by allowing travelers to scan their passport

themselves and proceed to the security line without additional delay. In this age of self-checkout at supermarkets, drug stores and some malls, it makes sense that MIA should have the most up-to-date and customer-friendly technology in order to help not only the traveler but also airport personnel who must manage increased traffic through one of Miami-Dade County's main economic engines.

Airport security personnel, the linchpin of any successful airport, have also long-needed relief during peak travel hours. I'm proud to have fought for the implementation of a program that allows the Miami-Dade Aviation Department to reimburse Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for extra man-hours to better handle the heightened international traffic at MIA.

Our airport is one of only three in the nation selected for this important program to help travelers. Although we highlight the versatility of one of Miami's farthest-reaching transportation hubs, we must also keep in mind that there are those who want to do us harm or violate our laws who make use of the same facilities.

It is imperative that we always be vigilant and work to deter those who would cause mayhem at our airport and in our community. In addition to helping secure our community and one of our prized economic hubs, the addition of more CBP officers will allow for a further streamlining of queue lines and will also help in the reduction of wait times. These positive steps to add more officers will not only help South Floridians but improve the experience of the travelers who use MIA, too.

The future is bright for MIA. In addition to more CBP personnel, improvements to the airport are making travelling a more efficient and pleasant experience. There's no limit to the heights our airport can reach.

MIA DIRECTOR GONZÁLEZ PENS OP-ED IN MIAMI HERALD

MIA SOARS AS AN ECONOMIC ENGINE

Miami International Airport has long been Miami-Dade County's No. 1 economic engine. As a public enterprise fund, MIA generates nearly \$33 billion in positive economic impact for our community, supports one out of every four local jobs and drives commerce and trade at no cost to local taxpayers.

It's a distinction that our airport family is especially proud of and one that holds more weight than ever before since 2013 saw our global gateway shatter records, improve service and significantly expand its international reach. MIA also has firmly established itself as an economic impact leader for the state of Florida as well, outpacing Disney World and the cruise industry in that critical metric.

Nearly 70 percent of Florida's total international passenger traffic flies through MIA, and the airport continues to serve more international passengers than all other U.S. airports with the lone exception of New York's JFK. Statistically, the Gateway of the Americas

had its best year ever in 2013, reaching the 40-million annual passenger mark for the first time — the equivalent of the combined populations of Florida and New York.

On the cargo side, MIA continues to be America's No. 1 airport for international freight and ranks ninth in the world. Our latest statistics show that MIA's air trade accounts for 97 percent of the dollar value of Florida's total air imports and 44 percent of Florida's total air and sea trade with the world.

While numbers and statistics are one way to measure our success, MIA's first commitment is to the people behind those figures. In 2013, we placed a renewed focus on customer service, beginning with an aggressive plan to modernize our badly outmoded local taxicab industry. I remain convinced that visitors to our world-class community deserve nothing less than world-class treatment from touchdown to departure.

Direct communication with our customers is also of vital importance, and the recent launch of MIA's award-winning social media channels has been quickly embraced by many of travelers. Technology is also paving the way to shorter wait times for international arrivals at MIA. The November launch of automated passport control kiosks in our North Terminal is already paying dividends for travelers at America's second-busiest port of entry. They have enjoyed shorter average wait times and a smoother overall entry process.

A hard-earned \$101 million grant from the TSA for a new baggage handling system ensures that passengers' luggage will continue to be quickly and smoothly screened, as well.

Last year also saw the addition of seven new international routes, giving MIA an even broader global network. Our patrons can now enjoy direct access to key destinations, including Calgary, Cozumel, Milan, and Porto Alegre and Curitiba in Brazil, site of this year's World Cup. On the eve of that worldwide sports event, MIA is positioned to be the leading gateway for fans of the *jogo bonito* from across the world, boasting more Brazilian destinations than any other U.S. airport — a total of 10 beginning next month. MIA's global reach will further expand in 2014 with new service to Belem, Brazil; Brussels, Belgium; and Doha, Qatar. These destinations represent exciting new travel options for our customers. They also represent new jobs for Miami-Dade County residents, additional visitors and tax revenue to our community and state and fresh opportunities for international trade and commerce. Furthermore, we continue to aggressively court air carriers around the world to strategically extend our far-reaching route network.

With the support of Mayor Carlos Gimenez and the Board of County Commissioners, MIA stands poised to build upon last year's achievements. The MIA family greets 2014 with a renewed focus on our proven formula for success and a strong commitment to powering the economy forward. Even greater things are in store for this leading state and community asset.

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, OIA ON THE HILL

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) leadership and staff were in Washington this week for a series of meetings with the state's Congressional delegation and administration officials. OIA and the federal contract lobbyists were asked to participate in meetings with the offices of Congressmen Mario Diaz-Balart and Joe Garcia.

The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the National Florida Insurance Program. On October 1 new rates will take effect based on a FEMA study on flood insurance affordability. These new rates will potentially have steep financial implications for many homeowners in Florida and the Gulf States.

Legislation introduced by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) seeks a four year delay on the new rates and is supported by the National Association of Homebuilders, National Association of Realtors, American Bankers Association and Independent Community Bankers.

The House has a narrower bill, H. R. 3693, that would delay rate hikes until March 1, 2015. Republicans are opposed to reversing the premium increases which fund the \$24 billion deficit in the National Flood Insurance Program. It is unclear when the House will take up their legislation. *(Provided by OIA and the Patton Boggs Federal Lobbying Team)*

MDPD INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FOR HAITIAN NATIONAL POLICE

The Miami-Dade Police Department is continuing its innovative training program with the U.S. State Department for the Haitian National Police, Counter Narcotics Unit, Bureau de Lutte Contre le Traffic de Stupefiants from Tuesday, January 7, 2014, Friday, January 24, 2014.

The partnership between the Haitian National Police and MDPD has been ongoing for some time under the leadership of Director Patterson and by Ambassador William Brownfield (Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs). A memorandum of understanding established agreements between the State Department and MDPD, which have tapped the strong expertise and resources within the department to train the Haitian National Police.

SEN. RUBIO DELIVERS REMARKS ON INCOME MOBILITY & THE AMERICAN DREAM

To mark the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson's declaration of the "War on Poverty", on Wednesday, Senator Marco Rubio delivered remarks on reforming anti-poverty programs and improving income mobility in America. The speech, was hosted by the American Enterprise Institute, and delivered in the Lyndon B. Johnson Room in the United States Capitol.

For the text of the speech please use the following link: [Rubio Speech](#)

REP. GARCIA URGES HOUSE MEMBERS TO EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

On Thursday, Congressman Joe Garcia addressed fellow House members urging them to find solutions to boost the economy and get people back to work. Unemployment Insurance ended at the end of December, leaving millions of Americans without crucial benefits.

“As our economy gets back on track, our priority in Congress must be to find common-sense solutions that boost our economy. With every \$1 that is spent on unemployment insurance generating a \$1.55 in economic activity, we cannot afford to wait on extending a vital lifeline for millions of Americans in the House. Yet because of this inaction, 73,000 (and counting) hardworking Floridians have already lost means to put food on their tables and to pay bills in the new year. ”

Earlier in the day, Congressman Garcia and 48 freshman colleagues sent a letter to Speaker John Boehner calling on an immediate up-or-down vote to extend long-term unemployment insurance. Congressman Garcia also cosponsored H.R. 3824, legislation identical to the bill advancing in the Senate to extend unemployment insurance for 3 months.

SENS. NELSON & RUBIO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION SEEKING IRAN'S COOPERATION WITH LEVINSON CASE

On Thursday, the Senator adopted a resolution urging the Iranian government to assist in the investigation of a missing retired FBI agent Robert Levinson, nearly seven years since he disappeared.

The resolution adopted by unanimous consent, calls on Iranian officials to intensify efforts to find Levinson, who has been missing since March of 2007. The Senate Foreign Relations panel approved the resolution by voice vote on Dec. 18, 2013.

Levinson, of Coral Springs, Fla., went to Iran while apparently researching a cigarette-smuggling case. The Associated Press and The Washington Post reported in December that Levinson also has ties to the CIA.

The resolution would urge the president and U.S. allies to continue to raise the Levinson case with Iranian officials at every opportunity. President Barack Obama reportedly spoke about the Levinson case during a September phone conversation with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. The measure also asks the Iranian government to immediately share the results of its investigation, as a humanitarian gesture.

Florida lawmakers have also introduced a House companion bill (H Res 435). The measure was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee but the panel has not acted on the resolution. (SOURCE: CQ)

CHAIRMAN ROGERS FILES A SHORT-TERM CR AS OMNIBUS NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers filed a “clean” three-day continuing resolution (CR) Friday that would keep the federal government open while allowing for extra time for leaders to complete a \$1.012 trillion omnibus that would fund agencies through Sept. 30.

According to House GOP appropriations committee staff, the short-term stopgap would last through the end of the day on Jan. 18 and that the House is slated to take up the measure on Monday. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia said he expected to take up the stopgap bill under suspension. The current CR expires Jan. 15 and lawmakers must pass the omnibus or another stopgap measure in order to avert a government shutdown next week.

“In order to take it up Monday and make it timely for the 15th, we had to file it today,” Rogers said. But Rogers added that the need for another CR does not suggest an impasse on the omnibus talks, which have been ongoing for more than three weeks and through the holidays. He said negotiations are progressing and that the spending package will “probably” be released on Sunday or Monday. *“We’re making good progress,”* he said. *“We’ve had to deal with a trillion-dollar, year-long [omnibus] for the entire government in 30 days including Christmas and New Year’s, so it’s a huge bill.”*

Meantime, Rogers indicated that negotiations with Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara A. Mikulski and her staff will continue through the day on Friday and that he will stay in Washington over the weekend to wrap up talks. Details of the short-term CR were not immediately released.

House Minority Whip Steny H. Hoyer said on the floor on Friday that because of the large gap between funding levels under the House-Senate budget agreement (H J Res 59) and the levels for discretionary spending that were set earlier for 2013 and 2014 he would want to see a larger negotiation if further CRs are needed beyond next week. (Source: CQ)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMO – ATTACHED

Attached please find a memorandum from the Patton Boggs Federal Lobbying Team, providing a comprehensive update for local governments regarding actions on notable federal legislation and regulatory issues in 2013, as well as a forecast for activities in 2014.

FYI: MIAMI HEAT TO VISIT WHITE HOUSE

On Tuesday, January 14th, the reigning NBA Champion Miami Heat will be honored at the White House by President Obama commemorating their back-to-back

championships won in 2012 and 2013. The Heat is in town to play the Washington Wizards on Wednesday the 15th.

LOOKING AHEAD

January 13 – January 17, 2014:

- The House will be in session
- The Senate will be in session

January 28, 2014

- The President's State of the Union address to a joint session of the United States Congress

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