

# MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #11

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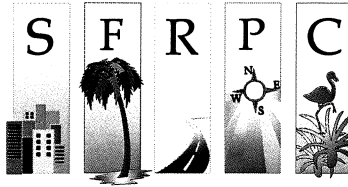
DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 2011  
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS  
FROM: STAFF  
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

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Attached are brief descriptions of activities in which the Council has been involved since the January 3, 2011 Council Meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



## Highlights of Council Activities

February 2011

### 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 continues to work with local communications personnel to plan and coordinate a Regional Interoperable Communications Exercise for Region 7. The exercise is currently scheduled for March 30-31, 2011, at the Homestead Air Reserve Base. Staff is also working with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the City of Miramar (acting as agent for the Urban Area Security Initiative) to bring a Critical Infrastructure Planner to South Florida. The Critical Infrastructure Planner will, among other things, manage security assessments of critical infrastructure facilities in the Region.

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

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### 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, performing outreach functions to increase awareness and understanding of hazardous substances, and providing 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>.

Council staff attended the January 6-7, 2011 State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) meetings in Fort Myers, Florida. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to network with other LEPC staffs and Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) personnel, as well as to discuss ongoing projects at each Region.

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](mailto:celam@sfrpc.com)).

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### Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee

Council staff attended the January 7, 2011 Planners Technical Committee (PTC) meeting, which was held at the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified offices of Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod LLP, in Brickell. Stan Price and partners discussed the future of planning and growth management and the evolving roles of Regional Planning Councils. It was suggested the members help draft a county version of SB 360 that is supported by the private sector.

The PTC members were also briefed on the status of the Miami-Dade County School Board Interlocal Agreement (ILA) amendments. Nine municipalities voted on Amendment 1, which would amend the voting requirement that currently requires unanimous consent of all parties to amendments to instead require a favorable vote from the School Board, the

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County, and 2/3 of the Cities. The decision to switch to a 2/3 vote required unanimous approval, which was not given. The Staff Working Group's Subcommittee continues to develop school concurrency mitigation criteria for charter schools and will meet in February.

Council staff also apprised members of Council programs including the Clean Cities Award Luncheon, Sustainable Communities Initiatives, Statewide Regional Evacuation Study, the State Road 7 Partnership, Renovation of Energy Efficient Loans, and the Brownfields Program. Updates were also given on local Gold Coast American Planning Association (APA) activities.

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, 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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### **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 to discuss how past planning practices affect South Florida residents' ability to be active and access healthy food sources. Staff discussed opportunities to include policies that promote Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School. Council staff is also involved in the Health and Built Environment's Nutrition and Built Environment Working Group and attended its meeting. On Tuesday, January 11, 2011, the Working Group will promote the importance of access to healthy food options and incorporation of nutrition and food-related policies within the Committee's work plan and in local, regional and state planning documents.

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, educators, businesses and governmental organizations. Please contact Karen D. Hamilton ([khamilton@sfrpc.com](mailto:khamilton@sfrpc.com)) or Rachel M. Kalin ([rkalin@sfrpc.com](mailto:rkalin@sfrpc.com)) of Council staff for additional information about this project.

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### **Complete Streets with Schools and the Safe Routes to School Program.**

Council staff is working with the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Florida Network and other RPCs in the state to identify policies across the state concerning Complete Streets as well as policies requiring connectivity from neighborhoods to schools, providing access to schools, or creating safe conditions for children to travel to school. The Network is creating example policies and reaching out to communities, counties, RPCs, FDOT/MPO/TPOs, DCA, School Boards and Florida Department of Education (FDE) through a policy brief to incorporate policies.

The Network seeks to reach local governments through the Regional Planning Councils' *Strategic Regional Policy Plan* (SRPP) as it provides recommendations for the region. Their premise is with statewide consistency including complete street and safe routes to school policies among the Regional Planning Councils, incorporation of these policies, initiatives, and infrastructure could be implemented from the local and regional entities up to the state, instead of top down.

Council staff will continue to explore the feasibility of incorporating these policies into the SRPP updates and local government comprehensive plans and identify school siting best practices within the region. For additional information contact Karen D. Hamilton ([khamilton@sfrpc.com](mailto:khamilton@sfrpc.com)) of Council staff.

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### **The South Florida Brownfield Partnership**

The South Florida Brownfield Partnership was initiated in February 1997, as the Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership, to return abandoned and underutilized sites in urban areas to productive use. The Partnership was on of the initial 16 National Brownfields Showcase Communities. The original partnership agreements were developed to provide a supportive framework for signatory agencies, organizations, and governments to work in coordination to facilitate the rehabilitation, revitalization and redevelopment of contaminated, abandoned and underused sites in the Region. The Partnership is comprised of local, state, regional and federal agencies; private sector; non-profit; and community organizations in Miami-Dade and Broward. The Collaborative nature of the Partnership allows for regional participation in Brownfields redevelopment activities.

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Council staff has been working with Partnership member municipalities to assist with Brownfield Area Designations, disposal of tax credits, Request for Proposals (RFP) assistance, and other types of technical assistance. A Partnership meeting was held on January 12, 2011. After welcome and introductions by the Interim Executive Director and Council staff, updates on local Brownfields Program and Activities were given. A presentation entitled "Highway to Healthcare" was made by a Bureau Veritas employee to highlight health industry related development opportunities in Brownfields Redevelopment. Meeting attendees discussed their involvement with Brownfields Redevelopment and shared their challenges and success. The Partnership will continue to meet quarterly to support and promote Brownfield education, outreach, redevelopment opportunities, job training, funding, and incentives. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 13, 2011. For more information, please visit the Brownfields 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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### **Brownfields 2011**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is co-sponsoring a national Brownfields Conference. *Brownfields 2011: Life Liberty and Sustainability* will be held at the Philadelphia Convention Center from April 3-5, 2011. The free conference will address various issues associated with Brownfields redevelopment and revitalization. For additional information visit [www.brownfields2011.org](http://www.brownfields2011.org) or contact Karen D. Hamilton ([khamilton@sfrpc.com](mailto:khamilton@sfrpc.com)) of Council staff.

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### **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. The Revolving Loan Program also provides technical assistance to new and existing borrowers that will assist them with the growth of their business.

During the first quarter of 2011, Council Staff will be making arrangements with other organization and economic development agencies for their assistance with promoting the Council's Revolving Loan Fund for the New Year. Council staff also attended the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Partner's Council meeting on January 13, 2011.

The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2011.

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

Council staff is continuing to develop the marketing materials for the Miami-Dade Renovation for Energy Efficiency Loan program (REEL). An email blast was developed and is being sent to more than 2000 businesses in Miami-Dade County on weekly bases. Council staff participated in the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Small Business Development Workshop on January 12, 2011.

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](mailto:rlf@sfrpc.com). Visit our web site at [www.sfrpc.com/reel.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/reel.htm).

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## **City of Fort Lauderdale Smart Watts Revolving Loan Fund**

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 Interlocal Agreement has been executed between the City and the South Florida Regional Planning Council. On January 19, 2011, the City Commission unanimously approved the Smart Watts Revolving Loan Fund Plan developed by Council staff. Staff will begin marketing the program in the coming weeks.

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

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## **Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition (GCCCC) Update**

The Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition is one of 90 coalitions around the country that are part of the U.S. Department of Energy's strategy to reduce America's dependence on import oil. With Hollywood City Commissioner Patty Asseff at the helm, the Coalition's mission is to reduce South Floridians' dependence on imported oil and improve the environment by creating a sustainable alternative fuel market through the support and promotion of clean fuels. The Coalition serves Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

Highlights for 2011 already include:

- Holding an Awards Breakfast on Friday, January 21, 2011,
- Embarking on a Membership Drive, and
- Hiring a new Clean Cities Intern, Ms. Natalia Ramirez, a member of the Senior Class at Florida Atlantic University.

Individuals, agencies and companies recognized at the Gold Coast Awards Breakfast for their outstanding contributions toward a sustainable alternative fuel market were:

- Commissioner Patricia Asseff (Leadership Award),
- Maribel Feliciano (Community Involvement Award),
- Miami-Dade County (Champion for Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Alternative Fuels Award),
- Choice Environmental Services, Inc. (Alternative Fuel Fleet Award), and
- Wise Gas, Inc. (Alternative Fuel Station Award).

For more information about the Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition, you may contact Christine Heshmati of Council staff at (954) 985-4416 or email at [cheshmati@sfrpc.com](mailto:cheshmati@sfrpc.com).

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