

MEMORANDUM

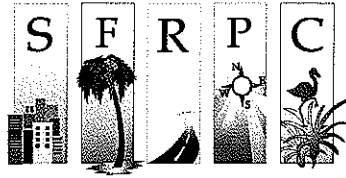
AGENDA ITEM #11

DATE: JANUARY 5, 2009
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 December 1, 2008 Council meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



Highlights of Council Activities

January 2009

Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund

Staff continues to work with local governments in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties on brownfields redevelopment efforts. Recent activities include providing technical assistance to the staff of the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for a Brownfields Revolving Loan. The Council entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the CRA for a loan in the amount of \$500,000. The loan closed on December 2, 2008.

For additional information on brownfields, please visit the Brownfields Section of the Council's website, at www.sfrpc.com/brwnflds.htm, or contact Cheryl Cook (cherylc@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

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 entered into a grant agreement with Broward County in support of their Cultural Arts Division Artist as an Entrepreneur Institute (AEI) program and to administer the AEI Micro-Credit program. The third of the AEI classes was held from November 1, 2008 to December 6, 2008. There were over 50 artists of all backgrounds that attended. Council staff presented information at the December 6, 2008 class on "how to work with lenders." The AEI classes are held on Saturdays for four (4) weeks. The program will be available twice a year to artists that are interested in becoming an entrepreneur. The program has also funded two (2) local artist since attending the AEI course.

The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2009.

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.

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.

As part of the SERDSTF activities for this year, Council staff will assist the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) to survey and inventory Logistics Staging Areas (LSAs) in our Region. Staff recently attended a training session at the State Logistics Resource Center in Orlando to learn firsthand what characteristics to look for in LSAs, such as available warehouse space, truck loading docks and parking spaces.

LSAs are used by the State and FEMA to take delivery, warehouse and stockpile many goods needed after a catastrophic event, such as a hurricane. From there, deliveries make their way to County Staging Areas (CSAs) and Points of Distribution Supply Centers (PODS) and on to the public.

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

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), 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.

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) is embarking on a program to make information on facilities which store, produce or use hazardous materials available online to first responders and emergency planners. E-Plan is a secure, web-based system already used by several states that makes this information readily available to those who need it. Although currently only accessible to a limited clientele, the SERC is expected to support broader access at its January 2009 meeting in Tallahassee.

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.

Meeting dates and agendas for upcoming meetings as well as minutes from previous meetings are always available from www.sfrpc.com/lepc/meetings.htm.

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

Miami-Dade School Board

Council staff attended the Elected Officials Joint Workshop Session co-sponsored by the School Board of Miami-Dade County and the City of Sunny Isles Beach, on December 3, 2008. The meeting was held in the City of Sunny Isles Pelican Community Park. The Community building is part of a brand new school and community center project that was jointly paid by the School Board and the City. After two musical renditions by the school chorus, welcomes were given by Councilmember Perez, government officials and school board members. Presentations by Miami-Dade County Public School staff members included an update of public school concurrency, a summary of new and replacement schools that were built through public/private funding partnerships, and briefing on School Board Legislative Initiatives for 2009. Council staff moderated a discussion on topics such as attendance boundaries, maintenance versus replacement of school facilities and impacts of declining enrollments on concurrency. All interested attendees were given a guided tour of the Sunny Isles Beach Community School and related facilities.

For additional information about this meeting or other School Board issues in Miami-Dade County, contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council Staff.

Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee

Council staff attended the December 3, 2008 Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee (PTC) meeting at Pelican Community Park in the City of Sunny Isles Beach. The PTC was not held at its usual day and time since it was scheduled to follow the School Board of Miami-Dade County and the City of Sunny Isles Beach Elected Officials Joint Workshop. The Assistant City Manager gave a brief history of development trends and an overview of current and future projects. The City has been using a tear down and infill model since the City's Master Plan was developed in 1997. Five sites remain to be rebuilt. There are also plans to redevelop 163rd street into a grand boulevard with parks, parking and mixed uses. An update of the school concurrency implementation and ILA was given. There was a discussion of roadway impact fees which will be used for transit in infill areas. A brief update on SFRPC happening was given by Council staff. A reminder was given about the Gold Coast APA holiday luncheon on Friday December 12.

The next PTC meeting is January 9, 2009, at the brand new Hialeah Gardens City Hall building. 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 or contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

Broward County Climate Change Task Force holds inaugural meeting

Public and private leaders from around the region met on December 4th for the inaugural meeting of the Broward County Climate Change Task Force. The Chair, Broward County Commissioner Kristin Jacobs, welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out an ambitious agenda that will keep the Task Force working at a steady pace for the next year and a half. The 25-member task force brings together elected officials and professionals from diverse fields including health care, education, environmental interests, green technologies, science and academia, water management, law enforcement, business and economic interests, as well as regional planning. Three members of the Miami-Dade Climate Change Task Force are also members of the Broward County Climate Change Task Force. They are Carolyn A. Dekle, the SFRPC's Executive Director; James F. Murley, Director of the Florida Atlantic University Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions (FAU CUES); and Barry Heimlich, Senior Fellow at FAU CUES.

At the meeting the Task Force elected City of Parkland Vice Mayor Jared Moskowitz as vice chair of the Task Force. They were joined by special guests, the Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Miami-Dade Clerk of the Courts and Chair of the Miami-Dade Climate Change Advisory Task Force, and Ken Brown, Executive Director of Climate Communities. Clerk Ruvin and Ken Brown presented timely informational updates and advice for the consideration of the members. These presentations were followed by a brain storming session where Task Force members identified short, interim, and long term actions that can be taken by the Task Force and others to forward a mitigation, adaptation, and sustainability agenda for Broward County. The Broward County Climate Change Task Force is staffed by Dr. Jennifer Jurado (jjurado@broward.org), Donald Burgess (dburgess@broward.org), and Patti Webster (pwebster@broward.org) of Broward County's Natural Resources Planning and Management Division. For additional information about the Task Force or to become involved in its work, please contact Donald Burgess at 954-519-0305. For additional information regarding the Council's activities in the area of climate change, please contact Isabel Cosio Carballo (isabelc@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative

Council staff recently had the opportunity to present the progress along the corridor to existing and potential Collaborative communities. Commissioner Sharon Fyffe, the designee for the City of West Park on the Collaborative Steering Committee invited council staff to the City's Commission meeting on November 19th to make a presentation on the successful initiatives along State Road 7. On December 4th, council staff met with Miami-Dade County Commissioners representing the districts adjacent to State Road 7/U.S.441 as well as staff and representation from the Cities of North Miami and Miami Gardens. Miami-Dade County Commissioners Edmonson, Rolle and Jordan expressed their interest in a coordinated strategic approach to economic redevelopment and revitalization along the underutilized corridor in their districts. The State Road 7 Steering Committee has now passed a resolution to invite Miami-Dade County to designate a representative to serve on the Collaborative. For more information about the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative, visit www.sfrpc.com/sr7 or contact Brian T aylor (btraylor@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.
