November 4, 2008
B & F
Agenda Item No. 1D1

Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: October 28, 2008

To: Honorable Joe A. Martinez, Chair
and Members, Budget and Finance Committee

From: Joe I. Rasco
Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Subject: Proposed Draft 2009 Federal Legislative Package

RECOMMENDATION

Transmitted herewith is the Miami-Dade County 2009 Preliminary Federal Legislative Priorities package for your consideration. Additional individual meetings with Commissioners will be scheduled to review the final legislative package.

BACKGROUND

On October 27, 2008, our offices held a final meeting to review the legislative requests submitted by County departments. The County Manager has approved the requests herein from all the departments. The proposed 2009 federal package, including priorities, is provided hereto as an attachment.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
2009 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

CRITICAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

AVIATION

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Cargo Staffing at Miami International Airport: ADVOCATE for adequate CBP staffing which is critical in reducing wait times for international arriving passengers as well as cargo inspections thereby minimizing inconvenience and business costs.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Staffing: ADVOCATE for sufficient Transportation Security Administration (TSA) staffing levels for security checkpoints and baggage screening operations at Miami International Airport (MIA). The number of inspectors assigned by TSA to MIA is an administrative matter, but the number of inspectors authorized for TSA nationwide is a legislative issue impacted by appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security.

CORRECTIONS

Second Chance Act: ADVOCATE for adequate funding for local grants to implement meaningful reentry programs as alternatives to incarceration to rehabilitative offenders and reduce recidivism as set forth in the Second Chance Act of 2007.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) – ADVOCATE preserving the Community Development Block Grant Program within the Department of Housing and Urban Development and maintaining or increasing current levels of funding.

POLICE

Byrne-Justice Grant: ADVOCATE for funding of the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant, as well as continued funding to enhance law enforcement communication at the patrol level to include programs such as E-Police, E-Notify, Sexual Crimes Predator Unit, Command Post, Crime Lab, and Crime stoppers electronic components.

PROCUREMENT

Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act: ADVOCATE for the repeal of Section 511, a government withholding provision under the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (PL 109-222). Without the repeal, state and local governments will receive no funding from the federal government in exchange for the 3% tax. Additionally, governments will likely have to make programming changes to financial and accounting systems, purchase new software, register vendors and possibly hire additional staff to keep up with new data files and paper reports.

Federal GSA Contract/Schedules: ADVOCATE for legislation that would allow local jurisdictions access to federal GSA contract/schedules for the purchase of environmentally conscious "green" products and services. The ability to access federal contracts will afford Miami-Dade County additional purchasing options to meet operational needs. Additionally, access to these contracts may result in better pricing, terms and conditions due to the advantages derived from federal purchasing volumes.

SUSTAINABILITY

Climate Change: ADVOCATE for the recognition and support of the essential role local governments play in addressing climate change. By enhancing federal support for mainstreaming climate change into local government policies will enable local governments to move closer to setting realistic goals for both climate change mitigation (emission reduction, avoidance, and substitution) and adaptation (improving resilience to potential climate change)

WATER AND SEWER

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure: SUPPORT legislation that would authorize or appropriate funding for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure and security needs.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
2009 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

CRITICAL APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES

DERM

Beach Erosion Restoration: SUPPORT efforts to secure $8.25 million for nourishment of eroded segments of the Miami-Dade Beach erosion and hurricane protection project. The project will include the placement of sand eroded portions of the 13 mile long Miami-Dade shore protection project from approximately 63rd to 84th, and 25th to 46th street Miami Beach.

ETSD

Interoperability: SUPPORT efforts to secure $4 million to purchase software and radios to improve public safety radio interoperability and communications between neighboring public safety agencies that requires effective command, control, coordination, communication, and sharing of information with numerous criminal justice and public safety agencies, as public utilities, transportation agencies, and private industry.

JUVENILE SERVICES

National Demonstration Project: SUPPORT a $1 million funding request for the continuation of funding for JAC National Demonstration Project. The Project develops effective assessment tools, interventions and treatments to reduce the number of arrested youth in the system.

POLICE

Mortgage Fraud Task Force: SUPPORT efforts to secure $1 million to create a mortgage fraud task force national model to train those identified communities which represent the ten (10) highest concentrated areas affected by mortgage fraud on implementing a Mortgage Fraud Task Force at the community level. The Miami-Dade County MFTF will serve as the model based on its proven performance. The national model will be coordinated by Miami-Dade County and administered by the US DOJ.

PUBLIC WORKS

Venetian Causeway Bridges: SUPPORT efforts to secure $5 million for design and construction for Venetian Causeway Bridges which serve and link the City of Miami and Miami Beach. The new bridges will have a life expectancy of 75 years. The new bridges will be designed for new AASHTO highway loading and which will allow unlimited emergency and construction vehicle access.

SEAPORT

Miami Harbor PED: SUPPORT appropriation request of $2.7 million for Miami Harbor Channel General Reevaluation Report Implementation, Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design. Support funding request for the authorized recommended improvements provided by WRDA 2007 (H.R. 1495) for preconstruction, engineering and design of the recommended project. This will address the federal share at 100% of anticipated costs for plans and specifications preparation.

TRANSIT

Orange Line Phase 2: SUPPORT funding request of $100 million for a 9.5-mile heavy rail project that would run along 27th Avenue, with the northern terminus point connecting to Broward County's bus system at the County line and a southern terminus at the existing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Station at 62nd Street.

Orange Line Phase 3: SUPPORT funding request of $10 million for a 10.1 mile heavy rail project that will connect Florida International University to the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) adjacent to Miami International Airport. This project offers a critically needed rail alternative to commuters in west Miami-Dade County with convenient transportation to major employment centers and key destinations.

WATER AND SEWER

Water Transmission Pipeline: SUPPORT appropriation request of $6.25 million for construction of common water transmission pipeline (South Miami-Dade Reclaimed Wastewater Conveyance). The County received authorization for $6.25 million in federal funds in WRDA 2007 to be used in support for water reuse supply and a common water transmission pipeline to deliver reclaimed water from the South District WWTP to the FPL facility and to the new WRP.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
2009 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ADVOCACY

Jubilee Act: ADVOCATE for the reintroduction of the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation or similar legislation that includes provisions for Haiti debt relief.

Temporary Protected Status: ADVOCATE for Temporary Protected Status to Haitians, Central Americans and other immigrants already in the US who have fled conditions of malnutrition, endemic violence, economic devastation and natural disaster in their countries of origin.

Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act (HRIFA): ADVOCATE for the reintroduction of HRIFA and to permit adjustment of status of Haitian "airplane refugees" who would otherwise have been eligible for legal permanent status under HRIFA. Additionally, **SUPPORT** language in the bill that permits the children of successful applicants to freeze the applicant's age as the filing date of the parent's application.

Family Re-unification Package: ADVOCATE for the reintroduction of provisions/language in an immigration reform bill that includes a path to citizenship for hardworking immigrants as well as reunification of families and a safe and orderly process for enabling willing immigrant workers to fill essential jobs in our economy and ensure full labor rights.

Immigrant Worker Protection Program: ADVOCATE for the creation of a worker visa program that adequately protects the wages and working conditions of US and immigrant workers as well as protects undocumented workers by providing a path to permanent status.

Border Security: SUPPORT legislation that enforcement includes smart inspections and screening practices, fair proceedings, efficient processing, strategies that crack down on criminal smugglers, measures that get tough with lawbreaking employers and reduce illegality. **OPPOSE** the criminalization of immigration and combine effective and humane enforcement with wider legal channels for those seeking to enter our country.

Dream Act: OPPOSE federal provisions that discourage states from providing in-state tuition without regard to immigration status; **SUPPORT** some immigrant students who have grown up in the U.S. to apply for temporary legal status and to eventually obtain permanent status and become eligible for citizenship if they meet certain conditions; **SUPPORT** the extension to authorize Federal reimbursement for hospitals that provide

emergency care to undocumented immigrants; **SUPPORT** federal funding for resettlement of refugees.

AGRICULTURE

Tropical Crops: ADVOCATE for change in the definition of Tropical Regions to include South Florida. CFR 7, Subpart F, Section 1437.501 (b)(1) pertaining to the production and coverage of tropical crops for the USDA's Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program does not include South Florida in their definition of Tropical Regions leaving tropical crops uninsured for several critical months of the year.

Tree Canopy: SUPPORT federal programs and incentives for tree planting. In 1996, Miami-Dade County was found to have only had a 10% tree cover, while 30% was the average in American cities and with the extensive damage having occurred after Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma in 2005, federal funding for tree planting that includes soil conservation, beautification, cooling, and reforestation is needed. Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation and the Community Image Manager both support this request.

AVIATION

Airport EDS Baggage Integration: ADVOCATE for 90% reimbursement from TSA for the North Terminal in-line terminal modifications and believes TSA has the administrative authority to negotiate a reimbursement with a 10% local match. The 9/11 Recommendations legislation, passed following the FY 2007 supplemental appropriations, directs TSA to reimburse airports at a 90% rate using the Letter of Intent (LOI) process. The federal government should reimburse airports at the same rate, especially since grants from both the FY 2007 supplemental and the 2008 appropriations bills are being issued simultaneously.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Cargo Staffing at Miami International Airport: ADVOCATE for adequate CBP staffing which is critical in reducing wait times for international arriving passengers as well as cargo inspections thereby minimizing inconvenience and business costs.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Staffing: ADVOCATE for sufficient Transportation Security Administration (TSA) staffing levels for security checkpoints and baggage screening operations at Miami International Airport (MIA). The number of inspectors assigned by TSA to MIA is an administrative matter, but the number of inspectors authorized for TSA nationwide is a legislative issue impacted by appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security.

Extension of Runway 9R/27 at Kendall-Tamiami Executive Airport: SUPPORT efforts to secure discretionary Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding for runway extension. The runway will be extended 550 feet at the east (27L) end and 1,798 feet at the west (9R) end.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Staffing: OPPOSE legislation that would allow the restriction importation locations of commodities that require FDA inspection, including medicine, cosmetics, dog food and eyeglasses, to ports of entry with an FDA testing facility. There is no facility in Miami, and this could jeopardize operations of tenants importing these types of products at MIA. Support appropriate staffing for FDA inspections at MIA and advocate for a testing facility in Miami on a permanent basis or through the use of one of the agency's mobile testing lounges which could be sent to Miami.

K-9 Facility: SUPPORT efforts to secure $2 million for a K-9 facility capable of boarding 14 K-9 units and offices for Miami-Dade Police Department. Additionally, TSA is also expanding their K-9 teams but they currently have no facilities to house them. MIA is a leader among U.S. airports in the use of K-9 teams.

Biometric Access Control System: SUPPORT efforts to secure $2 million for design and hardware associated with installing a biometric access control system at MIA. Adding biometric components to the security procedures requires that each individual entering a secure space would have to submit an index finger or iris scan as and added security measure.

Airport Operations and Communications Center: SUPPORT efforts to secure $2 million for an Airport Operations and Communications Center (AOCC). The AOCC would require a construction build out for a highly secure space located in the airport terminal. There are hardware, software and secure communications infrastructure that would have to be built for the AOCC and to connect terminal wide. The AOCC would integrate all security and command and control functions, greatly improving efficiencies in these areas, particularly in managing emergencies. The AOCC would also provide integrated audio and video surveillance and communications capabilities for directing field operations in the airside, terminal or landside areas of the airport and has been identified as a critical security need.

BCCO

Building Code Enforcement: ADVOCATE for the passage of S 2458 or similar legislation that would allow Building Code agencies to apply for federal matching grants to help the enforcement of the Florida Building code. With matching funds, additional personnel could be added to assist in compliance, education and proper enforcement.

CAA

Community Service Block Grant: ADVOCATE for the passage of the reauthorization legislation of the CSBG Program and support funding recommended in the FY 2009-2010 Labor HHS bill.

Head Start Programs: ADVOCATE for increase funding in Head Start/Early Head Start programs to support the salaries of Teacher Assistants working in classrooms as a result of new professional development requirements.

Corporation for National and Community Service: ADVOCATE for the passage of the reauthorization legislation of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The funding to support the maintenance of the Corporation for National and Community Service is critical to the network of community based agencies and organizations that provide essential services to the elderly population. The Foster Grandparents, Senior Companion Program, and Retired Seniors Volunteer Program are funded through CNCS.

CONSUMER SERVICES

Preemption Regulations: OPPOSE any federal legislation that would aim to preempt regulation and enforcement by local government in motor vehicle repair; moving; locksmith; wrecker services (towing); motor vehicle title loan; and vehicle immobilization.

Ground Transportation Fees: OPPOSE any federal amendments to the Real Interstate Driver Equity Act of 2002 that would prohibit an operator of a transportation terminal that is the recipient of federal funds, including airports and seaports, from charging fees to providers of pre-arranged group transportation.

CORRECTIONS

Second Chance Act: ADVOCATE for adequate funding for local grants to implement meaningful reentry programs as alternatives to incarceration to rehabilitative offenders and reduce recidivism as set forth in the Second Chance Act of 2007.

State Criminal Alien Program: ADVOCATE for adequate funding for the (SCAPP) program to enable local jurisdiction to recoup cost for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens, or maintained at the funding levels of FY '09-11 as authorized by the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program Reauthorization Act of 1005.

National Institute of Corrections: ADVOCATE for the restoration of federal funding for the National Institute of Correction; which was slated to be eliminated in the Federal Budget for fiscal year 2009-09. The NIC provides assistance to state and local corrections departments nationwide and has proven to be an invaluable source of information, training and technical assistance to the nation's jails and professionals.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

National Endowment for the Arts: ADVOCATE for increase funding for the National Endowment of the Arts and any other legislation supporting arts programs funding.

DERM

Beach Erosion Restoration: SUPPORT efforts to secure $8.25 million for nourishment of eroded segments of the Miami-Dade Beach erosion and hurricane protection project. The project will include the placement of sand eroded portions of the 13 mile long Miami-Dade shore protection project from approximately 63rd to 84th, and 25th to 46th street Miami Beach.

Miami River Dredging: SUPPORT efforts to secure $11 million for the dredging of the federal portion of the Miami River. The Miami River sediments are contaminated by past pollution and do not meet federal criteria for ocean disposal, they must be disposed of at an upland site, such as a lined landfill.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) – ADVOCATE preserving the Community Development Block Grant Program within the Department of Housing and Urban Development and maintaining or increasing current levels of funding. The CDBG program's primary objective is to assist in the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and to expand economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. Miami-Dade County allocates $22 million annually to fund a wide variety of CDBG eligible programs, projects and activities that address the needs of underdeveloped and underserved areas, and which are targeted to meet the needs of very low and moderate income persons.

Economic Development: SUPPORT efforts in Congress to provide economic stimulus and relief such as the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, to address the foreclosure crisis in Miami-Dade. **SUPPORT** efforts to include local governments in Congressional efforts to fund investment in infrastructure for ready-to-go transportation, bridge and roads projects that will stimulate jobs and the economy. **SUPPORT** efforts to ensure that local government bonds are protected in times of economic crisis.

ELDERLY SERVICES

Older American's Act: **ADVOCATE** for the expansion and continued funding to the Older American's Act to include preventive services where by the older adult may remain in their home.

Social Security Program: **SUPPORT** preserving overall Social Security program while ensuring current levels of benefits in the coming future beyond 2032

ETSD

Interoperability: SUPPORT efforts to secure $4 million to purchase software and radios to improve public safety radio interoperability and communications between neighboring public safety agencies that requires effective command, control, coordination, communication, and sharing of information with numerous criminal justice and public safety agencies, as public utilities, transportation agencies, and private industry.

Project 25 Open Standard System: **ADVOCATE** for the Department of Homeland Security or Congress to support a gradual migration towards open-standards based radio communication systems (Project 25) that would provide improved local and regional interoperable communications including establishing IP capable technologies at the network core to allow rapid incorporation of new entrants into the Miami-Dade County interoperable community. The existing public safety radio infrastructure is nearly fifteen (15) years old and many of the radios are obsolete and no longer manufactured.

INSURANCE

NATIONAL CATASTROPHIC FUND: SUPPORT a bill to provide critical relief to homeowners suffering from the escalating insurance crisis by establishing a national catastrophic program to increase access to insurance and protect consumers. Legislation is needed to create a venue for state-sponsored insurance funds to voluntarily bundle their catastrophe risk with one another, and then transfer that risk to the private markets through the use of catastrophe bonds and reinsurance contracts. Last year, a similar bill passed the House but stalled in the Senate – however, both the Democratic Platform and the Republican Platform have endorsed creation of a national cat fund.

FIRE RESCUE

Air Rescue Helicopter Hangar Complex: SUPPORT efforts to secure $8 million for the construction of an Air Rescue Helicopter Hangar Complex consisting of a hanger and Air Rescue North operations facility to protect Bell 412 helicopter near Opa Locka Airport. Helicopters have been unsecured since 2000 and exposed to harsh weather and corrosive elements.

Medicare Signature Requirement: ADVOCATE rescinding CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) signature requirement for patients transported by public EMS. This function can be done administratively.

USDA Property Acquisition: SUPPORT efforts to purchase property from United States Department of Agriculture to build new fire station to serve Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay, and surrounding community.

Urban Search and Rescue (US&R): SUPPORT H.R. 6658, the "Disaster Response, Recovery, and Mitigation Enhancement Act," or similar legislation, which codifies the National Urban Search and Rescue System and Citizen Corps - programs that FEMA is currently administering under the authority of the Stafford Act but are not expressly authorized in statute. The legislation also authorized $52 million in funding for the National Urban Search and Rescue System which will provide needed funding so that Sponsoring Agencies (SA), such as Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami do not have to absorb much of the soft costs associated with participating in this valuable national program that provides assistance to communities around the US when facing disasters.

National Hurricane Research: **SUPPORT** H.R. 2407, the National Hurricane Research Initiative or similar legislation to provide up to $285 million for better tracking, models, or planning as it relates to hurricanes and/or all-hazards. The bill would provide funding for an infrastructure database as it would help develop a national inventory of resources for recovery from disasters. The bill also funds research promoting durable and resilient infrastructure as well as grants for DHS to develop and make available a description of best practices to carry out grant awards.

HEALTH

Ryan White Funding: ADVOCATE for increase funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006, specifically Part A and Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Programs. There is an increased need for HIV/AIDS services nationwide due to higher rates of HIV infection among indigent populations and longer life spans among people living with HIV/AIDS. Miami-Dade County ranks second among large metropolitan areas in people living with AIDS.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI): ADVOCATE for change in UASI designation to include Miami-Dade County as a named city based on Miami-Dade's unique role under the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter as the "municipal government of the unincorporated areas of Dade County." Miami-Dade County unincorporated area has a population of 1.2 million residents. Under the charter of Miami-Dade County, the County is deemed a municipal government. Belcher Oil Co. v. Dade County, 271 So.2d 118 (Fla.1972). This designation change is needed so that the entire geographical area of unincorporated Miami-Dade County and it associated risk will be calculated in DHS's risk assessment of the Miami UASI. The DHS risk assessment determines the funding potential of the Miami UASI.

ITC

International Trade: SUPPORT efforts to secure funding to support international trade missions to promote trade between Miami-Dade County and other countries. These trade missions will assist to make Miami-Dade County not only the gateway to the Americas but to Asia, Africa, and the Middle-East.

JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

CMS Proposed Rule: ADVOCATE removing rules that would negatively impact public hospitals. Earlier this year, a moratorium on damaging CMS proposed rules to public hospitals had been extended. However, if not removed these cuts would impact Jackson by $129 million.

Medicaid: MONITOR any proposed cuts to the Medicaid Program and **ADVOCATE** for enhanced funding for the State of Florida through an increased federal assistance percentage.

Medicare: MONITOR regulations regarding changes to the Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS). Medicare will no longer reimburse hospitals for certain "never" events, which include falls, pressure ulcers and other "preventable" conditions.

IME: OPPOSE the elimination of the capital indirect medical education (IME) adjustments to teaching hospitals beginning in FY 2009. According to the rule, the IME adjustment would be reduced by 50 percent in FY 2009 and eliminated altogether in FY 2010 and beyond. This policy would result in approximately $5,000,000 in aggregate loss for FY 2009 to FY 2013 for Jackson Health System. The two year phase out period is scheduled to take effect October 1st, 2008.

RAC: SUPPORT the Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor Program Moratorium Act of 2007 or similar legislation that seeks to identify and correct improper Medicare payments paid to healthcare providers. The Recovery Audit Contractors (RAC) Program was created by the Medicare Modernization Act 2003, to identify and correct improper Medicare payments paid to healthcare providers. Over the course of the pilot, RAC recouped $992.7 million in overpayments to providers, while $37.8 million in underpayments were repaid as of March 27. However, there are a significant number of flaws with the existing program. Before full implementation we would like to see changes to the process and a reduction in the administrative burden to hospitals.

Funding: SUPPORT efforts of Jackson Memorial Hospital to secure funding for:

- Holtz Children's Hospital
- Campus Infrastructure & Equipment Needs
- Primary Care

340B Pricing: ADVOCATE for the expansion of the 340B Drug-Discount Program to inpatient pharmaceuticals, to ensure that public hospital pharmacies provide free and reduced cost pharmaceuticals to uninsured and low-income patients. In 1992, Congress created the 340B drug-discount program, which allows certain hospitals and clinics that serve vulnerable populations to purchase outpatient drugs at the Medicaid "best price" from pharmaceutical companies that participate in the Medicaid program. Eligible providers negotiate additional discounts from manufacturers as part of the program, obtaining prices that are 25 percent lower than those available from group purchasing organizations or other buying arrangements.

JUVENILE SERVICES

National Demonstration Project: **SUPPORT** a $1 million funding request for the continuation of funding for JAC National Demonstration Project. The Project develops effective assessment tools, interventions and treatments to reduce the number of arrested youth in the system.

LIBRARIES

Library Funding: ADVOCATE for federal funding to libraries to be maintained at current rate and to support legislation that enhances funding or programs.

MPO

Active Transportation: ADVOCATE for the inclusion of the new 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation as a new federal funding program within the upcoming transportation reauthorization bill to support bicycling and walking. This new funding program will provide $50M to each of 40 communities throughout the US (including Miami-Dade County) for non-motorized transportation projects like trails, bike lanes and sidewalks. This new program builds on the current "Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program" that was created by SAFETEA-LU and is providing $25M to four communities. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is assisting the selected communities with public outreach and legislative education to raise awareness of this opportunity.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Adapted Sports for Injured Veterans/Disability Sports: SUPPORT efforts to secure $500,000 for sports equipment and transportation to enable wounded veterans and other adults with disabilities as well as children with disabilities to learn how to play adapted tennis, basketball, golf and other sports using a wheelchair.

Bicycle Trails: SUPPORT efforts to secure $1 million for over 40 miles of bicycle trail that provides recreational access to Biscayne National Park, Cutler Bay/Black Creek and Snake Creek Trail and several of Florida's coastal habitats.

Fit to Play Program – Health & Fitness: SUPPORT a $350,000 funding request for the enhancement of Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Fit to Play Program. MDPR needs funding to purchase body mass indexing equipment to test ten of thousands of children participating in our summer and after school programs. Miami-Dade County is partnering with the University of Miami to teaching kids the importance of nutrition and physical activity to effectively reduce obesity in our children. Equipment is needed to test each kid and provide meaningful data proving that kids are healthier after the program than before. **SUPPORT** working with federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and National Institute of Health (NIH) for possible programmatic funding of our parks programs that promote healthier children and assist in the reduction of obesity among American youth, an issue of concern in both the Administration and Congress.

Camp Matecumbe: SUPPORT efforts to secure funding to develop a cultural and environmental center on the grounds of Camp Matecumbe. The proposed infrastructure will be guided by the principles of sustainability and green building practices and will provide community learning, gardening, walking and camping.

POLICE

Mobile Automated Fingerprint Identification System: SUPPORT efforts to secure $2.5 million for a Mobile Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). This system is a multi-county initiative that allows for wireless, mobilized automated fingerprint identification system to rapidly screen fingerprints and identify suspects across jurisdictional boundaries when most needed.

Mortgage Fraud Task Force: SUPPORT efforts to secure $1 million to create a mortgage fraud task force national model to train those identified communities which represent the ten (10) highest concentrated areas affected by mortgage fraud on implementing a Mortgage Fraud Task Force at the community level. The Miami-Dade County MFTF will serve as the model based on its proven performance. The national model will be coordinated by Miami-Dade County and administered by the US DOJ.

Recognition Training: SUPPORT efforts to secure $500,000 to offer a Behavior Pattern Recognition (BPR) Training Program to provide training to 240 police officers to detect behavior characteristics as another preventive measure in the anti-terrorism efforts. As result of this training, district personnel, in addition to the airport assigned personnel would have the necessary skills to seek and identify terrorist related activities.

Byrne-Justice Grant: ADVOCATE for funding of the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant as well as continued funding to enhance law enforcement communication at the patrol level to include programs such as E-Police, E-Notify, Sexual Crimes Predator Unit, Command Post, Crime Lab, and Crime stoppers electronic components.

DNA Forensic Grants: ADVOCATE for increase funding for DNA Forensic Casework Grants that would allow Miami-Dade County Crime Laboratory to enhance pre-screening evidence from both violent crimes and property crimes for the presence of biological material appropriated for DNA analysis.

Gun Bounty Program: SUPPORT efforts to secure $750,000 for training by the Miami-Dade County Police using the Gun Bounty Program as a national model.

Homeland Security Intelligence and Informational Database: SUPPORT efforts to secure $500,000 to create a Homeland Security Intelligence and Informational Database that will possess an electronic intelligence and information database that will integrate with existing software that is currently used by federal and state partners.

PROCUREMENT

Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act: ADVOCATE for the repeal of Section 511 a government withholding provision under the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (PL 109-222). Without the repeal, state and local governments will receive no funding from the federal government in exchange for the 3% tax. Additionally, governments will likely have to make programming changes to financial and accounting systems, purchase new software, register vendors and possibly hire additional staff to keep up with new data files and paper reports.

Federal GSA Contract/Schedules: ADVOCATE for legislation that would allow local jurisdictions access to federal GSA contract/schedules for the purchase of environmentally conscious "green" products and services. The ability to access federal contracts will afford Miami-Dade County additional purchasing options to meet operational needs. Additionally, access to these contracts may result in better pricing, terms and conditions due to the advantages derived from federal purchasing volumes.

PUBLIC WORKS

Venetian Causeway Bridges: SUPPORT efforts to secure $5 million for design and construction for Venetian Causeway Bridges which serve and link the City of Miami and Miami Beach. The new bridges will have a life expectancy of 75 years. The new bridges will be designed for new AASHTO highway loading and which will allow unlimited emergency and construction vehicle access.

Tamiami Canal Historic Swing Bridge: SUPPORT efforts to secure $2 million for design and construction of the Tamiami Canal Historic Swing Bridge. The existing bridge has a 22 ton load restriction which impacts daily commerce. The structural condition of the bridge is very serious and must be addressed. The operational system of the bridge is also in critical condition and may prevent operation of the bridge in the near future; MDCPWD has allocated a portion of GOB funds for temporary repairs. Additionally, the current bridge geometry does not allow for the required Hydraulic water flow or the anticipated increase in both navigational and vehicular traffic.

Traffic Management System: **SUPPORT** efforts to secure $2 million for a Communication Subsystem conversion Project for the Advance Traffic Management System. This funding is to hire a design/build team to design and install a new communication subsystem based on a hybrid wireless and fiber-optic technologies in order to bring back the amount of data (real-time video) needed for the optimization of traffic flow on the arterial network.

SEAPORT

Maritime Transportation Security Act: **MONITOR** for any legislative or regulatory developments relating to the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA), Public Law 107-295, enacted on November 25, 2002. Support continued congressional appropriations in Fiscal Year 2009 for the Seaport Security Grant Program of the Transportation Security Administration. Monitor any legislative developments to impose fees in order to pay for seaport security requirements. Support a dedicated source of funding for seaport security needs which does not involve additional fees. Support legislation that would establish a dedicated port security grants program within the Department of Homeland Security, to be paid for from duties collected by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency. Support legislation which expands the eligibility of the Seaport Security Grant Program to include operating costs (inclusive of salaries). Support provisions which allow local governments to petition the DHS for grant funds when a local agency is spending monies to perform what were formerly federal responsibilities. Support provisions which enable personnel expenses to be credited as "in kind" contributions towards the local share of the port security grant.

Water Resources Development Language: SUPPORT language in Water Resources Development legislation for port industry-identified refinements to the Act. These changes will have direct benefits for the industry and for the Miami-Dade County Seaport Department by increasing federal responsibility and cost-sharing in a number of areas.

Cruise Ships: MONITOR and SUPPORT legislation which would allow the Secretary of Transportation to issue permits to cruise ships already operating in other markets to operate in the United States domestic cruise trades, essentially permitting the operation of foreign-built cruise vessels in the domestic trades.

Harbor Maintenance Tax: SUPPORT and MONITOR legislation that would repeal the Harbor Maintenance Tax and authorize general revenues to pay for the federal cost of operating and maintaining the nation's harbors. Additionally, oppose any user fee, which may be proposed as an alternative to the current financing mechanism.

Seaport Federal Operations: SUPPORT funding increases to budgets of federal agencies with operations at the Port of Miami from all Department of Homeland Security agencies including the United States Coast Guard Service and the Transportation Security Administration that provide key passenger safety and security support and assist in the expeditious and secure transportation of cargo via this major seaport facility.

Intermodal Transportation: MONITOR and SUPPORT any bills, rules, regulations and policies involving federal intermodal highway systems, roadway systems, funding designations or transportation improvements projects along connectivity corridors that impact access to and from the Port of Miami. Improvements to our Intermodal transportation system will result in a smoother and more efficient movement of cargo to and from the Port of Miami.

Miami Harbor PED: SUPPORT appropriation request of $2.7 million for Miami Harbor Channel General Reevaluation Report Implementation, Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design. Support funding request for the authorized recommended improvements provided by WRDA 2007 (H.R. 1495) for preconstruction, engineering and design of the recommended project. This will address the federal share at 100% of anticipated costs for plans and specifications preparation.

SOLID WASTE

Exemptions of Waste to Energy Facilities: SUPPORT restoring the former exemptions from certain requirement of Section 215 of the Federal Power Act Qualifying Facilities that were granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The current rules were intended primarily for electric utilities not small power production facilities, which include WTEs. WTEs primary purpose is to perform environmentally sound management and disposal of solid waste with the benefit of producing a small amount of power from renewable fuel, not electric production, transmission and distribution.

Market Incentives for Electricity Produced from Renewable Resources: ADVOCATE for legislation designating biomass (both Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) incineration and methane gas recovery) as a "qualified energy resource", eligible for any and all market incentives including but not limited to 1) establishment of a renewable portfolio standard (RPS), 2) establishment of a renewable energy tradable credits program, 3) expansion of the existing Section 45 tax credits to include biomass and to provide that public sector entities share in a like benefit through creation of a refundable production and investment tax credit, 4) participation in "green pricing" program or other similar incentives. Such incentive provisions will aid in providing for financial stability of local governments' solid waste management programs. This in turn will provide greater flexibility to local governments in delivering a higher level of service to the community, adding environmental enhancement initiatives, reducing fees or a combination thereof.

Power Plant Emissions: **ADVOCATE** for legislation that would seek equitable treatment for WTE facilities as it relates to provisions of any forthcoming air pollution reduction legislation requiring that "power-generating" facilities achieve certain reductions in air pollutants. Pervious emission reduction proposals constituted a redundant requirement, given that WTE have complied with comparable provisions in the Clean Air Act.

Used Electronic Waste: ADVOCATE for equitable requirements relating to e-waste in terms of funding, program operation, responsibility for goal achievement and application of sanctions. Oppose any legislation that would place a disproportionate burden on local government for segregation, collection and recycling and management of waste stream relative to other responsible parties, including the state, the electronics manufactures and retailers and private waste facilities.

Flow Control: MONITOR legislative efforts aimed to impede local authority over flow control. Retaining flow control authority strengthens the Department's financial position and its ability to assess and meet the needs of the local community by permitting increased availability of funding for projects of community benefit; providing a mechanism for equitable funding of disposal system costs; substantially reducing financial risk related to future disposal market events and improving the Department's bond rating.

SUSTAINABILITY

Climate Change: ADVOCATE for the recognition and support of the essential role local governments play in addressing climate change. By enhancing federal support for mainstreaming climate change into local government policies will enable local governments to move closer to setting realistic goals for both climate change mitigation (emission reduction, avoidance, and substitution) and adaptation (improving resilience to potential climate change).

Cap-And-Trade: ADVOCATE for legislation that would include incentives for local governments that reduce emissions through green buildings and green infrastructure (with priority on retrofits to increase energy efficiency of existing buildings), VMY reduction, green local fleets and fuels, renewable energy, green procurement, climate change adaptation, and green businesses and green jobs.

Energy Block Grants: ADVOCATE for fully funding the Energy Block Grant and Conservation Block Grant program and the Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds program. Legislation will address both the immediate and long-term sustainable energy supply and cost issues challenging local communities across the country as well as global climate change and the prospect of a carbon-constrained economy.

Sustainable Mobility: ADVOCATE for increase in federal funding for public transit; green busses and fleets; and require and fund action by states, metropolitan planning organizations and local governments to develop and implement VMT reduction plans through legislative mechanisms including the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU.

Climate Protections: ADVOCATE for funding programs that build local government capacity to conduct climate protection efforts such as EPA Climate Change Local Demonstration grants, DOE Clean Cities program or other similar legislation.

Off-Set Credits: ADVOCATE for national climate legislation should make community forestry, green infrastructure, and open space preservation activities eligible as offset projects under national cap-and-trade legislation.

Climate Resilience: ADVOCATE for support local government efforts to build climate resilence by expanding the FEMA pre-disaster mitigation to address climate programs. Expand NOAA's Coastal Zone Management Act and climate programs to support local climate planning and implementation and direct the US Army Corps of Engineers to establish a climate adaptation mission to protect water resources.

Green Jobs Legislation Funding: ADVOCATE to fully fund the Green Jobs Act of 2007 or similar legislation. In addition, direct Small Business Administration, HUD, and Economic Development Administration to fund green business development; and create an "Energy Conservation Corps."

TRANSIT

Orange Line Phase 2: SUPPORT funding request of $100 million for a 9.5-mile heavy rail project that would run along 27th Avenue, with the northern terminus point connecting to Broward County's bus system at the County line and a southern terminus at the existing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Station at 62nd Street.

Orange Line Phase 3: SUPPORT funding request of $10 million for a 10.1 mile heavy rail project that will connect Florida International University to the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) adjacent to Miami International Airport. This project offers a critically needed rail alternative to commuters in west Miami-Dade County with convenient transportation to major employment centers and key destinations.

Bus Procurement: SUPPORT funding request of $6 million for a Bus Procurement Plan for new buses that will be designed to be more cost-effective and will provide improved service reliability. The plan also includes improvements to bus facilities and amenities, making Metrobus a more convenient choice and enhancing MDT's ability to attract new riders.

Transit Security System: SUPPORT funding request of $5 million for a Transit Security System to enhance and install security and surveillance systems throughout the County's transit properties and vehicles. Enhancements include: installation of real-time surveillance system throughout transit operations and maintenance facilities, upgrading onboard bus surveillance, and placing digital monitoring and recording on revenue vehicles.

7th Avenue Transit Village: SUPPORT funding request of $2 million for a 7th Avenue Transit Village to construct a multi-modal hub located in the heart of Liberty City to enhance current transportation services and revitalize the area located at the Southeast corner of NW 7th Avenue and 62nd Street and provide immediate access to I-95.

Park and Ride Facilities: SUPPORT funding request of $10 million for Park and Ride Facilities for land acquisition and construction of mixed-use developments consisting of retail, commercial, residential and parking spaces for transit Park & Ride facilities. These facilities will be used to enhance transit services and reduce congestion through strategically located park-and-ride facilities and transit passenger activity centers along the busway.

WATER AND SEWER

Water Transmission Pipeline: SUPPORT appropriation request of $6.25 million for construction of common water transmission pipeline (South Miami-Dade Reclaimed Wastewater Conveyance). The County received authorization for $6.25 million in federal funds in WRDA 2007 to be used in support for water reuse supply and a common water transmission pipeline to deliver reclaimed water from the South District WWTP to the FPL facility and to the new WRP.

Rehydration Project: SUPPORT appropriation request of $11.15 million for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Rehydration Pilot Project for the construction of a high level wastewater treatment system that will provide additional treatment to the effluent produced by the current treatment process at the MDWASD's South District Wastewater Treatment Plant. The pilot project will address water quality issues associated with the discharge of reclaimed water into natural areas, as well as determining the level of treatment necessary for meeting water quality goals.

Floridan Aquifer Study: SUPPORT appropriation request of $500,000 for the Floridan Aquifer Study for a multidiscipline study with the US Geological Survey to determine the effects of an alternative water supply, either through blending or treatment. There is concern that the widespread use of the Floridan aquifer system in South Florida, for multiple and conflicting uses, will result in unforeseen hydrologic consequences. Increased use of the Floridan aquifer system will result in problems that will affect the water availability and treatment options and costs in the future. This multidiscipline study is the first of its kind and includes the development of a state of the art numerical variable density groundwater flow model, which will be able to a simulate groundwater flow and water quality changes as a result of projected increases in the use of the aquifers.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure: SUPPORT legislation that would authorize or appropriate funding for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure and security needs.

Federal Water Grants: OPPOSE any efforts to reduce funding for critical grant programs and other funding sources.

Clean Water Act Unfunded Mandates: SUPPORT Congress efforts to address the funding shortfall through a long-term, sustainable federal-state-local partnership. While tremendous progress has been made since the implementation of the Clean Water Act (CWA), over 40% of the nation's waters are impaired. Cities, counties and other communities need to repair, replace and rehabilitate their aging and failing pipes and plants and build new infrastructure to comply with increasingly complex regulations in order to protect public health and safeguard the environment.

State Revolving Funds Allocations: SUPPORT any Congressional action which would amend the manner in which State Revolving Funds are allocated to the States, to the extent the amendment would provide greater amounts of funding to the State of Florida.

State Revolving Loans: SUPPORT legislation to reauthorize and expand the drinking water state revolving loan (SRF) program. That legislation should expand and modernize the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) program; increase the authorization of appropriations for the drinking water state revolving fund (DWSRF) to a cumulative $14 billion through FY 2011; the use of asset management and provides for a longer repayment period for SRF loans.

Unfunded Mandates: MONITOR legislation or Department of Homeland Security regulations that address security at the nation's water & sewer plants that may be vulnerable to terrorist attack. Any changes in the manner that local facilities have to prepare and anticipate terrorism can carry significant cost burdens to the Department and to consumers. **OPPOSE** any legislation or regulation that does not provide financial assistance for public entities to comply with the legislation or new rules.

EPA Funding: SUPPORT H.R. 3957 or similar legislation which would authorize appropriations totaling $101 million over the 2009-2013 period for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support activities to promote conservation and the efficient use of water. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3957 would cost $86 million over the 2009-2013 period and $15 million after 2013.

National Water Research Development Initiative: SUPPORT proposed legislation by Chair Bart Gordon of the House Science and Technology Subcommittee on National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2008 or similar legislation to implement a National Water Research Development Initiative to coordinate federal activities pertaining to water.

Tax Credit Bonds: SUPPORT Tax Credit Bonds for legislation that would authorize a new tax credit bond program, to be known as "Clean Renewable Water Supply Bonds" that could be issued by public agencies in exactly the same way as those agencies can presently issue traditional tax exempt municipal bonds. The Clean Renewable Water Supply Bonds (CRWSB's) would have a twenty year bullet maturity (a single payment for an entire loan amount that is paid at maturity), meaning that no principal repayment would be required until the twentieth year. At that time, the debt could be refinanced with traditional tax exempt municipal debt.

Pump Station Protection Program: SUPPORT Pump Stations Protection Program that would protect the pump stations during significant weather events such as hurricanes and flash floods by deploying additional portable pumps to the Water and Sewer Department.

Clean Water Loan Program: OPPOSE any cuts to the Clean Water Loan Program. Support any effort to cease the reduction of funding for this critical funding source. We support any effort which would advocate the restoration of funding levels to those prior to fiscal year 2000-2001.

Clean Water Funding: ADVOCATE to ask Congress and the President to pass legislation to create a clean and safe water trust fund to guarantee the future financial stability of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and to provide grants for high priority projects such as combined and separate sanitary sewer overflows, priority watersheds and stormwater.

Water Advocacy Efforts: SUPPORT expansion of stakeholder involvement, including environmental and conservation groups, as well as state, municipal, public health, labor, consumer advocacy and industry groups to maximize grassroots support for dedicated clean water funding.

Peak Flow Policy: SUPPORT Congressional action to urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to release its final policy for addressing very high or "peak" flow events at municipal wastewater treatment plants that are a result of significant storm event, as proposed in December 2005.

Wet Weather Diversions: OPPOSE a policy prohibiting wet weather diversions. This would cost millions and not be a cost effective means to handle excess flow. During peak wet weather events, Miami-Dade County, as well as many other public utilities in the country, has to perform limited diversions around biological treatment units to prevent raw sewage from being discharged into our nation's waters, backing up into homes and other buildings, or damaging biological treatment units. It is not clear in current regulation whether this practice is allowed or not. In 2005, USEPA proposed a policy, which applies only to publicly owned wastewater treatment plants that serve sanitary sewers, which allows the diversion of a portion of the flow around secondary treatment units and then this flow can be recombined with the flow from the secondary treatment units.

The combined flow is to meet the Clean Water Act effluent limits prior to discharge. The lack of a comprehensive policy leaves the County open to unfair enforcement actions at both the federal and state levels. If diversions are not allowed, the County will have to incur increased cost for additional secondary treatment facilities, which will be used only a few days a year, or not at all, just to have them available at the time of extreme wet weather events. WASD is requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Policy on Wet Weather Discharges be discussed with the members of the Miami-Dade Congressional Delegation.

APPROPRIATIONS

AVIATION

K-9 Facility	**$2 million**
Biometric Access Control System	**$2 million**
Airport Operations and Communications Center	**$2 million**

DERM

Beach Erosion Restoration	**$8 million**
Miami River Dredging	**$11 million**

ETSD

Interoperability	**$4 million**

FIRE RESCUE

Air Rescue Helicopter Hanger Complex	**$8 million**

JUVENILE SERVICES

National Demonstration Project	**$1 million**

SEAPORT

Miami Harbor Phase III Dredging	**$2.7 million**

PARKS AND RECREATION

Adapted Sports for Injured Veterans/Disability Sports	**$500,000**
Bicycle Trails	**$1 million**
Body Mass Index Equipment	**$350,000**

POLICE

Mobile Automated Fingerprint Identification System	**$2.5 million**
Mortgage Fraud Task Force	**$1 million**
Recognition Training	**$500,000**
Gun Bounty Program	**$750,000**
Homeland Security Intelligence and Informational Database	**$500,000**

PUBLIC WORKS

Venetian Causeway Bridges	**$5 million**
Tamiami Canal Historic Swing Bridge	**$2 million**
Traffic Management System	**$2 million**

TRANSIT

Orange Line Phase 2	**$100 million**
Orange Line Phase 3	**$10 million**
Bus Procurement	**$6 million**
Transit Security System	**$5 million**
7th Avenue Transit Village	**$2 million**
Park and Ride Facilities	**$10 million**

WATER AND SEWER

Water Transmission Pipeline	**$6.25 million**
Rehydration Project	**$11.15 million**
Floridan Aquifer Study	**$500,000**