

Memorandum



Date: July 6, 2015

To: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Transfer of the Cooperative Extension Unit to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces
Department

In order to better align the County's operational functions, the Cooperative Extension unit of the Business Affairs Division (Cooperative Extension) of the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER) will be transferred, effective immediately, to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department (PROS).

The mission of RER is to enable sustainable economic growth through smart regulatory strategies and business expansion initiatives. Cooperative Extension provides critical research based information and training to organizations and businesses involved with commercial agriculture, commercial landscape, and marine industries, and will continue to do so within their new organizational structure of PROS. However, a large part of Cooperative Extension's work relates to broader community outreach initiatives that benefit county residents through homeowner horticulture and water conservation programs, families through the Family and Consumer Sciences Program (FCS), and children through the 4-H/Youth Development Program. 4-H/Youth Development and FCS Programs are currently administered out of the Cooperative Extension office located within the Amelia Earhart Park, and in this way the unit is already poised to join the PROS organization in order to best serve this large group of customers.

To effect this change, 17 full-time and one part-time budgeted positions will be transferred from RER to PROS. The budgeted revenue and expenditure authority will be transferred through the year-end budget amendment for FY 2014-15.

If you need further information, please contact Deputy Mayor Jack Osterholt at (305) 375-5695 or PROS Director Jack Kardys at (305) 755-7903.

Attachments

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk, Circuit and County Courts
Robert A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Department Directors