



MEMORANDUM

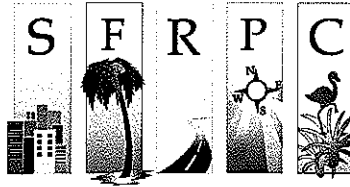
AGENDA ITEM #11

DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2010
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Attached are brief descriptions of activities in which the Council has been involved since the July 12, 2010 Council meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



Highlights of Council Activities

September 2010

South Florida Regional Planning Council Revolving Loan Fund Marketing Update

The South Florida Regional Planning Council Revolving Loan Programs (SFRPC-RLF, SFRPC-RLF II and RESCUE-RLF) are designed to meet the needs of businesses in our Region that are not entirely served by conventional lenders. Funds are available to all small and medium-size businesses within Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties as well as designated communities within Miami-Dade County. The Revolving Loan Program also provides technical assistance to new and existing borrowers that will assist them with the growth of their business.

Staff continues to work with the City of Hollywood to plan their annual Small Business Conference, which is scheduled for September 22, 2010, at the Hillcrest Golf & Country Club, 4600 Hillcrest Drive, Hollywood, Florida.

Council staff will be working with the City of Fort Lauderdale Energy Manager and necessary staff to develop, manage and implement a revolving loan fund as part of the City's "Smart Watts" financial incentive program. The Department of Energy (DOE) approved the Smart Watts Program as part of the City's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS), which consists of a Home Energy Saver Program, Rebate Program, and a Revolving Loan Fund. The Program shares the EECS goals of reducing energy consumption, improving energy conservation in the community and reducing electricity consumption within the residential and commercial sector. The focus of the Program's design will be to leverage funds and create employment opportunities.

The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2010.

For more information regarding the RLF visit our website at www.sfrpc.com/rlf.htm or, please contact Cheryl Cook or Joyce Hall at (954) 985-4416 or email at rlf@sfrpc.com.

Miami-Dade County Office of Sustainability Targeted Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (REEL)

Council staff has developed the initial marketing materials for the Miami-Dade Renovation for Energy Efficiency Loan program (REEL). Staff attended the Mayors' Green Initiatives for Economic Growth Conference at the Miami-Beach Convention Center where the program was officially announced.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Cook, Bob Cambric, or Rachel Kalin of Council staff at (954) 985-4416 or email at rlf@sfrpc.com.

Regional Domestic Security Task Force Activities

The Southeast Regional Domestic Security Task Force (SERDSTF) is one of Florida's seven Regions funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to help prevent or respond to terrorism events in the State. The SERDSTF, which is Region 7, includes Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

Council staff is assisting the Florida Division of Emergency Management to coordinate training opportunities for emergency management professionals in the Region. To that end, the Council hosted a National Incident Management System (NIMS) class from August 30 to September 1. The class, Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents (ICS-300), is targeted at individuals who may assume a supervisory role in expanding or Type 3 incidents. During Type 3 incidents, some or all of the Command and General Staff positions may be activated, as well as Division/Group Supervisor and/or Unit Leader level positions.

For additional information, contact Manny Cela (celam@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

South Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

The State of Florida is divided into 11 Local Emergency Planning Committee Districts whose broad duties include preparing regional hazardous materials emergency plans, perform outreach functions to increase awareness and understanding of hazardous substances and provide free training to public sector hazardous material response employees. Since 1988, the Council has served as staff to the South Florida LEPC District 11 (SoFlaLEPC), which encompasses Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties. For more information on the SoFlaLEPC and its activities in the Region, please visit its website at <http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc.htm>.

The South Florida LEPC, through its Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness training grant, continues to offer discipline-specific courses to first responders and others in the hazmat community. Many positions require annual refresher courses to maintain their certification. One such course is the 8-hour HAZWOPER Refresher Course (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response), whose target audience is primarily public works, health, utilities, fire, law enforcement, sanitation, water and sewer and environmental agencies. This class was offered July 27, 28 and 29 at the Miami-Dade DERM office in Downtown Miami and again August 24 at the Miami Beach Convention Center. Nearly 140 hazmat personnel attended the classes.

For information on upcoming training courses, please visit our training webpage located at <http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/training.htm>.

Information on upcoming meeting dates, agendas for upcoming meetings and minutes from previous meetings is always available from <http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/meetings.htm>.

For additional information, contact the SoFlaLEPC Coordinator Manny Cela (celam@sfrpc.com).

Legacy Green Empowerment (Legacy) Program

In the Spring, the Institute for Community Collaboration launched the Legacy Green Empowerment Program with funding from JOBS for LOW Income Individuals, under the U.S. Health and Human Services, Administration for Families and Children, Office of Community Services. The Legacy Program enrolled 32 low-income and unemployed individuals from Coconut Grove, Liberty City, Miami, and Opa-locka to learn horticulture under a Master Gardener and culinary arts under a Master Chef over a 20-week classroom and on-the-job training course.

On August 17, 2010, "32 Strong" graduated from the Program at a reception dinner at the Church of the Open Door in Liberty City. All 32 Strong graduates will begin assigned full-time positions in the gardening and culinary arts field in September. On August 24, 2010, the Legacy Program held a Meet and Greet luncheon at the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) offices to bring together community organizers, organizations, and the Legacy team members of Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. The Legacy Program intends to expand its initiatives to Broward County this Fall.

For additional information on the Legacy Program, please contact Karen Hamilton of Council staff at khamilton@sfrpc.com or <http://www.sfrpc.com/Legacy.htm>.

Regional Outreach

Staff had a booth at the 84th Florida League of Cities Annual Conference's Grants and Technical Assistance Resource Center at the Hollywood Westin Diplomat on August 19 and 20. Staff was available to answer questions and provide reading materials on a wide array of the South Florida Regional Planning Council activities including, but not limited to the Revolving Loan Program, Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition, State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative, Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the Legacy Green Empowerment Program. For additional information, please contact Rachel Kalin of Council staff at rkalin@sfrpc.com.

Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee

Council staff attended the August 6, 2010 Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee (PTC) meeting, which was held at Miami-Dade County Public Schools. After welcoming comments the School Board staff answered questions about the optional elements to the Inter-local Agreement. A presentation on the Charter School process and a discussion ensued on the types of criteria that should be developed for charter school concurrency mitigation. The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of School Facilities Staff Working Group formed a subcommittee to perform this task. SFRPC staff apprised members of Council activities including the Brownfield Program, Legacy Initiatives, and upcoming grant opportunities, including the Notice of Funding Availability for the HUD's Sustainable Community Regional Planning Grant Program. Updates were also given on local Gold Coast APA activities.

The PTC is comprised of planners from local governments and private industry in Miami-Dade County. Meetings are generally held on the first Friday of each month. Council staff provides support for the PTC. For more information about the PTC and upcoming meetings, please visit the Local Government Planners' Meetings Section of the Council's website at www.sfrpc.com.ptc.htm or contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

The Consortium for a Healthier Miami Dade

Council staff belongs to two of the Consortium's Committees: 1) Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and 2) Health and the Built Environment. Staff attended the respective committee meetings in July and August to discuss how past planning practices affect residents of South Florida activity levels and access healthy food sources. Staff also described the Legacy Green Initiatives efforts to promote community empowerment and economic and community development through its culinary arts and community garden training in low-income communities.

The Consortium is an initiative of the Miami-Dade County Health Department and was established in 2003 to respond to increasing rates of chronic diseases in the county. The Consortium is comprised of approximately 125 members representing non-profits as well as educational, businesses and governmental organizations. Please contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff for additional information about this project.

Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Grant Opportunities

Council staff has identified the following three funding opportunities related to Brownfields assessment, clean-up, and redevelopment: Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund, Brownfields Assessment Grant, and Brownfields Clean-up Grant.

Council will be applying to the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund and Assessment Grant Programs. The Revolving Loan Fund grant would allow the Council to recapitalize its revolving fund for clean-up activities. The Brownfields Assessment grant would provide funds to inventory, characterize, assess and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites.

The Brownfields Clean-up Grants provide funds to carry out clean-up activities at a specific brownfield site, owned by the applicant. Funds may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and/or hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances comingled with petroleum).

Although the Council will not be applying for clean-up funds, Council staff will be available to provide technical assistance for Brownfield Clean-up Grant applicants. The application deadline for the grants is October 15, 2010.

A brownfield site is defined as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products, or is mine-scarred land.

For additional information about these grant opportunities visit the EPA's website <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicant.htm> to view the Brownfields Grant guidelines or contact Council Staff, Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) or Cheryl Cook (ccook@sfrpc.com).
