

# Memorandum



Date: **October 7, 2008**

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess  
County Manager 

Subject: Status Report - Homestead Air Show

Agenda Item No. 12(B)2

The following information is provided pursuant to Resolution No. R-280-08, sponsored by Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, directing the Mayor or his designee to investigate the feasibility of partnering with the Homestead Air Reserve Base to stage an air show in Miami-Dade County. The following information is preliminary in nature as County staff, in conjunction with Commissioner Moss, continues to meet with representatives from the City of Homestead, Homestead Race Track, United States Air Force and the Beacon Council.

Planning meetings to discuss the feasibility of conducting an air show in Miami-Dade County in the latter part of 2009 continue to take place. These early planning meetings have focused on combining an air show with the already successful Rib and Wine Fest in South Dade and with NASCAR's final race of year at the Homestead Race Track. The combined "November Fest" events would be held on different weekends starting as early as November 2009.

The air demonstration component of "November Fest" would be held at Homestead Air Base or a combination of the Base and the Homestead Race Track facility where ample seating, restrooms, concessions and parking are available. An aircraft static display is also envisioned for the track property.

The Air Show idea is, however, predicated on the Homestead Air Reserve Base getting a high-profile flying demonstration event such as the Blue Angels or Thunderbirds. According to Base representatives, an application was submitted in August to the Department of Defense (DOD). A final announcement by the DOD is expected in December as to which applications will be awarded a flight demonstration team.

The Beacon Council has also been actively engaged in attracting a "Paris Air Show" type event to South Florida. Preliminary meetings between the Beacon Council and the promoters of the Paris Air Show have been very positive and promising. The Beacon Council is planning on going back to Paris in the fall of this year to give them a presentation on the possibilities of having a Paris type show here.

We will keep the Board apprised of progress on this effort as much work remains to be done by all the parties before a regional air show can be realized in Miami-Dade County.

  
Assistant County Manager