



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #11

DATE: JULY 7, 2008

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

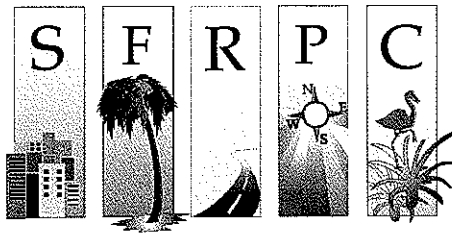
FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Attached are brief descriptions of activities in which the Council has been involved since June 2, 2008 Council meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



Highlights of Council Activities

July 2008

Regional Business Alliance works to develop and create consensus around a Regional Workforce Housing Strategy

The lack of sufficient affordable and workforce housing, the lackluster economy, growing unemployment, the rising number of home foreclosures, rising windstorm insurance rates, property taxes, and one of the highest inflation rates in the country are a few of the factors that continue to make affordable and workforce housing a priority issue for the Regional Business Alliance and other public and private leaders. Not only are many of Southeast Florida's most vulnerable at greater risk, the region's middle class is under siege as well, making the region unaffordable to large numbers of South Florida's current and potential workforce.

About the RBA

Created in 2002, the 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 composed primarily 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.

The RBA works closely with public and private organizations such as the South Florida Regional Planning Council; South Florida Regional Transportation Authority; Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach School Boards; Urban Land Institute; Florida Atlantic University Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions; and others to address regional opportunities and challenges facing South Florida.

Over the past three years, business led housing partnerships have emerged to address the issue of affordable and workforce housing. These partnerships began with the creation of the Broward Housing Partnership in 2005. It was followed by the Housing Leadership Council of Palm Beach County in 2006 and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Workforce Housing Committee in 2007. In addition, the Southeast Florida / Caribbean Chapter of Urban Land Institute has been working through its recently formed Terwilliger Center to develop housing solutions relevant to South Florida.

As part of their work, each of the county-based housing partnerships funded the Metropolitan Center at Florida International University to conduct workforce housing needs assessments and quantify current and future housing demand and supply and its relationship to affordability. Building on the work that has been completed to date, the Regional Business Alliance recently contracted with the Metropolitan Center for an update, consolidation and summary of the various studies' key data findings and conclusions into a South Florida Workforce Housing Needs Assessment.

In early October, the Regional Business Alliance will convene, in partnership with the region's business leaders, public officials, and other housing stakeholders, a South Florida Workforce Housing Conference. At this conference, the findings of the Regional Workforce Housing Assessment will be presented along with a menu of short and long term approaches that can help address the region's workforce housing needs. Conference participants will be asked to discuss and reach agreement on a regional

action agenda to address the region's workforce housing needs as a first step toward a sustained regional, public-private effort to create housing for the region's workforce.

For more information about the Regional Business Alliance and its activities, please contact Isabel Cosio Carballo (isabelc@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

Broward Environmental Committee

Council staff is participating with the South Florida Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in the formation of a Broward Environmental Committee. Understanding the need for collaboration between the private and public sector, this committee hopes to provide local governments and community leaders with the tools and knowledge necessary to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that result from an inefficient built environment. Council staff is working with the committee to develop an action plan and prioritize goals to begin this process. In the future, the committee will be able to provide the support and education that local governments may need to meet their goals to reduce negative impacts on the environment.

Continued on next page

Several municipalities in the region have already adopted "Green" ordinances or required Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for new construction. Additionally, many of South Florida's mayors have adopted the Architecture 2030 challenge but may not have the resources to meet those goals. Council staff is working with the Broward Environmental Committee to support its efforts to become a resource that is available for local governments. For more information on the USGBC, visit www.usgbc.org . For more information about the Broward Environmental Committee, visit www.usgbcsof.org , or contact Brian Traylor (BTraylor@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership 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 next meeting of the Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership is scheduled for July 23, 2008 at the Council's offices.

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.

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 Council's Regional Domestic Security Program, staff worked with the SERDSTF to stage a workshop for command-level staff on April 18, 2008 at the Miami Regional Operations Center of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The workshop was attended by more than 70 principals from law enforcement agencies in the Region.

As a follow-up to the workshop, staff coordinated a Table Top Exercise (TTX) on June 9, 2008 at Barry University in Miami. Nearly 70 participants exercised their terrorism response plans against a prepared scenario, first in breakout sessions by agency and later as a group.

Next on the agenda will be a Field Drill to investigate "leads" derived from the TTX scenario and an After Action Conference to debrief, discuss lessons learned and suggest ways to improve the process.

For additional information, contact Manny Cela (celam@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 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 AEI and Council staff held an informational clinic and workshop on Saturday, June 21, 2008, at ArtServe, in Fort Lauderdale for prospective Broward-based artists to become familiar with the Artist Micro-Credit program's policies and guidelines.

Council staff is working with the planning committee for the upcoming Minority Enterprise Development (MED Week) Matchmaker Conference and Expo. This event will be held during the week of October 20-25, 2008. This year's program will provide small and minority firms with exposure to corporate and government buyers in a range of industries, including transportation, medical, construction, hospitality, retail, and housing/economic development as well as venture capital.

The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2008.

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.

Quality of Life in Broward County

Council staff, working with the Quality of Life Committee of The Coordinating Council of Broward (CCB), continues to prepare updates to the data files that support preparation of the 2008 edition of *Selected Indicators of The Broward Benchmarks*. Recent updates include newly released regional economic data for 2006 from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, detailed labor force data for 2006 from the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, demographic data for 2006 from the American Community Survey, and crime data for 2007 from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The CCB's 2008 Quality of Life Survey, which conducts phone interviews with 1,000 Broward County residents every two years, is nearing completion. For further information, please see The CCB website (www.theccb.org), or contact Richard Ogburn (rogburn@sfrpc.com).

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 District XI LEPC, 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.

As part of the Council's Emergency Management Hazardous Materials Program, the LEPC will host several exercise-related events this year. First on the agenda was a Table Top Exercise (TTX) on June 12, 2008 at the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department Training Facility in Miami. The 25 participants were split into four multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional groups to plan their response to a hazardous materials related scenario. The TTX featured a scale model to assist participants in demonstrating their HazMat response plans. Additional information on upcoming exercise meetings is available from www.sfrpc.com/lepc/meetings.htm.

Training is available from the LEPC free of charge. The LEPC hosted a **Clandestine Drug Lab Awareness Class** on May 28, 2008 in Miami-Dade County. This 8-hour course is designed to enable public sector personnel to recognize common household chemicals and methods that are used to manufacture illegal drugs. The class was attended by 20 law enforcement, fire/rescue, utilities and health services personnel. The LEPC will also host a **Chemical Compatibility and Storage Class** on June 19, 2008. Additional details and registration information is available at www.sfrpc.com/lepc/training.htm.

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

South Florida Economic Forecasting Partnership

The South Florida Economic Forecasting Partnership had a quarterly meeting on June 12, 2008, at the Council office. Representatives from Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties as well as the South Florida Water Management District were in attendance. Council staff provided an updated regional baseline control for the REMI Policy Insight 9.5 model, which adjusted for Broward and Miami-Dade Counties' own population projections and the latest county population projections from the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) for Monroe, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Martin, and Indian River Counties. Council staff also provided updated data for the Southeast Florida Regional Profile, which is extracted from the updated regional baseline. For further information please contact Z. Jeanne Tan (ztan@sfrpc.com) or Richard Ogburn (rogburn@sfrpc.com) of Council staff. <http://www.sfrpc.com/remi.htm>

Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee

The most recent meeting of the Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee (PTC) was held on June 6, 2008 at the City of Miami Beach. Mercy Lamazares, a Principal Planner with the City of Miami Beach, gave an overview of current and future development within the city. An update from the Model LEED Ordinance Working Group was given by Joanne Carr. The Model Ordinance would provide middle ground, use certifiable standards and give its users the ability to customize the document to meet their individual needs. A LEED for neighborhood development is in the works. Scarlet Tenen spoke about the planning efforts for Annual Florida American Planning Association Conference. This year's meeting will be held at the Intercontinental Miami from September 10-13. A copy of the preliminary schedule of events will be available in July. Volunteers are needed to assist with various conference 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. The next meeting will be held on Friday July 11, 2008 at Miami Dade County Water

and Sewer Department. 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 Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

Economic Development Administration Considers State Road 7 Project

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has invited Council staff to submit a grant proposal to conduct an operational analysis of a business incubator program proposed for the City of Margate City Center site. Council staff has been working in partnership with the Margate Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to develop a conceptual master plan and Request for Proposals for the thirty-two acre site. The proposed business incubator program would assist the CRA in promoting new and local small business development in the proposed City Center and promotes the Council's ongoing work with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative.

For more information about the Council's CEDS program or the work of the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative please contact Jeanne Tan at ztan@sfrpc.com or David Dahlstrom of Council staff at davidd@sfrpc.com.

Florida Department of Transportation

Staff attended the SFECC Station Area Planning Group meeting. Some of the issues discussed as a part of this meeting included: data collection of Model Land Use Regulation and policies; development of screening methodology of station locations population and employment data within 1/2 mile radius of station types. For additional information contact Larry Allen (LAllen@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

Staff recently submitted four grant applications to the FDOT for discretionary funding. All the grants promoted the use of transit. For additional information, contact Karen Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com), Larry Allen (LAllen@sfrpc.com) or David Dahlstrom (davidd@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition

Staff recently completed a competitive grant application to create a Pilot Incentive No-Idle program to reduce emissions caused by truck idling. The grant application was submitted to the Southeast Diesel Collaborative Partners. For additional information contact Larry Allen (LAllen@sfrpc.com) or Karen Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

South Florida Transportation Council - Regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (RTTAC)

Staff participated in the June RTTAC meeting. Meeting topics included a presentation of the I-75 Project Development & Environment Study and a discussion of Regional Transportation Visioning. For additional information contact Karen Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) or Larry Allen (LAllen@sfrpc.com) of Council staff. <http://www.miamidade.gov/mpo/seftc/seftc1-about.htm>.
