

# MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #11

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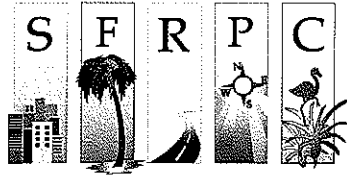
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2009  
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS  
FROM: STAFF  
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

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Attached are brief descriptions of activities in which the Council has been involved since the January 5, 2009 Council meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



## Highlights of Council Activities

### February 2009

#### South Florida Regional Planning Council Revolving Loan Fund Marketing Update

The South Florida Regional Planning Council Revolving Loan Programs (SFRPC-RLF, SFRPC-RLF II, RLF III 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.

The Council staff met with the City of Coral Springs Economic Development Foundation to discuss the Council Revolving Loan Fund participation in a Business Assistant workshop for the businesses located in the City. The Foundation is hosting this event to bring awareness to the businesses in their community on how to prepare for and receive financial assistance to grow their business.

Council staff also met with Miami-Dade County Office of Community and Economic Development to discuss a partnership for providing micro funding to the businesses located in Miami-Dade County.

The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2009.

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

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#### Clean Cities Grant Opportunities

The Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition has identified two funding opportunities. The intent is to apply for these grants as a region to increase the South Florida Region's chances of selection. The first grant is through the U.S. Department of Energy. Applications will **only** be accepted for the following interest areas.

1. Refueling Infrastructure for Alternative Fuels
2. Incremental Cost of Dedicated Alternative Fuel Vehicles
3. Education and Outreach Workshops for Petroleum Reduction Fuels and Technologies

The application deadline for this grant is February 27, 2009.

The second funding opportunity is through the Southeast Diesel Collaborative (SEDC). Projects addressing environmental strategies to improve air quality and public health by reducing emissions from existing diesel engines in the Southeast will be accepted. An explanation of various Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant and loan programs will be given at SEDC's grant application workshop, February 11-12, 2009 in Atlanta Georgia. Information about these programs will be reported at the February Clean Cities Meeting and disseminated to all interested parties via email

For additional information about these grant opportunities contact Larry Allen ([lallen@sfrpc.com](mailto:lallen@sfrpc.com)) or Karen D. Hamilton ([khamilton@sfrpc.com](mailto:khamilton@sfrpc.com)) of Council staff.

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## **Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee**

Council staff attended the January 9, 2009 Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee (PTC) meeting, at the City of Hialeah Gardens City Hall. Planning staff gave a brief overview of recent and future capital improvement projects, including the new City Hall building. Many planners were concerned about inconsistency of Water Supply Plan comments from the Department of Community Affairs and the South Florida Water Management District. A decision was made to invite SFWMD staff to the next meeting to provide some direction. Meeting participants were apprised of a public meeting on January 14, 2009 regarding proposed landscape irrigation ordinances by Miami-Dade Waters and Sewer Department. Planners also expressed interest in having Council staff present on House Bill 697 requirements in the near future. Many local governments have been asked to verify street address ranges and the location of significant features (airports, ports etc) as part of the Census's Boundary and Annexation Survey. Elections for new officers will be held at the February meeting. Attendees were invited to attend the APA Gold Coast Section's retreat on January 24, 2009. There was renewed discussion about receiving AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) Credit for PTC meetings. Some planners were concerned about costs associated with administration of program and attendance of meetings. The idea will be revisited once more information about CM is received from APA/AICP.

The next PTC meeting will be held February 13, 2009, at the Miami Downtown Development Authority offices. The PTC is comprised of planners from local governments and private industry in Miami-Dade County. The PTC generally meets 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](http://www.sfrpc.com.ptc.htm) or contact Karen D. Hamilton ([khamilton@sfrpc.com](mailto:khamilton@sfrpc.com)) of Council staff.

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## **Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition**

The Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition held a clean cities coalition meeting on January 9, 2009. The meeting focused on the upcoming Federal Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Environmental Protection (EPA) grants related infrastructure green energy development, fleet conversions and public outreach. The 2009 Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition meetings are scheduled for the 10:00 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at the South Florida Regional Planning Council. SFRPC Board member Patti Asseff, Councilwoman from the City of Hollywood, is the Chair of the Coalition. The coalition is open to all interested persons, organizations, businesses, municipalities and other governmental entities. If you need additional information, please contact Larry Allen ([lallen@sfrpc.com](mailto:lallen@sfrpc.com)) or Karen Hamilton ([khamilton@sfrpc.com](mailto:khamilton@sfrpc.com)).

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## **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 working with the Miami Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to coordinate a Table Top Exercise (TTX) later this year. The TTX will review existing Emergency Response Plans and coordination with first responders having jurisdiction over the bank facility in Doral.

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

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## **Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities**

The State of Florida is divided into 11 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Districts whose broad duties include preparing regional hazardous materials emergency plans, perform outreach functions to increase awareness and understanding of hazardous substances and provide low-cost 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 LEPC and its activities in the Region, please visit its website at [www.sfrpc.com/lepc.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc.htm).

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Florida Governor Charlie Crist recently signed a proclamation designating January 18-24, 2009 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. The theme this year was Minimizing Mercury Releases, with a particular focus on the Proper Disposal of Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs). LEPCs around the State conducted outreach activities to educate the public about the dangers associated with objects in the home containing Mercury, their proper disposal and clean up in case of accidental breakage. These activities included distribution of flyers at home improvement stores (Home Depot), public service announcements, educational materials for public schools and others.

The SoFlaLEPC prepared a take-home flyer describing the benefits and dangers associated with using CFLs, proper clean up procedures and safe disposal locations in the Region. For more information and a free copy of the flyer, please visit [www.sfrpc.com/lepc/hazmatweek09.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/hazmatweek09.htm).

Training is available from the LEPC free of charge. The first class of the year will be at Miami-Dade DERM on January 29. Additional training details and registration information is available at [www.sfrpc.com/lepc/training.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/training.htm).

Meeting dates and agendas for upcoming meetings as well as minutes from previous meetings are always available from [www.sfrpc.com/lepc/meetings.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/lepc/meetings.htm).

For additional information, contact the LEPC Coordinator Manny Cela ([celam@sfrpc.com](mailto:celam@sfrpc.com)).

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### **Regional Business Alliance schedules 6th Annual Business Fly-In to Tallahassee**

Created in 2002, the South Florida Regional Business Alliance (RBA) is a coalition of CEOs working in partnership across county jurisdictional lines to address issues of regional concern. Its membership is comprised of CEOs from three of the region's key business organizations: The Broward Workshop, Inc.; The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; and the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.

RBA members, as well as individuals representing various public and private organizations from around the region, volunteer their time, expertise and efforts to the RBA. The RBA meets monthly to discuss regional opportunities and challenges facing South Florida and develop strategies to address them.

This year, the Regional Business Alliance has scheduled its annual business fly-in to Tallahassee for Tuesday, February 3 - Wednesday, February 4. During their trip they will meet with the state's elected officials and convey the South Florida business community's support for affordable and workforce housing, education funding, and expanded regional transportation and transit systems that are needed to improve regional mobility and support economic development.

For more information about the South Florida Regional Business Alliance, please contact Isabel Cosio Carballo ([isabelc@sfrpc.com](mailto:isabelc@sfrpc.com)) of Council staff.

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