Below, please find issues of importance that were taken up during the second week of the legislative session:

- **Pension Reform** – The House Government Operations Subcommittee passed its chamber’s pension reform legislation this week, HB 1405 by Rep. Workman. This bill, as amended, would increase the retirement age for regular class from 62 to 65 and for special risk from 55 to 60, requires state employees to contribute five percent of their salaries to the states’ pension plan and closes the Deferred Retirement Optional Program (DROP) to any new enrollees. The bill now moves to the House Appropriations Committee. On the Senate side, SB 1128 by Sen. Ring, which deals with local pensions, was passed by the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee. The committee dropped a measure in the bill that would have required all local governments to enroll new employees in investment plans. The House version is closer in line with the changes Governor Scott wants to make to the state’s pension system, which include elimination of DROP and having employees contribute five percent toward their pensions.

- **Medicaid Reform** – The House Health and Human Services Committee passed the House Medicaid reform proposal this week. The proposal would shift all of the state’s Medicaid patients, including those in nursing homes and those who are developmentally disabled, into managed care programs over the next five years. With regards to Miami-Dade County, the bill raises from nine to ten the number of managed care plans the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) can contract with in Miami-Dade County. To ensure managed care participation in the Florida Panhandle, AHCA must award contracts in Miami-Dade to each managed care plan that operations in the Panhandle. Committee Chair Rob Schenck expects the bill to be heard in one more committee before it reaches the House floor. With regards to hospital funding, the bill makes changes to the Medicaid financing formula and turns down Medicaid funding for Florida hospitals. The initial proposal put forth by the House had a tiered system with regards to hospital funding and had children’s, statutory teaching and rural hospitals in Tier 1,
and eligible for 50 percent of the $1 billion Low Income Pool (LIP) funding. Tier 3 hospitals would have included all community hospitals and been eligible for 15 percent of the funding. Other hospitals in the middle would be allocated the remaining 35 percent. The bill passed Tuesday by the House flipped the percentages so that Tier 1 hospitals get 15 percent and Tier 3 get 50 percent. Tony Carvalho, President of the Safety Net Hospital Association of Florida, testified before the committee that these changes would result in a $125 million impact on rural, children’s and teaching hospitals. When further asked by the committee as to the impact on graduate medical education, Carvalho said “there are some teaching hospitals that are financially, marginally viable. If they lose this type of money the only options they have that don’t affect life savings services would be resident programs, graduate medical education programs”.

- **Growth Management** – The House Community and Military Affairs Subcommittee passed a committee bill this week which reduces the state’s oversight role of local growth management decisions to resources of statewide importance and large-scale planning initiatives. The bill also eliminates state requirements for local governments to require developers to pay for needed roads, schools, and parks. The Florida League of Cities spoke in support of the bill. The bill will now be assigned another committee stop before it reaches the House floor.

- **Local Government** – The Senate Community Affairs passed SB 1144 by Sen. Margolis, which authorizes boards of county commissioners to negotiate the lease of certain real property for a limited period and authorizes the transfers of right-of-way between local governments by deed. The bill now goes to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The House companion, HB 767 by Rep. Rooney, has not received a committee hearing yet.

- **Red Light Cameras** – The House Economic Affairs Committee passed HB 4087 by Representatives Corcoran and Trujillo, which would put an end to the use of red light cameras. The bill now goes the House Appropriations Committee. The Senate companion, SB 672 by Sen. Garcia, is currently awaiting a hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee.

- **Teacher Merit Pay** – The House passed SB 736, known as the Student Success Act, this week. Having already passed the Senate during the first week of session, the bill now goes to Governor Scott, who has already stated that he will sign the bill. The bill is considered this year’s version of SB 6, which was vetoed by Governor Crist and was the subject of much publicity during the 2010 session. The Student Success Act would link teacher pay raises to student test scores, and eliminates teacher tenure for those hired after July 1.

- **Ocean Outfalls** – The Senate Environmental Protection and Conservation Committee approved SB 796 by Sen. Diaz de la Portilla, which would extend to 2030 the deadline by which South Florida utilities must stop piping treated sewage into the ocean. In 2008,
the legislature set a 2025 deadline. The bill would also allow utilities to continue discharging up to 5 percent during summer rainy seasons. The bill now moves to the Senate Community Affairs Committee. The House companion, HB 613 by Rep. Trujillo, has not been heard in committee yet.

**Week 3 Issues**

The following issues of importance to Miami-Dade County will be taken up during the third week of the legislative session:

- **SB 1198, Communications Services Tax, Sen. Bogdanoff** - Provides for a rounding algorithm. Allows dealers to compute the tax using the rounding algorithm for certain aggregated state and local taxes. Provides for retroactive application. Clarifies that the act does not provide for an assessment of any tax not paid or create a right to a refund of any tax paid before a date certain. **MONDAY IN THE SENATE COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY, AND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

- **SB 468, Community Redevelopment, Sen. Bullard** - Expands the definition of the term "blighted area" to include land previously used as a military facility. **MONDAY IN THE SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- **SB 1210, Counties and Municipalities, Sen. Norman** - Authorizes the board of county commissioners and the governing body of a municipality to pursue the collection of delinquent fees, service charges, fines, or costs through the use of a private attorney or a collection agent. Provides that the collection fee, including attorney's fees, may be added to the balance owed. Limits the amount of the fee. **MONDAY IN THE SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- **SB 426, Service of Process, Sen. Latvala** - Authorizes certified process servers to serve writs of possession in actions for possession of residential property. Authorizes a landlord to select a certified process server to serve a writ of possession. Requires a certified process server to provide notice of the posting of the writ to the sheriff. **MONDAY IN THE SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- **HB 381, Property Assessment; Nonhomestead Increase Limitation Reduction; New Homestead Owner’s Additional Exemption, Rep. Dorworth** - Proposes amendments to ss. 4 & 6 of Art. VII & creation of ss. 32 & 33 of Art. XII of State Constitution to reduce limitation on annual assessment increases applicable to nonhomestead real property, provide additional homestead exemption for new owners of homestead property, &
application & limitations with respect thereto, & provide effective dates. **MONDAY IN HOUSE COMMUNITY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE**

- **SB 372, Pretrial Programs, Sen. Bogdanoff** - Requires each pretrial release program established by ordinance of a county commission, by administrative order of a court, or by any other means in order to assist in the release of a defendant from pretrial custody to conform to the eligibility criteria set forth by the act. Preempts any conflicting local ordinances, orders, or practices. Requires that the defendant satisfy certain eligibility criteria in order to be assigned to a pretrial release program. **TUESDAY IN SENATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

- **SB 1300, Juvenile Civil Citations, Sen. Storms** - Requires that a juvenile civil citation program be established at the local level with the concurrence of the chief judge of the circuit and other designated persons. Authorizes a law enforcement agency, the Department of Juvenile Justice, a juvenile assessment center, the county or municipality, or an entity selected by the county or municipality to operate the program. Restricts eligibility of participants for the civil citation program to first-time misdemeanor offenders. **TUESDAY IN SENATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

- **SB 1448, Sale of Lease of a Public Hospital, Sen. Garcia** - Requires that the sale or lease of a county, district, or municipal hospital to a for-profit or not-for-profit Florida corporation receive prior approval by the Attorney General. Requires the governing board to first determine whether there are any qualified purchasers or lessees of the hospital before considering whether to sell or lease the hospital. Authorizes the Attorney General to employ independent consultants to determine the fair market value of the proposed sale or lease. **TUESDAY IN SENATE HEALTH REGULATION COMMITTEE**

- **SB 328, Service of Process, Sen. Margolis** - Specifies where a process server must record certain information concerning service. Grants authorized process servers unannounced access to specified residential areas where a defendant or witness resides or is known to be. **TUESDAY IN SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

- **SB 466, Tourism Development Tax, Sen. Braynon** - Provides additional bonding authority for a certain additional tourist development tax. Provides a limitation on tax revenues received from such tax and used for certain purposes. Limits the expenditure of ad valorem tax revenue for expansion of facilities by a county imposing a tourist development tax for certain purposes. Provides for nonapplication of a prohibition against levying such tax in certain cities and towns under certain conditions. **TUESDAY IN SENATE COMMERCE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE**

- **SB 582, Local Business Taxes, Sen. Detert** - Exempts an individual engaging in or managing a business in an individual capacity as an employee from requirements related to local business taxes. Specifies that an individual licensed and operating as a
broker associate or sales associate is an employee. Prohibits a local governing authority from holding an exempt employee liable for the failure of a principal or employer to comply with certain obligations related to a local business tax or requiring an exempt employee to take certain actions related to a local business tax. TUESDAY IN SENATE REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE