



MEMORANDUM

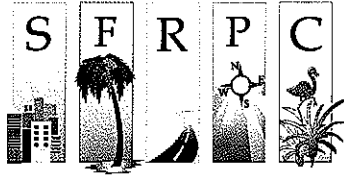
AGENDA ITEM #11

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 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 June 1, 2009 Council meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



Highlights of Council Activities September 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 businesses.

Council staff facilitated the South Florida Regional Planning Council Loan Administration Board (LAB) Retreat on June 29, 2009. The members of the LAB discussed the future path of the SFRPC-RLF, future products, and methods to recapitalize the loan fund.

During the months of July and August 2009 Council RLF staff participated with the NFL Community Outreach Committee, which is assisting the small businesses in our region on how to do business with the NFL. Staff continues to also work with Metro Broward Capital Corporation and Accion, USA in providing the Capital Connections workshops to small businesses in Broward County. Council staff also participated in U.S. Department of Energy's Webinar on Establishing a Revolving Loan Fund with Recovery Act Funding.

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

Since earlier in the year, Council staff worked with personnel from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Miami Branch to help coordinate and plan a table top exercise at the bank. The June 2, 2009 event was very successful with more than 50 in attendance. Participants included bank staff, tenants, first responders and other local, state and federal agencies that would respond to an emergency at the bank.

Council staff recently completed a report on Logistics Staging Areas in South Florida (LSAs) for the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). LSAs are locations designated by State emergency management officials to temporarily store water, food, ice and other supplies in storm damaged areas. LSAs may also be used to house displaced persons in temporary tent cities as well as emergency relief workers.

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

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 www.sfrpc.com/lepc.htm.

The SoFlaLEPC offered three Hazardous Waste Operations (HAZWOPER) courses in July at Miami-Dade DERM. Attendance at each class exceeded 30 students. This brings the total personnel trained this fiscal year to more than 210. For more information on upcoming training courses, please visit our training website: www.sfrpc.com/lepc/training.htm.

Information on upcoming meeting dates, agendas for upcoming meetings and minutes from previous meetings are always available from www.sfrpc.com/lepc/meetings.htm.

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

Selected Quality of Life Indicators from the Broward Benchmarks 2008

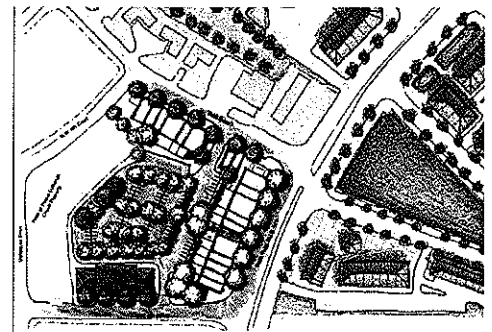
Council staff, working with the Quality of Life Committee of The Coordinating Council of Broward (CCB), has completed the 2008 edition of *Selected Quality of Life Indicators from The Broward Benchmarks*. Indicators are organized into seven sections: Our Families and Communities, Our Safety, Our Learning, Our Health, Our Economy, Our Environment and Our Government. About a third of the indicators were drawn from The CCB's 2008 Quality of Life Survey, which conducted phone interviews with 1,000 Broward County residents. For further information, please see The CCB website (www.theccb.org), or contact Richard Ogburn (rogburn@sfrpc.com).

U.S. 441 Miami-Dade County 7th Ave CRA

Council Staff is working with the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative and the Greater 7th Avenue Improvement Association to support the re-establishment of Miami-Dade County's NW 7th Avenue Corridor Community Redevelopment Agency. The CRA has existed along the corridor from Gratigny Road, south to 79th street, and now has a newly appointed CRA Board that is working to establish a new plan for U.S. 441 in Miami-Dade County. Together with the cities of North Miami and Miami Gardens, the County is moving forward with redevelopment plans to implement a new vision for the corridor. For more information, please contact Brian Traylor, btraylor@sfrpc.com or visit http://www.miamidade.gov/crepad/7th_avenue/7th_intro.asp.

Margate City Center Small Business Development Program

Council Staff is working with the Margate Community Redevelopment Agency and City Staff to develop a Small Business Development Program for the City through a grant from the Economic Development Administration. This work includes a technical report for the City to implement a Small Business Incubator as well as a Live-Work Land Trust that will provide entrepreneurs the opportunity to take part in the City Center redevelopment. The live-work units are designed as a series of storefronts along State Road 7/U.S. 441 where local residents will be able to construct or purchase a building to run their small business on the first floor and live above it. Council Staff is taking recommendations to the CRA and working with the City as they move forward with the Redevelopment of their City Center. For more information please contact Brian Traylor, btraylor@sfrpc.com or visit www.margatecra.org.



Common Eligibility Tool

Council staff, working with the Steering Committee of The Coordinating Council of Broward (CCB), has been developing alternatives for the selection and implementation of a common eligibility tool in Broward County. The primary purpose of the tool would be to facilitate the creation of single points of entry, so that residents of Broward County in need of social services could be evaluated for eligibility for all services offered in the County. An additional benefit will be to improve access to the federal, state and local benefits for which residents are eligible but have not yet qualified. The CCB has also been working with similar groups in Miami-Dade County and Palm Beach County that are pursuing the same goals. For further information, please contact Richard Ogburn (rogburn@sfrpc.com).

Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee

Council staff attended the August 7, 2009 Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee (PTC) meeting, at the City of Miami Gardens. The City Manager and Planning Director gave a brief overview of the City's planning and economic development activities. The City was primarily residential until the 2003 annexation of land from the county. The acquisition provided the City with greater commercial opportunity, essentially doubling the tax base. The new 80/20 residential/commercial mix provides residents with some tax burden relief. The new area encompasses N.W. 57 Avenue to the Palmetto Expressway along N.W. 36 Street to N.W. 74 Street. The City has developed a 36 Street Redevelopment Plan. This area is along N.W. 36 Street from just east of LeJuene Road to N.W. 57 Avenue, referred to in the 1998 EAR as the Airport Highway Marine District. Currently there is 1.0 Floor Area Ratio (F.A.R.); the City wants to increase to 3.0 FAR, approximately 10 stories. The City is also constructing a new community center and renovating the library and senior center.

Miami-Dade County staff gave an update on the School Board Staff Working Group. The Interlocal Agreement (ILA) and Plan Amendment have been found compliant by DCA. The County has prepared an ordinance in order to start processing development orders for school concurrency. The ordinance along with the Implementing Order should be going for first reading in September, Public Hearing in October and final adoption in November.

Through the PTC's Green Initiative Subcommittee, Council staff has been developing strategies to address energy-efficient land use patterns reducing greenhouse emissions as directed by House Bill 697 (2008). The Subcommittee received comments through August 19, 2009. The finalized report was presented at the September PTC meeting.

Miami-Dade County staff gave an update on Senate Bill 360 (SB 360). Approximately 15 more cities have joined the City of Weston's 360 challenge lawsuit. The lawsuit contends Senate Bill 360 is unconstitutional because it violates the single subject rule and requires unfunded mandates. Two Legislators have sent letters to DCA Secretary Thomas Pelham, indicating he interpreted the Bill incorrectly. Secretary Pelham issued a letter of July 23, stating his office interpreted the Bill accurately. Miami-Dade County is considering utilizing a process for large-scale developments that ensures review by impacted parties. Miami-Dade County staff also shared the County's interpretation of how Transportation Concurrency Exception Areas (TCEA) would be affected by SB 360.

Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department staff gave an update on the ordinance related to Water Use Efficiency Standards. The ordinance, adopted by the County, addresses landscape, right-of-way and water restrictions, and revises County Code Chapter 18A (landscape). Every municipality in the county is required to comply with this ordinance and required to adopt one as stringent as the county's or more stringent.

Council staff gave an update on the FPL's text amendment to allow rock mining with a water management feature. The Council recommended FPL come back with more information about the project and work with the County in the interim. The SFRPC and Miami-Dade County are co-sponsoring two public informational meetings regarding the Turkey Point site expansions and related transmission lines. The meetings are scheduled for August 31, 2008, in Homestead and September 2, 2009, at the University of Miami.

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.

Contact Karen D. Hamilton (khamilton@sfrpc.com) of Council staff for additional information.
