



MEMORANDUM

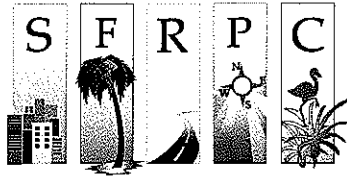
AGENDA ITEM #11

DATE: MARCH 2, 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 February 2, 2009 Council meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



Highlights of Council Activities

March 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.

Council staff met with Miami Downtown Development Authority to discuss how the two agencies can work together to provide financing to the businesses located in downtown Miami.

Council staff will be presenting the RLF program to the Broward Alliance Access to Capital workshop on **March 11, 2009**.

The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for **March 23, 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.

Council staff is assisting the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) to coordinate a workshop for Public Information Officers (PIO). The event will take place **March 5, 2009** at the Broward County Emergency Operations Center in Plantation. More than 50 PIOs are expected to attend the full-day event.

Planning continues for the Federal Reserve Bank, Miami Branch's Table Top Exercise (TTX). The Initial Planning Conference (IPC) was held at the Bank's headquarters in Doral on February 10, 2009. In attendance were representatives from local first responders (Doral PD, Miami-Dade PD, Fire Rescue and HazMat) as well as Aviation and Office of Safety. Other State and Federal partners included FDLE, FBI, Southern Command and Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta staff. This by-invitation-only exercise will take place **June 2, 2009**.

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 (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.

Training is available from the LEPC free of charge. The first class of the year was held at Miami-Dade DERM on January 29, 2009. More than 30 county inspectors took advantage of the opportunity to attend the **Chemical Compatibility and Storage** course. Additional training details and registration information is available at www.sfrpc.com/lepc/training.htm.

The Training Subcommittee of the SoFlaLEPC met February 4, 2009 at the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (FKAA) facility in Marathon. In attendance were Fire Chiefs from Monroe County, Key West and Miami, as well as representatives from the FKAA, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Marathon Fire Rescue and the Boca Chica Naval Air Station. The main topic for discussion was the challenge of bringing classes to the Florida Keys, with a permanent population under 80,000 spread over 120 miles. Several ideas were discussed, including offering classes in multiple locations and video conferencing.

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).

National Charrette Institute

The National Charrette Institute (NCI) recently held a charrette planning course at the University of Miami. Council staff had the opportunity to attend the training and learned the valuable tools and techniques for planning and running a successful project using the charrette process. Course participants gained a practical understanding of the role of community participation in the planning process and skills in facilitating a successful, public engagement process. The advanced course covered significant planning issues facing our region, including sustainable planning and transit oriented development. The council staff now includes an NCI Certified Charrette Planner. For more information about the National Charrette Institute, please visit www.charretteinstitute.org or contact Brian Traylor BTraylor@sfrpc.com of council staff.

State Road 7 Collaborative Reducing Obstacles to Redevelopment

Council staff has worked successfully with the City of Lauderdale Lakes and its Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to have their application to amend the Broward County Trafficways Plan approved for the remaining length of State Road 7/U.S. 441 within the City. The amendment, approved by the Broward County Planning Council at their January 22, 2009 meeting, reduces the required reservation of land adjacent to the existing right-of-way from 200 ft. to 150 ft., with one expanded 187 ft intersection. This reduction is intended to encourage redevelopment along the corridor by providing property owners with increased buildable area than had previously been available due to the constraints of the Trafficways reservation, representing a gain of up to 2,500 square feet of buildable area per 100 ft. of frontage along State Road 7. Together with an updated redevelopment plan and land development regulations that will require pedestrian-friendly and transit-supportive development, this Trafficways reduction is consistent with the City's implementation of their redevelopment goals. The Trafficways Plan is available at <http://gis.broward.org/maps/webPDFs/Pcouncil/trafficways24by24.pdf> and for more information contact Brian Traylor (btraylor@sfrpc.com) of Council staff, or visit the Broward County Planning Council's website at: <http://www.broward.org/planningcouncil/trwysintro/intro.pdf>

Clean Cites 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; and
3. Education and Outreach Workshops for Petroleum Reduction Fuels and Technologies.

The application deadline for this grant has been extended to **March 31, 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. Two sets of funding opportunities will be made available in FY 2009.

The first grant is tied to the Federal Stimulus Bill and will be published shortly after the Bill is signed. A mid-February publication date is anticipated. Applications will be due 30 days from the publication date. Selections will be finalized in April and grants will be awarded in May. This funding cycle will emphasize projects that will create and retain a significant number of jobs and are regional or multi-state in nature.

The second grant will be available through the renewal of Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) funds. An RFP will be published late August/early September 2009. Proposals will be due in late November/early December 2009. Awards will be made in late March/early April 2010.

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

Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee

Council staff attended the February 6, 2009, Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee (PTC) meeting, at Pinecrest Gardens in the Village of Pinecrest (Village). Elections for new officers were held. Both Alex David and Bhairvi Pandya will be continuing their duties as Chair and Vice Chair/Secretary respectively. Village Councilmember Joe Corradino gave a brief overview of the Village's planning visions. Many of the projects the Village originally set out to achieve 12 years ago when the Village was incorporated have been completed. Some of those major projects include the restoration of Pinecrest Gardens, the construction of a community center, library, and University of Miami faculty homes. The original vision will be revisited and revised to meet current and future economic trends, to reflect new leadership, and include the results of several advisory group studies that are being conducted. The Village is opting out of County fire services, resulting in a significant cost savings. School Board staff gave an update on school concurrency. The process appears to be working well; 14 cities have adopted concurrency elements, 90 applications have been entered into the automated system, and 600 public school seats have been reserved.

An update of the Miami-Dade MPO Transportation Planning Council also was given. The MPO issued a Call for Ideas for transportation planning studies. Eligible parties were encouraged to apply. Council staff urged planners to review proposed concepts of proposed Senate Bill (SB) 360 and offered suggestions about how to meet House Bill (HB) 697 (2008) requirements. Council staff will identify measurable strategies and outcomes and work with the PTC's newly-created HB 697 working group. Planners remain concerned about inconsistencies in Water Supply Plan comments from the Department of Community Affairs and the South Florida Water Management District. The March PTC meetings will focus on those concerns and the requirements of HB 697. An update on the Gold Coast APA Board retreat was also given.

The next PTC meeting will be held **March 6, 2009**, at the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department 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 or contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.
