



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 2020 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Home Rule and Preemption:** ***SUPPORT*** preservation of local home rule; ***OPPOSE*** any effort to preempt local authority.
- **Federal Funding, Cost Shifts and Unfunded Mandates:** ***SUPPORT*** preservation of existing federal funding for County programs; and ***OPPOSE*** any additional cost shifts or unfunded mandates from the federal government to the County, and any reductions in County revenue or formula funding from the federal government. ***OPPOSE*** any measure that would adversely affect County revenues.
- **Protect Previous Federal Funding:** ***SUPPORT*** efforts to secure the same level of federal funding for County programs as last year.
- **Promote Partnerships:** ***SUPPORT*** partnerships with other counties, municipalities, national associations, and any other entity that would help to create favorable outcomes for the County.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 2020 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FEDERAL RESOLUTIONS

As of December 17, 2019 and in chronological order by passage

R-319-19: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO EXPEDITE AND COMPLETE BOTH PHASE I AND PHASE II OF THE BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS PROJECT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

R-684-19: RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TERMINATE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S PRACTICE OF APPLYING THE ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND SURROGACY ABROAD POLICY AND DENYING BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP TO CHILDREN BORN ABROAD TO PARENTS WHO ARE UNITED STATES CITIZENS

R-975-19: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH OR REVISE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO EXPEDITE AND FACILITATE THE SPONSORSHIP AND PLACEMENT OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN FROM DETENTION CENTERS TO LESS RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENTS; OR, ALTERNATIVELY, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION MANDATING THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

R-976-19: RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP TO REVOKE THE FINAL AGENCY RULE RELATING TO THE APPREHENSION, PROCESSING, CARE, AND CUSTODY OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE PLACEMENTS IN DETENTION CENTERS FOR INDEFINITE PERIODS OF TIME; OR, ALTERNATIVELY, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXERCISE ITS PLENARY AUTHORITY TO INVALIDATE THE RULE

R-977-19: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING S. 2429, H.R. 4160, THE RESTORING RESILIENT REEFS ACT OF 2019, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION REAUTHORIZING THE CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000 AND ESTABLISHING THE UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

R-979-19: RESOLUTION URGING UNITED STATES PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP AND FLORIDA GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS TO PROVIDE AID AND

ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL IN THE WAKE OF RECENT AMAZON RAINFOREST FIRES

R-1160-19: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO ASSIST LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITH ELIMINATING SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND CONVERTING TO SEWER SYSTEM CONNECTIONS; **PRELIMINARILY IDENTIFYING THIS ISSUE AS A FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY FOR 2020**

R-1266-19: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO DESIGNATE THE FACILITY OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE LOCATED AT 8880 SW 8TH STREET IN UNINCORPORATED MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS THE "WESTCHESTER POST OFFICE"

R-1362-19: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP'S DECISION TO SEEK \$200 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECTS; AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE THE FULL \$200 MILLION REQUESTED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECTS

R-1367-19: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO CONSIDER THIS BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE MIAMI BACK BAY STUDY, INCLUDING CONTINUOUS FLOOD PROTECTION, USE OF NATURE-BASED FEATURES, COORDINATION WITH RELATED PROJECTS AND STUDIES, DESIGN FOSTERING ACCESS TO BISCAYNE BAY, AND COORDINATION WITH LANDOWNERS; AND TO MAKE APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO THE BACK BAY STUDY BEFORE THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ISSUES ITS TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN OR TAKES FURTHER OFFICIAL ACTION [SEE ORGINIAL ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 192954]

R-1369-19: RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT S. 2289, H.R. 3961, THE RENEWABLE ENERGY EXTENSION ACT OF 2019, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO EXTEND THE CURRENT 30 PERCENT INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT FOR SOLAR ENERGY



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY 2020 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

In alphabetical order and prioritized within department

AVIATION

- **ADVOCATE for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Staffing at Miami International Airport (MIA)** - CBP staffing for arriving international passengers and cargo is a critical component of operations at MIA. CBP has struggled with hiring and retaining officers at our nation's airports. Over the past five years, international air travel has increased by 25-30 percent, yet the number of CBP officers available to process additional travelers and new flights barely changed because attrition has outpaced hiring.

As the federal government continues to increase security measures and inspections of arriving international passengers and cargo, maintaining sufficient CBP staffing at MIA in the face of rising volumes in travel and trade is of vital importance. Excessive wait times and costly inspection delays occur without the necessary CBP staffing to efficiently process arriving international passengers and time-sensitive cargo, particularly perishables. These delays severely impact tourism, impede international business and commerce, and cost South Florida jobs. The negative economic impacts ripple through the region's economy and reduce our economic competitiveness. More than one million jobs in Florida depend on international trade and investment.

Despite MIA's strong partnership with CBP and technology improvements in the last year, this issue continues to be MIA's top priority to address forecast increased traffic. MIA continues to participate in the reimbursement program, which allows local governments to voluntarily reimburse CBP overtime to increase staffing to process arriving international passengers and cargo. While this program is a great opportunity to leverage valuable local and federal resources to mitigate delays; it is not intended to be a long-term solution. While the current focus continues the Southern Border, MIA urges our Congressional Delegation to support a combination of solutions, including best practice, alternative and traditional mechanisms to fund staffing and technology to process international passengers and cargo.

- **ADVOCATE for an Infrastructure Spending Plan that addresses the critical needs of airports** - U.S. airports serve more than two million passengers every day. The aviation industry is marked by technologically advanced and economically efficient aircraft; however, the associated infrastructure of airports and air traffic

control systems is not keeping up. Despite encouraging developments and a reported agreement in concept to a \$2 trillion infrastructure package achieved at an initial meeting between the Trump administration and lawmakers earlier in the year, negotiations have stalled.

Miami-Dade County continues to urge Congress to pursue an infrastructure package that could help airports finance much-needed upgrades to better accommodate anticipated passenger growth, improve the customer experience for air travelers, and enhance competition at the nation's airports.

COMMUNITY ACTION AND HUMAN SERVICES

- **Older Americans Act (OAA) - *SUPPORT*** an increase in Older Americans Act Title III B, C & E Supported Services which fund personal care, homemaker services, transportation, meals and in-home/facility respite as well as other vital services that help maintain older adults in their own homes.
- **Community Services Block Grant Act (CSBG) - *ADVOCATE*** for legislative action that will support the reauthorization and amendment of the CSBG Act to adopt performance requirements and performance benchmarks to be included as part of the performance measurement system under this Act.
- **Access to Opioid Treatment (residential and outpatient) - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** for a dedicated and increase in funding for residential and out-patient treatment to serve Opioid Use Disorder residents with a dual emphasis of diversion and rehabilitation.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

- **Federal Funding for the Arts - *SUPPORT*** continued increases in federal funding for the arts, specifically for the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Assistance for Arts Education, Creative Arts Therapies in Veterans Healthcare Networks and Institute for Museum and Library Services. The House of Representatives approved substantial pro-arts funding increases for FY 2020. Encourage the Senate to approve these increases.

FIRE RESCUE

- **Reinstate Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team as an active search and rescue task force within the United States Agency of International Development (USAID) Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*.** MDFR's Team was designated as Florida Task Force One (FL-TF1) for OFDA from 1985 to 2004. During this time, the Task Force responded to more than 40 major incidents around the world. Although a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is not currently announced, as soon as it is made available, MDFR will be applying for reinstatement as an international response

search and rescue task force within the USAID OFDA. MDRF's 2008 application was denied based limited collaboration and training with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG). In conjunction with the application, MDRF will pursue INSARAG membership to undergo the INSARAG External Classification (IEC), which is aimed at categorizing the individual abilities of USAR teams making themselves available for international assistance.

- **FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Teams - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** the Federal government to properly fund the 28 USAR Task Force's which comprise the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System under Department Homeland Security (DHS) / Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This 6,000member ready reserve, maintained by local fire rescue agencies across the country, provides our nation with a search and rescue capability which is unmatched. Funding for these task forces at the required level would ensure that teams are properly equipped and ready to respond when needed. Currently, FL-TF1, sponsored by the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue Department has a funding shortfall of approximately \$1 Million annually. In other words, funding provided through a Cooperative Agreement with FEMA for the annual sustainment of each task force, is on average short \$1 to \$1.2 million dollars per task force. This requires the local agency to absorb this shortfall. It is a very labor-intensive undertaking for each USAR Task Force to remain in a constant state of readiness while simultaneously maintaining individual team member training requirements and fulfilling the rigorous daily tool and apparatus maintenance needs. The USAR personnel are responsible for more than 70 tons of specialized equipment needed to fulfill the mission of every USAR team throughout the country. Additionally, the vehicles needed to move equipment and personnel as well as life safety items such as respiratory protection, are more than 10 years old and in desperate need of replacement. There is no funding for any of these capital items in the annual appropriation through FEMA. In the last 10 years, FL-TF1 has deployed to every major disaster this nation has experienced including Hurricane's Katrina, Rita, Harvey, Irma, and Maria as well as the earthquake in Haiti.

GRANTS COORDINATION

- **Ryan White Program - *SUPPORT* and *ADVOCATE*** for an increase in funding for The HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act. The act is the nation's largest HIV-specific federal grant program and a critical source of health care and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. The program has been in existence since 1990 and has been re-authorized four times.

HOMELESS TRUST

- **Funding for Homeless Programs – *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** expanding HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants programs, including the competitive Continuum of Care (CoC) program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) formula grant program which are the cornerstones of our community's homeless system. In Miami-Dade, ESG grants fund outreach, shelter, prevention and rapid rehousing. The

CoC program funds permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing (short-to medium-term rental assistance), transitional housing for youth, and coordinated entry (outreach). Support of FY 2020 in the amount of at least \$3 billion in McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants will allow Miami-Dade to continue our work toward ending homelessness, with a particular emphasis on unsheltered single adults, families with minor children, youth (18-24) and Veterans. The Homeless Trust receives more than \$31 million in funding under CoC program, and together with communities including Miami, Hialeah, Miami Gardens, Miami-Dade and the State of Florida leverages additional ESG and State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) funds to serve homeless and at-risk households.

- **Funding for Federal Housing Vouchers – *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** increased federal funding through HUD for Housing Choice Vouchers to assist vulnerable populations including low-income seniors, people with disabilities, veterans and families with children with affordable housing, including people experiencing homelessness. Funding is needed to continue to support existing households, and further support the growing number of renter households with very low incomes. Subsidies must keep pace with rental costs in order for vouchers to be effective in making rental housing affordable. Voucher holders contribute 30-percent of their income towards rent and utility costs. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's 2016 Affordable Housing Gap Analysis, South Florida has been ranked as the hardest place for low-income renters to find housing. Nearly 300,000 low income renters in Miami-Dade pay more than 50-percent of their income toward rent, and the disparity between wages and housing costs are nowhere greater. In Miami-Dade, the Homeless Trust has partnered with all four Public Housing Authorities -- Miami-Dade, Miami Beach, Hialeah and Homestead -- to provide vouchers to homeless or formerly homeless households. These vouchers are an integral part of our Community Plan to End Homelessness: Priority Home. \$21.4 million is requested to renew 2.2 million existing vouchers and another \$600 million is request for new, incremental vouchers targeted to vulnerable groups, including people who are experiencing homelessness,
- **Ending Long Term Homelessness Act – *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT* HR 3272.** This bill, introduced by Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL) with six original cosponsors, would require the HHS Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse to work with other federal agencies to design national strategies for providing services in supportive housing that will assist in ending chronic homelessness, and to implement programs that address chronic homelessness. To promote an end to chronic homelessness, HHS would award grants to serve people who have “physical or mental health conditions or substance use disorders and are chronically homeless or at risk of becoming chronically homeless;” and their families in permanent supportive housing, and provide health care and other supportive services, either directly or through coordination with other programs. The bill does not specify an amount of funding – that would be left up to the appropriations process. The bill was introduced in June and has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee (which has jurisdiction over many health care issues).

- **Redland Community Farm and Market at Verde Gardens - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** sustainable solutions, including employment and training opportunities, for homeless and formerly homeless persons, at Redland Community Farm & Market in Homestead. The 22-acre organic farm/landscape nursery and farmer's market/retail complex is part of a larger development called Verde Gardens which includes 145 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for formerly homeless, disabled families. Verde Gardens was constructed in 2009 with more \$14 million in local General Obligation Bond and local Food & Beverage Tax funding and continues to receive operational support from both U.S. HUD and the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust. Verde Gardens sits on former Homestead Air Force Base land (federal surplus property) deeded to the Homeless Trust in 1996 pursuant to Title V of the Stewart B. McKinney Act. In partnership with non-profit Redland Ahead, for-profit microenterprises are providing real-world, hands-on jobs and business skills training to homeless and formerly homeless households successfully integrating clients back into our economy and ensuring housing stability. All proceeds received by non-profit Redland Ahead at Verde are reinvested back into Verde Gardens to sustain and support the farm, market and housing operations. Verde Gardens PSH together with the farm complex has long been a unique program model showcased by U.S. HUD for its innovation and a true example of a public-private partnership.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which oversees Title V homeless programs has communicated with the Homeless Trust that for-profit microenterprises are not allowed to operate on federal surplus transferred property, even if they have committed to employing and training homeless households. This guidance seems to contradict a 2019 U.S. HUD policy priority which strongly encourages CoCs and CoC-funded projects to work with local employment agencies and employers to prioritize training and employment opportunities for people experiencing homelessness, including promoting partnerships with public and private organizations that promote employment. **URGE** HHS to reconsider their position and allow microenterprises to operate on federal surplus transferred property, specifically, at the Redland Community Farm & Market within the Verde Gardens development.

JUVENILE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- **Justice Assistance Grants Funding - *ADVOCATE*** for full funding of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant ("Byrne JAG") program by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. There are proposed cuts to this vital federal law enforcement program that would be detrimental to the County.
- **Eisenhower Quantum Opportunities (EPQO) - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** for full funding to establish the Eisenhower Quantum Opportunities to assist in decreasing juvenile delinquency for system involved high-risk minority students through mentorships.
 - *Tutoring:* The tutoring component of the program is designed to help youth in academic areas where they may have deficits.

- *Mentoring*: Individual and group mentoring is provided to high-risk youth. The “deep mentoring” provided by the program is designed to be more intensive and of longer duration than conventional types of mentoring.
- *Life-skills Training*: Youth who are at-risk academically may also face other life challenges. Mentors work with youth to teach life, personal, and social skills that build resilience and help youth navigate developmental tasks.
- *Youth Leadership*: This component of the program requires youth to achieve a personal outcome and a community outcome.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACES

- **Biscayne-Everglades Greenway - *URGING*** Congress to provide funding and/or authorize programs to assist in the Design and Construction of the 43-mile world class Biscayne-Everglades Greenway that will traverse and serve both incorporated and unincorporated portions of Miami-Dade County connecting Biscayne National Park to Everglades National Park providing a safe and scenic route to the parks without concern for vehicular traffic. The greenway will connect to a variety of other trails in the South Dade Greenways Network and will incorporate South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and County owned rights-of-ways. The project will provide for both recreation and alternative transportation. The funding will be used to complete portions of the northern segment from SW 137 Av. to US 1 along the Mowry (C-103) Canal and Mowry Dr. (SW 320 St.)
- **Zoo Miami - *URGING*** Congress to provide funding and/or authorize programs to assist in the expansion/renovation of the Animal Hospital and Rehab Facilities to also serve the need for treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation of numerous endangered species in South Florida. This would dramatically enhance the ability in the South Florida region to be able to treat, rehabilitate, recover, and release endangered species in collaboration with our partners at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and regional NGOs. Zoo Miami's geographic location, extensive staff with expertise in multiple scientific fields, and ongoing collaborative in situ and ex situ species recovery programs with imperiled Florida species make it the most desirable and effective location for such enhanced facilities within the state.
- **Safer People, Safer Streets - *URGING*** Congress to advance Miami-Dade's Participation in the USDOT's Mayors Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets by growing funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. While the FAST Act increased the Surface Transportation Block Grant Set Asides, funding is not being targeted in high crash areas. Legislation like the Safe Streets Act of 2015 would require FDOT and the MPO to implement guidelines and evaluation to ensure a comprehensive transportation planning. As the fourth most dangerous metropolitan area in the country for bicyclists and pedestrians, Miami Dade needs more financial support to implement Complete Streets and enhance enforcement of bike and pedestrian safety laws.
- **Camp Matecumbe/Pedro Pan - *URGING*** Congress to provide funding and/or authorize programs to assist in the restoration of the gymnasium at Camp Matecumbe.

Camp Matecumbe is a place that celebrates the Pedro Pan Program's rich cultural and historical significance that commemorates the exodus of Cuban children, a place that restores the Pine Rockland environment and serves the local and regional communities as well as tourist. The vision for Camp Matecumbe, assisted with federal funding, is to serve as a regional ecological destination with programs for the local neighboring residents.

- **Ludlam Trail Corridor - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** federal funding for the construction of the Ludlam Trail. The Ludlam Trail Corridor is an approximately 5.6 mile long, generally one-hundred foot wide, abandoned Florida East Coast Railway spur-line that stretches from NW 7 St. just south of Miami International Airport to SW 80 St. just north of Dadeland Mall. This funding request will help reduce an estimated \$60,000,000 in unfunded needs for various phases of Ludlam Trail development and will help continue the phased conversion and activation of this abandoned railway corridor into a public bicycle and pedestrian corridor. This corridor will be owned, developed and maintained by Miami-Dade County and is an important element of the plan for a County-wide network of bicycle and pedestrian trails.

POLICE

- **Justice Assistance Grants Funding - *ADVOCATE*** for full funding of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant ("Byrne JAG") program by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. There are proposed cuts to this vital federal law enforcement program that would be detrimental to the county.
- **Forensic Science Grant Programs at U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) - *ADVOCATE*** for full funding of the Forensic Science grant programs by the United States Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice. The grant programs, in priority order, include:
 - Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program (Formula and Competitive)
 - DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program
 - Forensic DNA Laboratory Efficiency Improvement and Capacity Enhancement Program
 - National Institute of Justice Research Grants
- **Firearms Violence Policy¹ adopted by Major Cities Chiefs Association² - *SUPPORT*** this landmark policy which calls on Congress to Adopt Universal Background Checks for all gun sales and transfers and close both gun show and internet loopholes; Expand screening for prohibited buyers to include persons with violent mental health history; Seek "Red Flag" measures to prevent guns from reaching persons who threaten violence and murder; Urge legislation that permits court orders barring gun purchases in domestic violence cases with strict judicial procedures for appeal and reinstatement; Reinstate the assault weapons ban and encourage stiffer penalties for illegal guns; Ban high capacity magazines (10+ rounds); Ban internet ammo sales, require in-person transactions, records of sales

and licensing ammo vendors; Oppose legislation that would require States to recognize any and all concealed carry permits; Oppose legislation that further erodes ATF authority; and prevent known terrorists from purchasing firearms and/or ammunition.

¹ See full Policy statement in Appendix 1.

² Major Cities Chiefs is a professional association of Chiefs and Sheriffs representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada. Membership is comprised of Chiefs and Sheriffs of the sixty-nine largest law enforcement agencies in the United States and ten largest in Canada. The Chiefs serve more than 82 million people.

- **Project Safe Neighborhoods – *SUPPORT*** full funding for Project Safe Neighborhoods, Miami-Dade, where a demonstration program will be implemented for national replication which incorporates the Project Safe Neighborhoods priorities and other significant components including best practices to prevent gun violence, community participation, technology enhancements, multi-level (federal, state and local) and multi-agency partnerships, and evaluation to document the program outcomes. Funding will support this strategic intervention to reduce violence and improve public safety, minimize arrest and incarceration, and strengthen relationships between police and communities.
- **Victims of Crime Funding at the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime - *ADVOCATE*** to support victim services programs and funding.

PORTMIAMI

- **MIAMI HARBOR NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENTS - *ADVOCATE*** for SEC.1203. EXPEDITED COMPLETION.(a) FEASIBILITY REPORTS.—The Secretary shall expedite the completion of a feasibility study for each of the following projects, and if the Secretary determines that the project is justified in a completed report, may proceed directly to preconstruction planning, engineering, and design of the Miami Harbor project.

PortMiami is the world's top cruise port and business is continuing to grow. To accommodate the economic growth and customer requests, the Biscayne Bay Pilots requires navigational harbor improvements to the South Shipping Channel. The improvements are necessary for safe passage of both cargo and cruise vessels.

The Improvements to the outer channel will accommodate larger cargo vessels, up to 14,000 TEU vessels, and therefore enable the full potential of the completed phase III Miami Harbor improvement project (which was designed for 8,500 TEU vessels). These improvements are necessary to accommodate requests from cargo lines to come to the Seaport, instead of non-US transshipment ports, and to continue economic cargo growth in the United States.

The Army Corps ongoing feasibility study on the Miami Harbor will result in recommendations for channel modifications. The study, scheduled for completion in

the fall of 2021, has been fully funded by a partnership with the Army Corps and the County.

- **AGRICULTURE QUARANTINE INSPECTION (AQI) TREATMENT ELIMINATION FEE - *ADVOCATE*** for the elimination of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) treatment fee or freeze it at current levels, until such time as an equitable modification of the fee is designed and implemented. The fee imposes an unreasonable, unnecessary and perhaps illegal discriminatory burden on imports into Florida ports.

The two largest agricultural commodities being imported into U.S. requiring fumigation as a condition of entry: Chilean fresh grapes and Peruvian fresh asparagus. In 2017, the Southeast (SE) represented only 24% of the Northeast (NE) volume requiring fumigation, but paid substantially more, even though SE volumes are less. If both import volumes were equal the SE would pay \$3.27 Million compared to the NE paying only \$21,868 for the same imported volume.

The disparity is as a result of one treatment in Florida typically involves one trailer-load of goods: one treatment in the Northeast typically involves a stack or warehouse-full of containers. The AQI Treatment Fee is increasing year-over-year and jeopardizing Florida's commerce, economy and trade. Florida jobs and international market share is at stake.

- **MARITIME CBP and USDA STAFFING - *ADVOCATE*** - CBP staffing is essential to effective and efficient administration of the nation's port security policy. For America's international gateways to function more effectively and safely, CBP must be adequately funded and staffed. CBP has testified before Congress that it is short 500 officers needed to serve the maritime industry. This is a significant shortfall. Last year, CBP was funded to hire 2,000 additional staff, fewer than 20 agents were assigned to seaports, and those were only for passenger terminals. Further complicating this process is that on average CBP loses 700 officers a year mainly to retirement.

With \$2 billion invested in port improvements, Port Miami is expected to double cargo in the next 5-10 years. Along with the increase in cargo, a new intermodal yard will create the need for additional inspectors and inspection stations. In 2019, Port Miami increased cruise passenger traffic from 5.3 to 6 million passengers, and continues to increase the cargo numbers, currently over 1 million TEUs (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Unit). This growth requires additional CBP agents to safely and efficiently process these additional embarkations, debarkations and cargo. Inspections without the addition of resources could cause container shipments to be delayed; causing the region to lose millions in revenue and cruise debarkations similarly may be delayed, causing issues for incoming passengers. PortMiami **SUPPORTS** additional resources for CBP and USDA in order to accommodate the growing number of cargo and cruise passengers.

- **DONOR AND ENERGY TRANSFER PORT PROGRAM - *ADVOCATE*** for \$50 million in the FY 2020 Energy and Water development appropriations bill for the Donor and

Energy Transfer Ports Program. In 1986, Congress established a user fee for coastal ports and harbors - the Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT). The HMT is levied on the value of imported goods and was designed to provide 100% of operations and maintenance (O&M) costs for deep draft and coastal waterways throughout the U.S. Since 2003, HMT collections have far exceeded funds appropriated for harbor maintenance, and the “surplus” of collections over expenditures has grown to over \$9 billion. Rather than being used for their intended purpose, HMT revenues have been used to help balance the federal budget.

Annual Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) spending is typically based on the previous year’s receipts. Congress has made important strides to full spending of annual receipts. In FY2019, Congress appropriated 91% of receipts, totaling \$1.54 billion in spending. The FY2020 House bill proposes \$1.697 billion from the HMTF, \$147 million above FY2019 spending. The Senate bill has yet to be released. Over the past few years, there has been a tremendous effort to develop a comprehensive fix for the HMTF.

PortMiami receives only a nominal amount of Harbor Maintenance Tax funds because our harbor requires little, if any annual maintenance dredging. The Miami Harbor has no contaminated sediments and the need for berth dredging is nominal due to the low levels of silting in the Harbor. Currently, there is an industry (AAPA) proposal to make the D&E program permanent and expand the amount of funds available. This industry proposal will be considered in the context of the anticipated 2020 WRDA legislation.

- **LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OF UNAUTHORIZED DRONES - *ADVOCATE*** for the amending of H.R. 302, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2018. Currently, federal, state, and local agencies are prohibited from engaging with drones to prevent criminal or accidental incidents from happening. Under Title 18 of the United States Code, it is illegal to willfully damage or destroy an aircraft, and drones are considered as such. Title 18 also prevents law enforcement from using tailored jamming or protocol manipulation to interdict drones because it is considered intruding on a “protected computer.” The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018 provided the Department of Defense with relief from Title 18 restrictions in order to protect certain military installations and assets however local and state law enforcement did not receive the same relief.

PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Public Housing & Section 8 Housing - *ADVOCATE*** for increased federal funding from HUD for public housing and Section 8 programs. Funding for these programs will ensure the preservation of existing housing stock and improvement of federally-funded programs that provide crucial affordable housing and rental subsidies to low-income families.
- **Rental Assistance Demonstration program (RAD) - *SUPPORT*** HUD using the Rental Assistance Demonstration program (RAD) to be utilized by Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) that have Capital Fund Financial program debt. (CFFP)

- **Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) - *SUPPORT*** allowing HUD to permit Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) rated “standard” to qualify for Moving to Work (MTW) status with justification to HUD. ***SUPPORT*** Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to appeal their operating subsidy per unit month (PUM) if there is a wide variance between the existing per unit month (PUM) and Contract Rents under (RAD).
- **Prevent Refederalizing of Central Office Cost Center (COCC) Fees and Funds - *ADVOCATE*** against HUD from refederalizing of the Central Office Cost Center (COCC). HUD regulations permit COCC funds to be defederalized, permitting flexibility in use of these funds for affordable housing. Lacking County funds, PHCD is dependent on COCC funds to address shortfalls in many operational areas, and limits PHCD’s ability to leverage funds with the private sector.
- ***SUPPORT*** Congressional message to HUD not to implement changes to the Annual Contribution Contract with Public Housing Authorities (PHAs).
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - *SUPPORT*** for increased federal funding for the HUD CDBG program.
 - The CDBG entitlement program provides grants on a formula basis to general units of local governments and states to address a variety of community development needs in very-low to-moderate income areas.
 - The CDBG program’s primary objective is to assist in the development of viable urban communities by supporting projects that:
 - benefit very-low to moderate-income persons
 - are integrated in a long range community strategy
 - leverage further private and public partnerships
 - enhance deteriorated residential and business districts

The projects are classified in four categories: Public Facilities and Capital Improvement; Economic Development; Public Services; and Affordable Housing. CDBG program funds can be used to build community facilities, roads, and parks; to repair or rehabilitate housing, to provide new or increased public services to local residents or to fund initiatives that generate or retain new jobs.

Over the last five years Miami-Dade County has adopted a strategic focus on development within the Neighborhood Revitalization Areas in an effort to have the greatest impact among the most needy communities and households. The reduction of funding for the CDBG program has a significant impact on the County’s ability to continue to implement programs designed to address the needs of its very-low to moderate-income communities which this program serve. The CDBG program funding has declined each year over the last ten years and given the current economic conditions this financial support is critically needed to

continue serving and addressing the needs of very-low and moderate-income residents.

- **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) - *SUPPORT*** the preservation or increase of ESG funding for Miami-Dade County and ***SUPPORT*** the \$3.3 billion national funding recommendations for the CDBG program as advocated by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). The ESG Program supports homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, and related services. ESG is authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- **HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program - *SUPPORT*** continued funding for the HUD HOME program.
 - The HOME program is authorized under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended. It is the largest Federal block grant to State and local governments, and it is designed to create affordable housing for low-income households. This program, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), includes but is not limited to providing rental housing, rental housing assistance, home purchase or rehabilitation financing assistance to eligible homeowners and new homebuyers.
 - HUD has classified Miami-Dade County as a “high-cost area.” By implication, the high housing cost also results in high rental costs. It is important that the County support housing programs which benefit the low- to moderate-income residents in the community who typically will require rental housing. The HOME program is one of the many funding sources that the County relies upon to address housing needs of its low-to moderate-income residents. Therefore, any further reduction or elimination of HOME program funding will have a devastating impact on the County’s ability to continue to house its most needy residents.
- **Capital Fund Emergency Safety and Security Program - *ADVOCATE*** for increased funding for the grant program beyond the \$10 million appropriated by Congress. The current amount is significantly inadequate to accommodate all potential emergency and security needs for public housing authorities across the country.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

- **Institute of Museum and Library Science and Department of Education Federal Library Funding - *SUPPORT*** increased appropriations to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and to the Department of Education, both of which provide significant funding for programs such as the Library Services and Technology Act and Innovative Approaches to Literacy Programs.

REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Resilience

- **Whole Building Data - *SUPPORT*** federal requirement for all utilities to collect aggregated whole-building data from local government jurisdiction's largest buildings (20,000 square feet and above for government-owned buildings and private sector buildings) and provide this data to building owners or managers and local government representatives for benchmarking and to help identify opportunities to reduce water and energy usage.
- **Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems - *SUPPORT*** legislation that promote and establish Feed-in-tariff policies. Support that Feed-in-tariffs include the following key provisions (1) guaranteed access to the grid; (2) stable, long-term purchase agreements; and (3) payment levels based on the costs of Renewable Energy generation that allow for off-site or "virtual" net metering and prohibit the weakening of net metering and associated rates. Support tax deductions for energy efficiency or renewable energy projects for property owners.
- **Microgrids and smart grids - *URGE*** the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to develop mandatory standards for establishing microgrids and smart grids, including critical buildings and the geographic areas for prioritizing microgrids. Microgrids or self-contained electric grids, capable of operating both in grid-connected or in island mode offer opportunities to increase resilience, reduce greenhouse emissions, save money, and achieve other policy goals such as smart city implementation. Smart Grid enables dynamic grid operation to accommodate greater penetration of renewable energy (wind, solar, tec.) and management of EV charging to use idle capacity in generation and transmission while preventing overload of distribution systems.
- ***OPPOSE*** weakening of vehicle **fuel-economy standards** and revocation of the waiver allowing California to set its own fuel-economy standards (home rule issue).
- ***SUPPORT*** Action by the US Army Corps of Engineers to reassess the **Central and South Florida Flood Control Project** given changing climate conditions, especially sea level rise.
- **Protect and Increase** funding for flood risk mitigation, particularly through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation grants and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and the Department of Housing and Urban Developments' Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation funds. Additionally, ensure federally-funded projects are built resiliently.

Specifically:

- **H.R. 3702 Reforming Disaster Recovery Act**, less the language in Section 124.(c) that specifies 'Latest National Consensus Codes', Florida has a State Code based on these National Consensus Codes with a 2 year lag between I-code publication and Florida specific modification/adoption. This may create a problem for our communities.
- **H.R. 3541 Coastal State Climate Preparedness Act of 2019**
- **SUPPORT** efforts to reauthorize, improve, and strengthen the National Flood Insurance Program with provisions that limit premium rate increases and protect affordability, encourage greater program participation, expand the Increased Cost of Compliance Program, emphasize and increase funding for mitigation, and develop accurate flood maps.

Specifically:

- **H.R. 3167 & S. 2187-National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization Act 2019**, both extend the NFIP to 9/30/2024, increase ICC from \$30,000.00 to \$60,000.00, increase map funding, Pilot programs for Premiums, among other things.
- **H.R. 3111-National Flood Insurance Program Administrative Reform Act of 2019.**
- **H.R. 3462-Shelter Act**
- **H.R. 2189-Digital Coast Act**
- **S. 1533-National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act**, reauthorizes NFIP through 12/1/2020.
- **Environmental and Climate Equity - Support** efforts to require federal agencies to include considerations of climate equity - the disproportionate environmental and human health impacts of rulemaking on communities of color and frontline communities - like Senate Bill 2236, Environmental Justice Act of 2019.

Agriculture

- **United States Mexico-Canada Agreement a.k.a. North American Free Trade Agreement - OPPOSE** The current version of the USMCA agreement without protections for Florida farmers. Strongly urge the inclusion of seasonal anti-dumping protections as initially promised by the Trump Administration, which were removed during negotiations. Also seek increased inspections for food safety compliance, pesticide residue and phytosanitary standards; Create a mechanism to account for the true disparity in labor costs between the US and Mexico which enables them to be a low cost producer; Establish and promptly enforce reasonable floor prices which account for true cost of production; Import quotas in order to limit the amount of product available to avoid flooding the market; Only allow loads that have a true buyer at a set price. No "open" loads, which flood the markets; There also needs to be further investigation and action on the illegal drug trade's influence in and use of produce

shipments to mask illegal drug shipments; and Rescind the allowance of Mexican trucks to move into the US without inspection for phytosanitary standards, illegal drugs, food safety and issues of national security at the point of entry.

- **Defending Domestic Produce Production Act of 2019 S. 16/H.R. 101 - *ADVOCATE*** for the passage of Senate Bill S. 16, which protects domestic produce production through mechanisms that were promised but left out of the USMCA. This bill provides the ability to address the dumping of produce on the market in a fairer way based on seasonal production, instead of the current annual nationwide calculation.
- **Laurel Wilt Disease - *ADVOCATE*** for continued funding for the mitigation and eradication, prevention and treatment of Laurel Wilt Disease. Include Laurel Wilt Disease as a covered cause of loss under the tree insurance policy and the Tree Assistance Program.
- **Agriculture Relief - *ADVOCATE*** for funding, programs, legislation and assistance to increase viability of our local agricultural industry and mitigate any effects of invasive pests, diseases, freezes, flooding, windstorm and other potential damages to our said industry.

Environmental Protection

- **Beach Erosion Control Sand Sources - *SUPPORT*** efforts to exempt Southeast Florida, specifically Miami-Dade County, from federal prohibition of cost-sharing non-domestic sources of beach sand for beach erosion control/sea level rise mitigation.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

- **Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) / Net Metering - *SUPPORT*** expansion of the rebuttable presumption of a mandatory purchase obligation under PURPA, minimum term duration standards for power purchase agreements, including WTE micro-grids where government owned WTE facilities will be able to provide power to other local government infrastructure (i.e. airports, wastewater treatment plants, etc.). Remove barriers preventing local governments with WTE facilities from delivering electricity, either directly or via net metering, to other infrastructures. This includes restrictions on the amount of electricity that can be used from a facility, any restrictions on the locations of the generator and the end user, exit fees, back up rates, or any other market barrier.
- **Electric Vehicles - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** dedicated funding be provided to large Counties (more than 100,000 residents) for electric garbage trucks. A fully electric garbage truck will have 100% ZERO emissions, reduced fuel, and maintenance costs. An electric garbage truck is very quiet and will cut down on the noise pollution as well. In keeping with the County's sustainability goals, the County's WTE facility can be used to power electric vehicles.

- **Flow Control/Interstate Waste Transport - *OPPOSE*** any efforts seeking to amend legislation in response to the April, 2007 Supreme Court decision "United Haulers Assn. v. Oreida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (No. 05-1345)" which held that flow control to publicly owned facilities is a legislative use of flow control authority. Flow control improves the DSWM's financial position and creates a more stable environment.
- **Market Incentives for Electricity Produced from Renewable Resources - *SUPPORT*** market incentives to encourage development and operation of alternative, renewable energy production.
- **Mosquito Control Technologies - *ADVOCATE* and *SUPPORT*** dedicated funding be provided to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or to state or local governments for new and emerging technologies that reduce the risk of mosquito-transmitted diseases. Miami-Dade County is the gateway to the Americas. Miami International Airport (MIA) is among the busiest airports in the world. Many flights carrying passengers from Latin and Central America and the Caribbean deplane at MIA on a daily basis. These passengers are coming from areas where there are reported cases of Yellow Fever, Denge, Zika, and Chickungunya -- all viruses carried by mosquitoes. In 2018, Miami-Dade County Mosquito Control continues to receive daily referrals from the local Department of Health for all of these viruses. The county wants to be at the forefront of all innovative technologies for mosquito control.

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

- **South Corridor Rapid Transit Project Funding - *SUPPORT*** Miami-Dade County's Small Starts Application to the Federal Transit Administration for the South Corridor Rapid Transit Project, one of the six corridors in Miami-Dade County's Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan.
- **SMART Plan Funding - *SUPPORT*** funding for all corridors in the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan.
- **State of Good Repair (SGR) grants - *SUPPORT*** funding for Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) for several critical, but not fully-funded improvements projects, which could qualify for State of Good Repair (SGR) grants. MDT is requesting continuing support for SGR grants that can fund projects for improvement or modernization of Metrorail and Metromover guideways, replacement of escalators and overhaul of elevators at Metromover stations, the acquisition of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses and retrofitting of garages to service GNG buses.
- **Transportation and Infrastructure Projects Funding - *SUPPORT*** legislation that provides opportunities for increased and alternative revenue sources for transportation and infrastructure projects.

- **Discretionary Transit Grants** - Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) is requesting the **SUPPORT** of Department of Transportation grant funds that would allow MDT to establish and operate Bus Rapid Transit corridors along some of Miami-Dade County's busy corridors.
- **Public Works Funding** - **SUPPORT** policies that would result in increased funding to Public Works Projects. Unfunded projects are a public safety issue. Counties play a critical role in the nation's transportation system, owning 45 percent of all public roads (compared to the 32 percent of public roads owned by cities and townships, 19 percent by states, and 3 percent by the federal government) and 39 percent of the nation's bridge inventory. The county has public works needs including road and bridge maintenance and/or replacement; traffic management systems; ADA projects; intersection improvements; complete streets and improved bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.
- **Funding for Hazard Mitigation and Infrastructure Strengthening** - **SUPPORT** policies that would allow for increased funding of Hazard Mitigation Projects. Hazard mitigation measures are any sustainable action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from future disasters. Studies have shown that every \$1 spent equals \$4 of future damages mitigated. The county would like funding for traffic signal infrastructure strengthening; battery and/or solar power units for critical traffic signals in case of prolonged power outages; water-proofing electrical and CCTV equipment to avoid wind-driven rain damage; flood-proofing elevator and escalator equipment rooms to avoid damage from flooding; and elevating transit power stations to avoid damage from flooding.
- **Alternative Fuel Excise Tax Credit** - **SUPPORT** the extension or making permanent the federal \$0.50/gallon alternative fuel excise tax credit, which covers compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane autogas and other alternative transportation fuels. Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015, extended dozens of federal tax credits that expired at the end of 2014 and make some subsidies permanent. The legislation includes a two-year extension through Dec. 31, 2016, for various alternative fuel incentives.
- **Program of Interrelated Projects** - **ADVOCATE** for all corridors in the SMART plan to qualify within the program, and use non-federal projects within the program as a local match contribution toward federal funds. This would also assist in helping the project advance while different portions of the project are being worked on simultaneously.
- **Simplify the Capital Investment Grant Program (CIG)** - **SUPPORT** policies that simplify the funding decision so that communities will know the amount of funding that is available to them before investing years and millions of dollars on studies. Suggest a formula funding structure so that large cities can plan their transit systems effectively.

- **Streamline National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - *SUPPORT*** policies that would streamline the NEPA process to allow for expedited studies and review times. NEPA has been an onerous obstacle to project development. Interagency review lacks coordination, and reviewing agencies often struggle with the level of review required. NEPA federal review authority for transit projects should be delegated to state departments of transportation so that new studies can proceed more quickly. Federal regulations should be changed to allow for Records of Decision to remain valid for longer periods of time, given the amount of time it takes to implement a major transit project, and the amount of money spent to complete a project study.
- **Flexible Route Applications - *ADVOCATE*** for legislation that assists in solving the first-mile/last-mile challenge that many transit agencies face today. This includes legislation that allows for the development and implementation of flexible route applications.
- **Autonomous vehicles - *SUPPORT*** funding for the acquisition of autonomous vehicles, and the participation in demonstration programs. Also, support the removal of potential roadblocks to the integration of this innovative, transformational automotive technology that can significantly improve safety, mobility, and sustainability.
- **Federal Surface Transportation Authorization Bill - *SUPPORT*** a federal surface transportation authorization bill that will replace the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act* (FAST Act) when it expires on September 30, 2020. Enact a long-term surface transportation authorization act funded by dedicated, sustainable revenues that address the pending shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund (including the Mass Transit Account), and provide funding over six years to bring public transit systems to a state of good repair and meet growing community demands for increased mobility choices.

WATER & SEWER

- **Infrastructure Finance and Programs - *SUPPORT*** the implementation of Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Authority (WIFIA), adequate funding of State Revolving Loan Funds, and federal policy on affordability, climate change, Clean Water Act mandates, and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, which are all significant factors for WASD capital and operating requirements. The Department has been selected in each of the first three funding cycles for WIFIA projects, in addition to maximizing utilization of the State Revolving Loan Fund program, demonstrating the importance of these federal initiatives to produce results on the ground. A reliable utility system meeting all state and federal requirements is essential for the operation of other departments as well as the continued economic well-being of the County. Miami-Dade County has a \$8+ billion water and sewer capital needs program resulting from aging infrastructure, federal and state regulatory mandates, and changing conditions associated with documented sea level rise. This represents the largest capital burden of any comparably sized utility in the nation.

- **Tax-Exempt Municipal Bond Financing** - **OPPOSE** *Altering Tax-Exempt Municipal Bond Financing on Public Drinking Water & Wastewater Systems*, reviews options being discussed at the federal level to cap or eliminate the 100-year old tax exempt status of municipal bonds, a move that would cost the sector billions of dollars in infrastructure projects at a time when federal investment in water and wastewater infrastructure is waning. For more than a century, tax-exempt municipal bonds have been the most important source of funding for water and wastewater infrastructure projects in the United States. Congress should retain the current federal tax exemption for municipal bonds. **FAVOR** the amendment of federal tax laws to once again permit the refinancing of existing tax-exempt bonds with new tax-exempt bonds at more favorable rates. Substantial savings to utility customers can be achieved by lowering the cost of borrowing needed to finance facilities needed to provide a reliable and compliant water and sewer system.
- **Sound Science for Public Health and Environmental Protection** - **SUPPORT** the research, funding, and policy by which the Environmental Protection Agency and other pertinent federal agencies can assess risks and develop cost-effective technologies and management strategies to mitigate those risks for protection of public health and the environment through the setting of standards, the provision of technical assistance to utilities, and the integration of programs to optimize results and avoid counterproductive conflicts.

APPENDIX 1



NEWS FROM THE MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Rick Myers
Executive Director
Major Cities Chiefs Association
719-325-6665

Major Cities Chiefs Release Firearms Violence Policy

WASHINGTON, June 6, 2018 – On behalf of the largest law enforcement agencies in the Nation, Major Cities Chiefs Association President and Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger issued a statement today announcing the release of an updated and expanded Firearms Violence Policy. Chiefs of Police gathered in Nashville, TN, and considered measures to prevent gun violence seen in recent cases in Florida, Texas, and throughout the Nation.

Adopted by a vote of Chiefs at their meeting, the new policy statement includes calling on Congress to:

- Adopt a Universal Background Check for all gun sales and transfers;
- Expand screening for prohibited buyers to include persons with violent mental health history;
- Seek "Red Flag" measures to prevent guns from reaching persons who threaten violence and murder; and
- Urge legislation that permits court orders barring gun purchases in domestic violence cases.

The new policy reflects lessons learned from recent tragic gun murders and pleas of both parents and youth from Marjory Stoneman High School, in Parkland, Florida, who attended the Chiefs' conference.

Chief Manger said: "As first responders, we have seen the toll that firearms violence takes on our communities and it is time that we as a Nation take the necessary steps to reduce the risk of such tragic events. Reform to this system is overdue and we must all play a role in keeping firearms off our streets and out of our schools."

Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo said: "The Major Cities Chiefs Association joins with those we are sworn to protect in our commitment to reform that will reduce the threat of gun violence in America, and we will use the strength of our nationwide membership to move these important proposals forward."

Miami-Dade Police Director Juan Perez said: "As representatives of the largest urban areas in the Nation, where gun violence takes the highest toll, we have seen first-hand the dangers that firearms pose to our cities and urge Congress to do everything it can to eliminate the incalculable risk that these firearms pose to our entire society."

###



Firearms Violence Policy

Adopted by Membership Vote on May 30, 2018

The Major Cities Chiefs Association has been a strong advocate for sensible gun policy for many years and has taken these positions on key issues.

Legislative Positions

- Adopt Universal Background Checks for all gun sales and close both gun show and internet loopholes
- Strengthen NICS definitions of prohibited purchasers to cover all appropriate domestic violence cases, with strict judicial procedures for appeal and reinstatement
- Support "Red Flag" legislation and regulations to preclude gun purchases by mentally disturbed persons with histories of violent behavior
- Ban "bump-stock" devices that replicate fully automatic weapons fire
- Maintain ATF regulations and restrictions regarding silencers
- Reinstate the assault weapons ban and encourage stiffer penalties for illegal guns
- Ban high capacity magazines (10+ rounds)
- Ban internet ammo sales, require in-person transactions, records of sales and licensing of ammo vendors
- Oppose legislation that would require States to recognize any and all concealed carry permits
- Oppose legislation that further erodes ATF authority
- Prevent known terrorists from purchasing firearms and/or ammunition

Policy Statements

- Establish a strong system for universal background checks to cover all firearms purchases, with no exceptions.
- Strengthen the national criminal instant background check system. The background check system does not have complete data and measures should be undertaken to ensure comprehensive reporting. Mental health information, for example, is inadequate, inconsistent and incomplete. The NICS system must be improved.
- Encourage aggressive federal prosecution of violent offenders using guns. Conviction in Federal Court generally results in stronger sanctions, removes the offenders from the streets and serves as a deterrent.
- Encourage mandatory reporting of all purchases, transfers and stolen firearms. This measure would assist law enforcement agencies with identification, criminal investigations and recovery of stolen firearms.
- Establish harsher penalties and aggressively prosecute straw purchasers, who are responsible for putting a substantial number of guns used in criminal acts. More aggressive prosecution with strong penalties would hold them accountable and act as a deterrent.
- Court orders can and should be used to prevent purchase of firearms by persons who pose a threat to public safety.
- Support and strengthen the authorities of ATF, rather than to restrict and handicap enforcement of gun laws.

Major Cities Chiefs is a professional association of Chiefs and Sheriffs representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada. Membership is comprised of Chiefs and Sheriffs of the sixty-nine largest law enforcement agencies in the United States and ten largest in Canada. The Chiefs serve more than 82 million people.