



MEMORANDUM OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL MONTHLY REPORT

In an on going effort to open and improve communications with the different governmental agencies and municipalities, the local governmental coordinator met with or attended the following meetings / events:

Events

- **Miami Dade League of Cities (April)**

Due to Dade Days falling on the first Thursday of the month (April 1-2, 2009), the MDCLC cancelled their monthly Board of Directors meeting.

The Next MDCLC Board of Directors meeting will take place on May 7, 2009

- **Dade Days**

On April 1-2, 2009, Dade Days was held in Tallahassee. Many Miami-Dade County Commissioners as well as other elected officials from Miami Dade's municipalities made a strong presence at this year's event. Those municipalities that attended included: Cutler Bay, Doral, El Portal, Golden Beach, Hialeah Gardens, Homestead, Medley, Miami Beach, Miami Gardens, Miami Lakes, North Bay Village, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Opalocka, Palmetto Bay, Pinecrest, South Miami, Surfside, Virginia Gardens and West Miami. This legislative event provides a unique opportunity for all governments within Miami Dade County to demonstrate their unity with common issues of interest.

Among the events attended by the participants, were: "Economic Stimulus-Energy, Infrastructure, Water and More" – with Budget Chair Representative David Rivera, and Senate Majority Leader Alex Diaz de la Portilla; Foreclosure Prevention Workshop – Guest Speaker, Danielle Blake, VP of Government Affairs, Realtor Association of Greater Miami and the Beaches (RAMB); Miami-Dade County Days 20th Anniversary Awards Luncheon.

Municipal News / Legislation

- **Bal Harbour**

Joel Jacobi, the Bal Harbour council member who tried to fight off allegations that he did not live in the village when he ran for reelection two years ago, resigned.

The resignation came five days after the start of a civil trial challenging his election victory in 2007.

In his letter to the village clerk, Jacobi cited "personal issues" for his sudden resignation.

His last day in office was April 1. The Village Council plans to appoint a replacement to serve the rest of Jacobi's term, which ends in 2011.

Elections:

Voters will cast ballots on Tuesday in Bay Harbor Islands and Bal Harbour for council seats.

In Bay Harbor Islands, four candidates are vying for three seats: Denis Neuhut and current council members Stephanie Bruder, Jordan W. Leonard and Alberto Ruder.

The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes will serve four-year terms. The person with the third-highest vote total will serve for one year, finishing out the term of former mayor Peter Lynch, who died in September.

In the Bal Harbour race, four candidates -- one of them an incumbent -- are fighting for two village council seats.

Patricia Cohen and Barbara Grossman are challenging each other for the District 3 seat currently held by Councilman Jaime Sanz, who is not running for reelection.

Councilwoman Jean Rosenfield and challenger Dr. Abraham G. Gotman are competing for the District 1 seat.

Joni D. Blachar won the District 5 seat after she was the only candidate to file before the end of the March qualifying period.

She will take the council seat occupied by Mayor Howard Berlin, who did not seek reelection.

• **Coral Gables**

Resolution (s): 3/24/09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES URGING GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST TO CONVENE A TASKFORCE TO EXPLORE EFFECTIVE MEANS TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICIALS DESIGNATED HEREIN.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO INCLUDE THE CORAL GABLES ART CINEMA ON THE MAINSTREET ECONOMIC RECOVERY STIMULUS.

News:

Coral Gables Commissioner Maria Anderson will face Gonzalo Sanabria, a self-made millionaire and former Gables by the Sea Homeowners Association president who is funding much of his own campaign.

Anderson is seen as the more vulnerable of the two incumbents -- who both face challengers -- mostly because of her relationship with and defense of former City Manager David Brown.

Sanabria -- who has raised \$146,000, including a \$100,000 loan to himself, and spent \$52,000 -- has turned it into an issue in a campaign that has been seen as negative by many, hammering on her 20 or so lunches with the former manager at taxpayers' expense and Brown's severance package of more than a half-million dollars.

Anderson -- who has raised almost \$78,500 and spent just under \$33,000 -- said the city has had some blemishes in the past few months, but that overall her eight years on the dais have been positive and she repeatedly points to the restoration of historic landmarks, the increase of senior programming, the charrette that led to the zoning code rewrite

Anderson's supporters paint Sanabria as a developer with special interests at heart and have sent mailer ads that say he has voted several times to move the Urban Development Boundary line.

Anderson also blasted Sanabria at the candidate forum presented by the Gables Chamber of Commerce last week because the candidate never voted in a city election.

Sanabria says he is the one fighting an uphill battle because Anderson has the support of Mayor Don Slesnick and Commissioner Wayne Withers, who have fundraised for her.

Anderson says she votes her own mind and has voted against the mayor and Withers, as well as the other two commissioners. And she has no regrets.

- **Miami**

Resolution (s): 4/3/09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI CITY COMMISSION, WITH ATTACHMENTS, AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF MIAMI'S LIST OF EXPEDITED PROJECTS, PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 13045, ADOPTED DECEMBER 11, 2008, BY REPLACING THE CURRENT "ATTACHMENT A, "WITH ATTACHMENT A-4/2/09 REVISED," ATTACHEMD AND INCORPORATED, FOR THE PURPOSES OF INCLUDING PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED FOR FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS, OTHER UPCOMING PROJECTS AND SOLICITATIONS, AND TO REMOVE PROJECTS NO LONGER QUALIFYING FOR THE FEDERAL STIMULUS PROGRAM. (Please see attached)

Press Release: 4/1/09

Statement from Mayor Manny Diaz Regarding the Port of Miami Tunnel Project

The Florida Department of Transportation today announced that it will proceed with a new procurement process for the Port of Miami Tunnel project, allowing the project to continue.

(In his press release, Mayor Manny Diaz, expressed his gratitude to Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez for his leadership and partnership in moving this project forward. – Please see attached for a complete copy)

3/30/09

Mayor Manny Diaz sent a letter to Secretary Janet Napolitano, indicating the City's support and urging the prompt suspension of Haitian deportations. The Mayor's support of the Haitian temporary protected status is in an effort to help stabilize the situation in Haiti in the wake of recent tragedy. (Please see the letter attached)

Miami Springs

With elections nearing, talk of the upcoming community center's costs has caused contention among Miami Springs residents and elected officials. The issue has split the ballot mainly into two camps: candidates who oppose the new center and those who embrace it.

The elections for mayor and four at-large council seats are set for Tuesday, April 7th. The qualifying deadline closed last month with 11 candidates, and with each office contested.

The major point of this election cycle is over a 2007 decision by the city council to build a new community center instead of remodeling the existing one. Disputes over the cost estimates for the center have spilled over into a recent council meeting.

Several candidates have spoken out on the center's costs, saying that it would have cost less to remodel the old recreation center. Other candidates say the new center will enhance life in the Northwest Dade city.

In the mayoral race, three-term incumbent Billy Bain believes the center is a positive attribution to the city and wants to see that it is completed efficiently under his leadership. Bain was first elected in 2003.

His opponent, Dotson, said the costs are too much for the city to take on, especially during these economic

times. He would rather have seen the old center remodeled.

Bob Best is the only current council member who filed for reelection. He serves in various community organizations involving church, Little League, and the city playhouse. For him, the option to build a new center overruled the option to refurbish.

His opponent James Llewellyn believes residents should have been given a right to vote on the issue, before the city moved along to construct. He has also worked with the city's Little League, partaking in several city organizations and community outreach programs.

Llewellyn played a role in amending the charter that gave residents a vote on annexation.

Looking to fill Dotson's seat are Dan Espino and Todd M. Stiff. Both men agree the decision to build a brand new recreation center was the right choice.

Three candidates are vying for the seat held by Councilman Xavier Garcia, who decided not to run for reelection. The candidates are Mel Johnson, George Lob, and Fernando Suco.

- **Pinecrest**

Resolution (s): 3/10/09

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 20009 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- **South Miami**

Resolution(s): 4/7/09

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, REALTING TO PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED STATE LEGIOSALTION, SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 1315 AND SENATE BILL 2644 RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINES; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION, UPON ENACTMENT, TO THE PSC; THE GOVERNOR; FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE, THE SENATE, THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; OUR SISTER CITIES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; AND THE MIAMI-DADE COUTNY LEAGUES OF CITIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Please see attached)

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, RELATING TO OPPOSING THE PROPOSED ROUTES ALONG THE LUDLUM TRAIL OR ALONG US HIGHWAY1, FOR THE FPL TRANSMISSION LINE: AND PROPOSING THE EVALUATION OF AN ALTERNATES ROUTE ALONG SR 826, SR 836 OR SR 874; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE STATE, AGENCIES, AND OTHER COMMUNITIES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Please see attached)

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY THROUGH THE COMMUNITY IMAGE ADVISORY BOARD (CIAB) TO ASSIST THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI TO IMPROVE THE PERCENTAGE OF TREE CANOPY COVER; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Please see attached)

News:

Residents opposed to adding planned power lines to South Miami will have to wait until next month for their political leaders to voice their opposition.

Commissioners failed to send two rival resolutions disputing the lines to lawmakers in Tallahassee, who are amending laws governing where Florida Power & Light can place them.

Residents in South Miami, Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay, Cutler Bay and unincorporated areas are concerned about the electric and magnetic fields emanating from the power lines and any link to cancers and other illnesses.

One of the proposed routes, along U.S. 1, runs along the western boundaries of Cutler Bay, Palmetto Bay and Pinecrest.

Cutler Bay Council passed a resolution to ask FPL to continue researching the possible hazards of installing a power line paralleling U.S. 1.

Palmetto Bay plans to discuss the issue next month. Pinecrest decided not to hold public workshops discussing the issue until the final route has been decided.

The utility wants to add power lines to the existing corridor from Turkey Point to the Davis station at Southwest 138th Street and 127th Avenue and build new lines from Davis to the northeastern parts of Miami.

- **Sunny Isles**

Sunny Isles Beach is considering going green.

The city is looking into an initiative to make its parks, garages, bridges and flyovers more environmentally friendly.

At a recent commission meeting, city officials listened to an Earth-conscious pitch from representatives of Michael Singer Studio, a Miami design firm that focuses on creating eco-sensitive urban projects.

The firm is hoping to get Sunny Isles Beach on board with several ideas to transform its public landscape and upcoming projects into models for ecological renewal.

Among the ideas presented in a slide show: revamping the city's parking garages with vegetation -- which could save energy -- and filtering stormwater to improve water conservation.

Singer hopes to advise Sunny Isles Beach on its upcoming projects, including a \$5 million bridge on North Bay Road from 172nd to 174th streets.

He also sees green potential in two major parks that are in the works: Bella Vista Park, a one-acre waterfront site at 500 Sunny Isles Blvd., and Heritage Park, a four-acre site at 19200 Collins Ave.

- **Sweet Water**

The qualifying period for the May 12 municipal elections ends March 27. To qualify for a seat on the commission, you must be a registered voter and a city resident for at least three years.

Four commissioners are up for reelection this year: Ariel Abelairas, Jose Bergouignan, Jose M. Diaz and Orlando Lopez. As of Friday, neither candidate faced opposition. If no one comes forward to challenge the incumbents by the 5 p.m. deadline March 27, the commissioners will be automatically reelected.

- **West Miami**

West Miami officials were outraged when they learned the city's share of the federal economic stimulus package cannot fund four proposed traffic calmers because the project does not meet federal criteria.

The Florida Department of Transportation rejected West Miami's proposal to install traffic circles at four intersections because the streets are not section line or collector roads, a federal requirement for aid.

West Miami is scheduled to receive \$128,813 for transportation projects funded by the stimulus package. At Wednesday's city commission meeting, officials proposed to install speed calmers at Southwest 10th Street and 59th Avenue, Southwest 15th Street and 65th Avenue and Southwest 18th Street at 63rd and 65th avenues.

Alice Bravo, director of transportation development for FDOT, said the stimulus dollars for these transportation projects are coming from the Surface Transportation Program, which provides funding for federal aid eligible roads only.

"The intent of this national program is to fund roadways that carry a substantial level of traffic, which are the section line and collector roads," Bravo said. "These roads carry much more traffic than residential roads, which unfortunately do not meet the federal criteria for funding."

West Miami city engineers met with FDOT officials to see if they could reclassify Southwest 64th Avenue from a local road to a collector road because it serves as a connector between Southwest Eighth and 24th Streets, both federal aid roads.

If approved, the traffic calmers could be installed on Southwest 14th, 18th and 22nd streets along 64th Avenue.

Also at the meeting:

- The police department announced it will apply for a federal grant that would fund one or two officers' three-year salary to compensate for one position removed from this year's budget.
- The commission proposed a resolution to redesignate eight city duplexes into triplex dwellings. The first public hearing is scheduled for May 6. The second hearing is scheduled for May 20.
- The commission contracted PricewaterhouseCoopers to perform a state actuary report that will determine if the city is financially sound enough to be self-funded for medical, dental and life insurance.
- Aguilar was presented with two proclamations by the city commission and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa for being named the 2008 City Manager of the Year by the Miami-Dade County Police Benevolent Association.

State legislature:

The Following bills pertain to the cities of Miami Gardens, Doral and Culter Bay:

Transit surtax/new cities; SB 2210 by Wilson; HB 1205 by Braynon: Requires charter counties that have interlocal agreements with cities to share transit surtax revenues to reopen such agreements every five years to account for new cities (this is new language that has replaced original bill language). SB 2210 passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee on Wednesday, April 1, which is its first of four committees of reference before reaching the Senate floor. HB 1205 has passed out of one of its four House committees/councils of reference before it reaches the House floor.

H1205 GENERAL BILL by Braynon

Charter County Transit System Surtax Proceeds; Prohibits specified charter counties from withholding surtax proceeds from specified municipalities; requires such counties to retroactively reimburse certain municipalities excluded from distributions of surtax proceeds or withheld surtax proceeds. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2009.

02/26/09 HOUSE Filed

03/03/09 HOUSE Introduced -HJ 00096

03/09/09 HOUSE Referred to Military & Local Affairs Policy (EDCA); Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council; Finance & Tax Council; Policy Council -HJ 00190

03/24/09 HOUSE PCS on Committee agenda-- Military & Local Affairs Policy (EDCA), 03/26/09, 2:30 pm, Reed Hall

03/26/09 House CS by Military & Local Affairs Policy (EDCA): YEAS 14 NAYS0

S2210 GENERAL BILL by Wilson

Charter County Transit System Surtax/Distribution [CPSC]; Prohibits certain counties from withholding surtax proceeds from certain municipalities. Requires certain counties to retroactively reimburse certain municipalities excluded from distributions of surtax proceeds for withheld surtax proceeds. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2009.

02/25/09 SENATE Filed

03/10/09 SENATE Referred to Transportation; Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations -SJ 00173

03/19/09 SENATE Introduced -SJ 00173

Elections Calendar (April)

- 04/07/2009 **Bal Harbour Regular Election** (Registration Closing - Mar. 9)
Candidate Qualifying Dates: February 11, 2009 - March 7, 2009
- 04/07/2009 **Bay Harbor Islands General and Special Elections** (Registration Closing - Mar. 9)
Candidate Qualifying Dates: February 26, 2009 - March 18, 2009
- 04/07/2009 **Miami Springs Municipal and Special Elections** (Registration Closing - Mar. 9)
Candidate Qualifying Dates: December 23, 2008 - February 20, 2009
- 04/14/2009 **Coral Gables General Biennial and Special Elections** (Registration Closing - Mar. 16)
Candidate Qualifying Dates: February 23, 2009 - February 27, 2009
- 04/14/2009 **Miami Shores General Election** (Registration Closing - Mar. 16)
Candidate Qualifying Dates: TBA - March 16, 2009
- 04/28/2009 **Bay Harbor Islands Run-Off Election** (Registration Closing - Mar. 30)