

Condensed Title:

A Resolution approving the City's 2013/14 Federal Legislative Agenda

Key Intended Outcome Supported:

Supports Multiple KIOs

Supporting Data (Surveys, Environmental Scan, etc.): The quality of the beaches appears as one of the most important areas affecting quality of life. More recreational opportunities is ranked as one of the changes that will make Miami Beach a better place to live. Storm drainage catch basins cleaning citywide; improving infrastructure was listed number 5 in important safety areas for the City to address.

Item Summary/Recommendation:

Each year, the Mayor and City Commission adopt the City's funding and legislative priorities that will be pursued by the City's representatives in Washington D.C. during the annual Congressional session. The proposed priorities include project, authorization, and policy requests which will continue to evolve as the Congressional process continues. So far in 2013, efforts to secure funding for project has stalled, due to a 3-year old moratorium on earmarks, four straight years of the federal government operating on continuing resolutions instead of an adopted budget, as well as the recent issues regarding the debt ceiling and budget sequester.

This year the proposed agenda includes the following issues:

- Beach Renourishment
- Coastal Flooding / Sea Level Rise
- Miami Beach Convention Center
- After School Program and Education
- Atlantic Greenway Network
- Municipal Bond Tax Exemption
- Support of Local Funding Programs

Advisory Board Recommendation:

N/A

Financial Information:


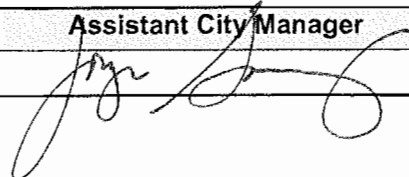
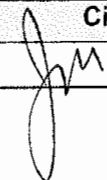
Source of Funds:		Amount	Account
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">N/A</div> OBPI	1		
	2		
	3		
	Total		

Financial Impact Summary:

City Clerk's Office Legislative Tracking:

Jorge Gomez, City Manager's Office / Kevin Crowder

Sign-Offs:

Department Director	Assistant City Manager	City Manager
		

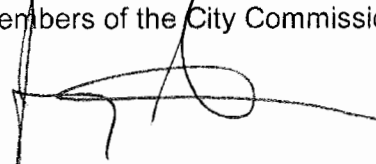


MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager 

DATE: May 8, 2013

SUBJECT: **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE CITY'S FISCAL YEAR 2013/14 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.**

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Resolution.

ANALYSIS

Each year, the Mayor and City Commission adopt the City's funding and legislative priorities that will be pursued by the City's representatives in Washington D.C. during the annual Congressional session. The proposed priorities include project, authorization, and policy requests which will continue to evolve as the Congressional process continues. So far in 2013, efforts to secure funding for project has stalled, due to a 3-year old moratorium on earmarks, four straight years of the federal government operating on continuing resolutions instead of an adopted budget, as well as the recent issues regarding the debt ceiling and budget sequester.

Due to these challenges, this year's Federal Legislative Agenda has been reorganized to identify programs and opportunities for City projects that do not require an earmark, and to identify opportunities to provide input to the budget process to improve the chances for City projects to match the requirements of various Federal programs.

The proposed Federal Legislative Agenda (attached) includes the following items:

Beach Renourishment

Army Corps of Engineers Renourishment Project – For over a decade, the City of Miami Beach has been seeking implementation of an effective long term solution, through a Federal partnership with the full and united support of our Congressional Delegation, to preserve the coastline and effectively prevent devastating shoreline erosion. The current "band-aid" solutions to address erosion are nearing an end and another Hurricane Season is approaching. The lack of action on a long-term solution is no longer acceptable. The project that relocated sand from South Beach to the northern beaches confirmed the depletion of the local borrow pits and represents the final renourishment action under existing circumstances.

Resolution of the Foreign Source Sand Issue - Miami-Dade County, which currently holds the 50 year contract with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for beach renourishment activities, learned from the USACE in the late 1990s that the borrow pits off its shores were severely depleted and an alternate source of sand was essential. As a result, the USACE began a study to determine whether any feasible sources were available domestically before allowing project sponsors to seek a source outside of the United States. Regrettably after 12 years, the USACE remains unable to come to a conclusion on this urgent matter. The Army Corps is currently working with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to implement a regional sand source program. The City urges immediate conclusion of this effort.

Coastal Flooding

The City of Miami Beach urges the Federal Government to identify and fully fund programs to address coastal flooding caused by sea level rise, climate change, high tides, and any other source. Flooding in high hazard coastal areas— we need resources and funding support to deal with flooding issues, including improvements and upgrading the stormwater system including installation of projects including valley gutters, stormwater pump stations, injection wells, and other technology which increases the capacity flow of the stormwater system. Additional support to address coastal flooding including dune system restoration and maintenance, and improving seawalls is also a necessary component to achieve full infrastructure resilience. Prioritization of areas with high groundwater elevation and drainage basins that are barely above sea level should be a priority, since flooding occurs in many of these basins during periods of high tides when there has not even been any rain. This recurring flooding has a significant environmental, health and economic impact, causing businesses to be inaccessible to customers, and resulting in the additional cost of replacing and repairing damaged property. The high groundwater elevation results in slow drainage, leading to deterioration and failure of paved roads, mosquito breeding, and other public health issues.

Additionally, the City strongly supports the establishment of a National Catastrophe Fund.

Miami Beach Convention Center and Conference Facility Expansion

There is a need for Federal support for high-impact tourism industry infrastructure investments, especially in attracting an increase share of worldwide meeting and convention business. Infrastructure such as convention and meeting facilities and related support systems, including transportation access and energy efficiency are critical to enhance the United States' competitiveness in this international marketplace. Targeted debt and equity funding opportunities through the New Market Tax Credits program of the Treasury Department should be prioritized, especially in states that are underserved by the program. Providing support to the strong foundation that already exists is critical, especially for large, transformational projects that provide significant return on investment. The Miami Beach Convention Center is South Florida's third largest economic engine, after Miami International Airport and the Port of Miami. Discussion about enhancements to the Miami Beach Convention Center have been ongoing for almost ten years, culminating with a plan of action that was agreed upon by the City of Miami Beach and Miami-Dade County, in conjunction with interested stakeholders, to develop a long-term vision and

master plan for this regional convention facility. The result is a process that will culminate in 2013 with a public private partnership to enhance the facility and solidify its role in supporting the regional economy. The City of Miami Beach is seeking to identify opportunities for Federal partnership related to:

- Convention Center Access and Infrastructure Improvements with the Departments of Transportation and Commerce;
- Sustainability, LEED, Renewable Energy and Green Building Components with the Department of Energy and the EPA;
- Debt and Equity Funding Opportunities through New Market Tax Credits and the Department of Treasury;

Juvenile Justice, the Miami Beach After School Program and Education

The City seeks continued federal support of the After School Program through the Department of Juvenile Justice. Continued After-School and Summer programs ensure that youth “grows up” within the support system. These youth are less likely to entertain outside and detrimental participation in other unsupervised activities, such as involvement in gangs and/or drugs. Participation in the recently created Teen Intervention Program in North Beach has increased dramatically, as have the various programmatic offerings by the City of Miami Beach. The primary goal of this program is to prevent and reduce delinquent behavior and keep the community's at-risk youth in a positive environment to foster personal growth and encourage teens to become well-rounded individuals through the accumulation of new skills, awareness, and knowledge. Moreover, the program's aim is to promote healthy relationships that facilitate social skill development, decrease teen substance and alcohol abuse, and increase quality programming offerings that appeal to teenage youth. As a result, the participants involved in this program are less likely to entertain outside and detrimental participation in other unsupervised activities, including involvement in gangs and/or drugs. Success can be measured through the enrollment figures which demonstrate that more participants return for subsequent years in the program. The educational component of the program offers weekly skills training classes, drug prevention courses, tutoring, and even cultural and recreational outings.

The City will work to identify and apply to additional educational programs such as additional funding competitions for Race to the Top and Innovation grants.

Atlantic Greenway Network

The City seeks authorization of \$12 million for the Atlantic Greenway Network Project in the new Transportation Authorization Bill. Continued funding support for alternative modes of transportation that connects the workforce and consumers with centers of commerce and employment, cultural and tourism centers, parking facilities, parks, and schools. Dense urban areas, especially with historic districts, should be prioritized, both in terms of population density as well as density of housing units and other forms of habitation, such as hotel rooms. Effective modes of transportation are crucial to the continued economic success of urban historic districts, especially where less than two-thirds of the population drove to work alone and over 15% walk to work. The return on investment of alternative modes of transportation in dense urban areas is significant, since these areas have already demonstrated the local population's acceptance of the modes.

Municipal Bonds

The City supports the current tax exemption for municipal bonds, and opposes its elimination. The City further opposes the proposed cap of the exemption at 28%.

Local Funding Programs

The City opposes funding reductions to programs such as the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Housing Partnerships, Energy Efficiency Block Grant, Urban Area Security Initiative, Hazard Mitigation and Pre-Disaster Mitigation programs.

The City will work to identify potential resources and associated criteria for local development of alternative water sources, including funding support for a study of the feasibility of desalinization in Miami Beach, as well as funding opportunities for water reclamation activities.

The City will monitor, report and advocate for full funding of budget allocations which fund social services and other programs provided by Miami Beach organizations.

The City strongly encourages and supports the direct allocation of federal funding to local governments, without state and/or county pass-through. The City further feels that this position should be a key element of the White House's new Urban Policy.

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission review the proposed Federal legislative agenda, establish the priorities and adopt the attached Resolution.

JLM/JGG/kc

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RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE CITY'S FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 113TH CONGRESS.

WHEREAS, the City must avail itself of all potential sources of funds; and

WHEREAS, Federal legislation may need to be enacted to protect and enhance the City's interests; and

WHEREAS, action of Federal executive agencies may be necessary for the same purposes; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the City's legislative consultant is aware of, and has a list of, City priorities; and

WHEREAS, the City's legislative consultant has met with the Mayor, City Commission, City Attorney, and Administration to identify priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has prioritized funding needs and identified potential funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the City's numerous Federal-level needs have been assessed and prioritized to produce the most effective use of its legislative team.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the recommended Federal Legislative Agenda for the first session of the 113th Congress be approved, as more specifically set forth in the attached Commission Memorandum.

PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2013.

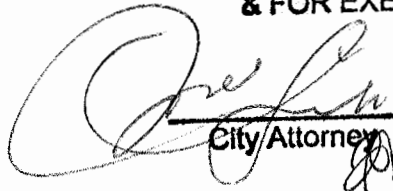
Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION**

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City Attorney

5-1-13

Date