



# MEMORANDUM

SPAGO  
Agenda Item No. 6A

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TO: Honorable Chairman Juan C. Zapata  
and Members, Strategic Planning and  
Government Committee

DATE: October 13, 2015

FROM: Christopher Agrippa  
Director, Clerk of the Board Division

SUBJECT: Approval of Commission  
Committee Minutes

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The Clerk of the Board's office is submitting the following Clerk's Summary and Official Minutes from the Special Meeting held on September 17, 2015 for approval by the Strategic Planning and Government Operations Committee:

**September 17, 2015**

CA/ae  
Attachment

**CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STRATEGIC PLANNING AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**September 17, 2015**

The Strategic Planning & Government Operations Committee (SPGOC) convened a Special Meeting at 3:54 p.m., on September 17, 2015 at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, Board of County Commissioners Commission Chambers, 111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33128.

Chairman Zapata called the meeting to order; noting the purpose of the meeting was to review Mayor Gimenez' Memorandum Re: Information for Second Budget Hearing – FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget.

The following Committee members were present: Chairman Zapata and Commissioner Levine Cava.

In addition to Committee members, Commissioner Suarez was in attendance.

The Clerk of the Board received written notification that Vice Chairwoman Sosa along with Commissioners Bovo and Heyman would be absent.

In addition to the Committee members, the following staff members were present: Deputy Mayor Edward Marquez; Budget Director Jennifer Moon; Assistant County Attorneys Geri Bonzon-Keenan and Juliette Antoine; and Deputy Clerk Alan Eisenberg.

Assistant County Attorney Bonzon-Keenan announced that pursuant to Ordinance No. 15-58, today's (9/17) Special Meeting of the SPGOC was called to review and discuss the Mayor's proposed line item budget and any proposed amendments as set forth in the Mayor's changes memorandum.

Ms. Jennifer Moon, Budget Director, Office of Management and Budget provided an overview of the Mayor's budget changes. See Exhibits for the Mayor's Budget Memorandum.

Following the budget presentation, Commissioner Levine Cava indicated that this was a good news budget memorandum with specific attention to resilience issues. She questioned the impact of the recent fire in the Stephen P. Clark Government Center on the budget and whether the County had insurance to cover this loss.

Ms. Moon reported that the County did not have an excess reserve account to cover the loss and that the dollar amount of the loss did not exceed the insurance deductible. She said that it was the responsibility of the impacted department to cover the loss expense; that the loss impacted the General Fund; and that the balance of the Future Services Reserve would be allocated toward repairs and renovation. Ms. Moon noted the exact cost of damages was unknown at this time and the amount could be less than the amount being reserved.

Ms. Tara Smith, Director, Internal Services Department indicated that emergency response invoices were not received, noting the fire occurred on September 5, 2015. She anticipated a better idea of total costs would be available within the next thirty days. Ms. Smith reported that the fire began on the fifteenth floor and water damage spread to the fourteenth and thirteenth floors with some damage on the twelfth floor as well.

In response to Commissioner Levine Cava's question about the Chief Resiliency Officer's salary, Ms. Moon noted national research was necessary to determine the appropriate salary and fringe benefits.

Commissioner Suarez endorsed Chairman Zapata's desire return money back to the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) as mentioned in the today's (9/17) Miami Herald Op-Ed Letter. He pointed out that the Citizen's Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) would vote on October 21<sup>st</sup> to unwind unification, noting they required a majority vote to return the money within three years. Commissioner Suarez questioned whether the County Commission needed a two-thirds vote to overturn the CITT vote.

Assistant County Attorney Bruce Libhaber responded that the ordinance creating the Surtax and the CITT required a two-third vote of the County Commission; however, the Commission could approve a resolution amending the PTP by a majority vote, subsequent to a CITT recommendation.

Commissioner Suarez noted he understood the CITT could take back the resolution they passed in 2008 by a simple majority vote and then the County Commission would require a two-thirds vote to overturn that action.

Assistant County Attorney Libhaber clarified that the County Commission could adopt a CITT recommendation by majority vote if they concurred with that recommendation. He said that in the event of a disagreement, the CITT could submit a reconsidered recommendation requiring a two-thirds vote of the County Commission.

Commissioner Levine Cava questioned the status of additional money for the Animal Services Department (ASD).

Ms. Moon reported that Administration was working with the ASD, noting ASD was currently building their new facility. She said there would be a better idea of operating costs and staffing levels once ASD begin providing expanded services at the new location. Ms. Moon noted there would be the opportunity to authorize overages later in the year after reviewing the revenue generated to support operations. She commented that the subsidy was significantly increased to provide expanded services in the current budget.

Commissioner Levine Cava mentioned the need for staffing, trap, neuter and release program funding.

Chairman Zapata opened the floor to public comments and questions.

Commissioner Suarez asked Chairman Zapata for his opinion on the impact of the \$500,000 budget allocation to address sea level rise and climate change issues.

Chairman Zapata responded that sea level rise was an issue that would not go away soon and that the major issues impacting this community for generations to come needed to be addressed. He noted these issues should be considered earlier in the budget process in order to develop consensus, clarity and a well thought out plan, rather than reacting to public criticism. Chairman Zapata pointed out that Commissioner Sosa was diligent in introducing sea level rise issues; however, a more thought out plan was needed. He said he supported the allocation in spirit but not in process.

Commissioner Levine Cava stated it would be under the purview of the SPGOC committee to have such meaningful conversations. She suggested scheduling workshops and learning opportunities relating to sea level rise climate change issues and to consider best practices.

Chairman Zapata noted more information on the Chief Resiliency Officer's responsibilities and the positions ability to align the work of all County departments to address climate change concerns was needed.

Commissioner Levine Cava noted the staffing level in the Office of Sustainability had been greatly reduced over the last several years and capacity needed to be built up once again.

Chairman Zapata expressed frustration related to wasted resources from frequent growth and shrinkage in the County workforce. He said programs needed to be sustained over longer time periods. Chairman Zapata noted the Commission needed to be sensitive toward allocating resources to programs not considered Commission priorities and making sure a sufficient cushion existed for lean years.

Ms. Nancy Lee, 20448 NE 34 Court, Aventura, acknowledged Chairman Zapata, Commissioners Levine Cava and Suarez for reaching out directly to the public and writing Op-Ed letters. She said she supported acquiring the services of an engineering firm to acquire information and advice as recommended by the Sea Level Rise Task Force. Ms. Lee inquired whether Chairman Zapata was recommending giving money back to the taxpayers in his recent Op-Ed letter.

Chairman Zapata responded that money should be spent responsibly during good budget years in ways that would have a serious benefit for the taxpayers into the future. He said surplus funds could either be given back to the taxpayers or used in very wise ways, noting transit, sea level rise and reserves were areas needing additional consideration.

Ms. Lee said that she did not want her money back but wanted to see it put into reserve for the lean years. She noted the Commission needed to look at the budget more responsibly and not just fund their pet projects. Ms. Lee said she was concerned about the cost of flood insurance, noting issues relating to rising water from storm sewers in Miami Beach.

Ms. Laura Reynolds, Tropical Audubon Society, 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami, stated that the County needed to begin addressing infrastructure changes in the absence of State oversight. She indicated the importance of these issues was not apparent in the initial County budget; however, setting aside funds and elevating the issue was what the public wanted to see.

Chairman Zapata questioned whether any other county or government entity had a Resiliency Officer position.

Commissioner Levine Cava reported that Residency Officers were increasingly being used in both the public and private sectors; noting Miami Beach had a similar position. She pointed out that grants were available that could perhaps fund this position. Commissioner Levine Cava noted resilience dealt with the impacts of hurricanes,

dislocation and economic upheavals, in addition to sea level rise and climate change issues.

Ms. Moon commented that Administration needed to obtain more information about the position and an appropriate salary level.

In response to Chairman Zapata's request for information on additional funds for the Ludlam Trail and the Underline, Ms. Moon reported that the Ludlam Trail had Government Obligation Bond (GOB) funding and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) funding; and the Underline had FDOT funding and County General Fund funding. She said that the Ludlam Trail and Underline must both complete a study showing they will increase capacity on surrounding roads in order to access unallocated road impact fees.

Commissioner Suarez inquired whether road impact fees could be used for the Rickenbacker Causeway in order to separate bike and car traffic lanes, noting he did not see any difference between using funds to refurbish the Underline and the Causeway.

Ms. Moon responded that road impact fees were generally used when addressing road capacity issues and could be considered.

Assistant County Attorney Keenan advised Commissioner Suarez that Assistant County Attorney Dennis Kerbel was well versed on this issue and would provide him with additional information on his request later.

Commissioner Levine Cava inquired about the proposed \$1 million cap for Community Based Organizations (CBO) in the Request for Proposals (RFP) and whether any CBO had previously received more than that amount.

Mr. Daniel Wall, Assistant Director, Office of Management and Budget, responded that there was draft language subject to comments capping the total amount a CBO could receive at \$1 million across their programs. He reported that no CBO received more than \$1 million in the last couple of years; however, there were some instances of a few CBOs previously receiving more money.

Ms. Moon advised Chairman Zapata that the amount of additional revenue that would be allocated to Code Enforcement was not known in response to his question. She

noted it was anticipated the Department's revenue would increase because they were getting through their processes faster.

In response to Chairman Zapata's question about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in relation to the Citizenship Program, Ms. Moon reported that the County needed to work with a not-for-profit organization in order to provide these services. She advised that a not-for-profit organization was needed because County employees could not pursue fundraising efforts.

Chairman Zapata inquired about the two organizations that were omitted to which Ms. Moon noted they were the City of Sweetwater and the Liberty City Optimist.

Ms. Moon responded to Chairman Zapata's question about changes to the funding amounts, noting the intent of the original spreadsheet showed continuation funding for seven months and a ten percent increase for the next five months. She indicated the spreadsheet showed all twelve months of funding as if the organizations had received the same allocations through the competitive process. Ms. Moon said the spreadsheets were subsequently corrected to reflect nine months instead of seven months.

Commissioner Levine Cava inquired whether the climate change and sustainability issue workshops could be scheduled for the SPGOC to which Chairman Zapata reported he would discuss this with Board of County Commission Chairman Monestime.

Commissioner Levine Cava introduced City of South Miami Mayor Phillip Stoddard.

Mayor Philip Stoddard mentioned that the County's police force was grossly understaffed with twenty minute response times. He commented on knee high grass growth on Miller Drive, noting the millage rate should not be reduced until proper road services were provided. Mayor Stoddard said that Standard and Poor's was considering downgraded ratings for governments with coastal communities that were not demonstrating action plans for engaging sea level rise issues. He pointed out that money needed to be obtained now for sea level rise capital projects, given today's low interest rates and high bond ratings. Mayor Stoddard said that funding for engineering studies to replace all septic systems with sewers needed to be placed in the current budget. He noted the warehouse district on the east side of Doral needed to be elevated. Mayor Stoddard expressed the need to improve the critical road infrastructure coming in and out of business centers and connecting residents with those business centers.

Chairman Zapata recognized Mayor Stoddard for participating in today's meeting. He mentioned that the desired solutions required strategic planning and a funding commitment, noting the Commission often played a reactive role in its decision making. Chairman Zapata suggested partnerships with local universities and other entities to address sea level rise and other pertinent issues.

Commissioner Suarez also acknowledged Mayor Stoddard for his presence. He questioned whether the County needed to become more proactive in financing the connectivity of homes using septic tanks to the County's sewer system, particularly in the Village of Pinecrest, noting this was a hazardous condition with the lack of fire hydrants in those areas. He inquired about a previously requested report on this issue.

There being no further business, the Strategic Planning and Government Operations Committee Workshop was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.