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LETTER TO COMMISSION
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TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Kathie G. Brooks, Interim City Manager

DATE: December 12, 2012

SUBJECT: The 4th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit

This Letter to Commission (LTC) is intended to provide an update on the 4th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit held on December 6-7 in Jupiter, Florida. I accompanied the Mayor Matti Bower and Public Works staff to the summit to engage with regional leaders in discussing climate change considerations specific to the southeast Florida region.

In 2010, the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (Compact) began as a collaborative effort among Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, their municipalities, and their partners. The purpose of the Compact is to unite, organize, and assess the southeast Florida region through the lens of climate change and develop unified action over the next five-years. In October 2012, the Compact released the Regional Climate Action Plan (Plan), which was discussed at this year's Summit. The Plan's overall objective is to integrate climate adaptation and mitigation into existing decision-making systems and to develop a plan that can be implemented through existing local and regional agencies, processes and organizations.

Fred Beckmann, Director of Public Works, presented the City's Storm Water Management Master Plan during the Municipal Showcase – Cities Leading the Way toward a More Sustainable and Resilient Region. The City is the first municipality in South Florida to incorporate sea level rise projections in our Storm Water Management Master Plan. The City is leading Miami-Dade County and the region in developing adaption strategies to manage climate change impacts such as rising sea level. In the afternoon of December 7, the Mayor sat on a panel of elected officials of the four southeastern Counties and partner municipalities to discuss the changing regional circumstance and the importance of the Regional Climate Action Plan (attached) as a framework for future planning and investment decisions. Mayor Bower participated in a ceremonial signing of the attached Mayor's Climate Action Pledge affirming the City's support of the Compact, subject to the consideration by the City Commission. A discussion of the Compact's Plan and the Pledge has been referred to the Sustainability Committee.

The City will continue to foster close relationships with local and regional agencies including Miami-Dade Office of Sustainability and South Florida Water Management District. In the coming months, the City plans to engage the community by facilitating a group discussion on the cost-benefit analysis for adaptation action for storm surge and sea level rise.

Following the Summit, a number of organizations have requested additional information regarding the City's Storm Water Management Master Plan. Interested groups include the Union of Concerned Scientists in Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Daily Business Review. Also, Florida International University will be featuring the City in a one-hour documentary on sea level rise and the four southeast Counties response to this issue. The documentary will air next fall on WPBT2.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.


JGG/FHB/JJF/RWS/ESW