

Palm Beach County 2018 Federal Agenda



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TRANSPORTATION

AIRPORT CUSTOMS

The Department of Airports has had discussions with US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officials in an effort to provide Customs service at our main terminal after 4:00pm. Several airlines and general aviation tenants have requested additional international service at PBI but are unable to provide the service since Customs officers only work at the main terminal until 4:00pm.

The Department of Airports has submitted plans to CBP for expansion of our Federal Inspection Station in anticipation of additional international service. Our marketing efforts include meetings in Europe with international airlines for service to PBI in addition to visits to all US domestic airlines that serve international destinations. However, if CBP cannot or will not provide service at PBI's main terminal after 4:00pm, it becomes difficult if not impossible to have expanded international service at PBI.

PBI will continue to work with CBP towards a solution. One solution may involve PBI entering into a reimbursable fee agreement, which allows 5 airports per year to seek additional services from CBP on a reimbursement basis. PBI will consider applying for one of these slots and will continue to work with CBP to provide flexibility in securing additional officers for international travel entering PBI after 4:00pm.

OPERATIONS OF LANTANA AIRPORT

Palm Beach County is seeking relief from temporary flight restrictions (TFRs) that have been imposed on aircraft operations at the Lantana Airport during Presidential visits to Mar-a-Lago. While all county-owned airports are impacted by limitations imposed by TFRs, the Lantana Airport bears an undue burden since it is the only airport that is effectively closed when TFRs are active due to its proximity to Mar-a-Lago.

Although most communications with the Federal Government in 2017 did not yield any relief, the County continues to SUPPORT encouraging the United States Secret Service (USSS), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to continue to work to find a reasonable accommodation to allow limited aircraft operations during TFRs without comprising the safety or security of the President.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION, RAIL AND TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE

In 2017, the administration discussed the development of an infrastructure plan to improve the condition of U.S. roads, bridges, airports, and other public works. It is anticipated a proposal will be formulated in early 2018 that may include up to \$1 trillion for this initiative. Palm Beach County will work with local stakeholders to advocate for and monitor programs and projects that benefit our region in any infrastructure package introduced this session.

FARM TO MARKET ROAD REPAIR

Agriculture is essential to the economy and to ensure the well-being and nutrition of our citizens. To transport produce from farms to our tables, trucks and other heavy equipment use rural roads which service agricultural communities. These roads experience severe and accelerated wear and tear and are typically located in areas where the resources and funds to repair these roads can be limited.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS resources being made available to rural communities to assist in repairing these roads as efficiently as possible, so transport of agricultural products can move safely and quickly from farms to consumers.

PASSENGER RAIL ON FEC CORRIDOR

All Aboard Florida is developing a privately owned, operated and maintained intercity passenger rail service. Its first trains began operations between its newly built stations in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach in January 2018. A station is currently under construction in downtown Miami, and a future Intermodal Station is planned at the Orlando International Airport. Continue to monitor rail development progress on the FEC corridor to seek opportunities for Tri-Rail service area expansion, mitigation of adverse noise impacts through investment in equipment to establish quiet zones, increased safety, and minimizing traffic impacts where possible.

STATE ROAD 7 EXTENSION

State Road 7 has been on the County's Thoroughfare Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan since 1972. It is shown on the County's Comprehensive Plan extending from Okeechobee Boulevard to Northlake Boulevard. The County has already constructed a portion of this roadway from Okeechobee Boulevard north to 60th Street. This roadway extension is considered a necessary connection for adequate traffic flow in the central/western area and will be an important safety/evacuation route. SUPPORT efforts to continue the extension of State Road 7.

GLADES AREA ROAD CONSTRUCTION/STREET REPAIR

More than any other issue facing Belle Glade, South Bay and Pahokee today, the repair and rebuilding of streets are the cities' number one concern. The three cities have outlined road resurfacing and reconstruction projects on Collector/Residential Roadways. SUPPORT the tri-cities request to continue repair and maintenance on these roads essential for future economic recovery in the region.

TRUCK SIZE AND WEIGHT

There is concern that Congress is considering changes to federal standards that would increase the allowed truck size and weight on roads. Longer and heavier trucks accelerate the deterioration of roads and bridges, putting additional pressure on financially strained local governments to fund infrastructure. Since most truck trips begin and end on the local road system, local government agencies would face increased responsibility for impacts and repairs. Taxpayers subsidize heavy truck operations by nearly \$2 billion each year on federally funded roadways, and an equal amount annually on state and locally funded roadways, since truck fees do not cover the damage that trucks do to roads and bridges. Additionally, road safety would be strongly affected. Longer trucks are harder to steer and have poorer stability, a longer stopping distance, and a larger crash footprint. These characteristics contribute to them having a higher fatal accident involvement rate than smaller trucks.

OPPOSE any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight limits beyond those in current federal law because of the tremendous highway safety, infrastructure damage, and transportation funding implications.

PALM TRAN

Palm Beach County understands that a well-funded, long-term surface transportation authorization is critical to the economic competitiveness and prosperity of our community. The continuing appropriation of these funds allows transportation agencies not only to plan accordingly, but to implement projects faster and efficiently.

Palm Beach County, with the help of the funding available through the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, is planning to undertake the following projects:

- Route Performance Maximization
- Transit Technology Enhancement Projects
- Expansion and Renovation of Palm Tran South County Maintenance Facility
- Bus Shelter Expansion

Route Performance Maximization

Palm Tran has undertaken the Route Performance Maximization (RPM) initiative which is a comprehensive evaluation and system wide redesign of the bus network that will result in a more direct, efficient and usable system in Palm Beach County. The RPM, which is being conducted in two phases, will culminate with a new Palm Tran bus system to be implemented in late 2018. Palm Tran kicked off Phase 1 of the RPM in May 2017, and have completed data collection and analysis. Phase 2 which is scheduled to begin in early 2018, will be a robust community outreach program along with the detail analysis and production of routes and alignments.

Palm Tran has not undergone any major service changes to its network of routes in over 20 years. Other transit systems across the country (e.g. Houston, Jacksonville and Columbus) have performed similar initiatives and have achieved increases in ridership and customer satisfaction. Palm Beach County is requesting \$500,000 for the procurement of consulting assistance on this project.

Transit Technology Enhancement Projects

Palm Beach County is requesting \$7 million for the procurement, installation and integration of various technology programs to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of transportation services. The highest priority included in this request is for modernization of our fare collection equipment (new fare boxes and related technology) to allow the public the opportunity to pay with Debit and Credit cards. This will include development of an interoperable fare system, whereby customers can transfer seamlessly to and from any of the transit providers in the region. Significant upgrades are required in the system, including development of new fare-media and fare-distribution systems and retraining of all personnel and the public.

Expansion and Renovation of Palm Tran South County Maintenance Facility (Shovel Ready)

Palm Beach County is requesting \$1.5 million for the expansion and renovation of the existing Palm Tran South County Facility. This facility went into service on November 1996, and at 20 years of useful life, it requires expansion to accommodate Palm Tran's growth and rehabilitation of equipment that has met its useful life cycle. The project includes:

- addition of approximately 28,000 square feet of building space consisting of offices, locker rooms, training center for bus operators, auditorium and ancillary support space;
- a new 135 vehicle parking lot for employees on the south side, and refurbishment of the existing bus parking pavement;
- restoration and renovations work at the existing maintenance building.

The project has an environmental categorical exclusion from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). This project is expected to be shovel-ready by July 2018.

Bus Shelter Expansion

Palm Beach County is requesting \$11.8 million to completely overhaul our bus shelter inventory. This includes replacing 334 existing shelters that are between 10 and 15 years old, and 250 additional shelters for a new total of 584. Currently, only 10% of our 3,200 stops have shelters. The existing shelters are deteriorating and need replacement as well as upgrades to shelter pads to maintain ADA compliance. Additional shelters are necessary to protect riders from the weather, especially during the summer months and rainy season.

ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

GLADES CITIES WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay are located in a socio-economically disadvantaged area of Western Palm Beach County. Prior to 2008, their source of water was Lake Okeechobee, an unreliable and poor quality source. The County constructed a \$58 million regional water plant using a reliable brackish water source and reverse osmosis technology to improve water quality in the area. Unfortunately, the water infrastructure (pipelines) in all three cities is aged, was poorly constructed, and has succumbed to the corrosive characteristics of the local soil. As much as 40% of the water being produced by the plant is leaking into the ground, compromising overall water quality. Furthermore, the deteriorating and undersized pipes of the system have problems providing adequate pressure during maximum daily flow conditions, particularly during fire flow events. There is considerable piping in each community that needs to be replaced to stem the leakage and improve operating pressures. These improvements are desperately needed in order to preserve the high quality of the water from the new plant and to maintain adequate fire flow pressures in the system protecting the public health and safety of the citizens of the three cities. The cost to construct these improvements was originally \$25 million and has significantly exceeded this due to the existing conditions of the infrastructure. To assist in the restoration of the infrastructure, the county requests federal matching assistance of \$1 million per year.

BEACH RESTORATION

The County SUPPORTS additional funding programs and regulatory relief for the provision of storm protection, recreation and habitat on eroded beaches, including supplemental funding for those areas impacted by Hurricane Irma. The County SUPPORTS the authorization of and appropriations for vital federal beach nourishment projects that

provide resiliency from extreme storm events, including the initiation of a General Re-evaluation Report for the Juno Beach Shore Protection Project and authorization of federal participation in the Project.

The County seeks continued federal support for the implementation of Section 1106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2016, which allowed for the Army Corps of Engineers to enter into agreements to assume the operations and maintenance costs of an alternative project to maintenance dredging for a federal navigation channel if the costs of the alternative project are less than the costs of maintaining the channel without the project.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

SUPPORT the County proposed Continuing Authorities Projects for habitat restoration in Lake Okeechobee and Lake Worth Lagoon through funding for the required Appraisal Reports and the initiation of the required feasibility studies.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Inefficient administration of the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** has resulted in delays and increased costs in many County habitat restoration activities. The County seeks changes to NEPA to address these reoccurring issues.

1. SUPPORT amendments to existing laws and regulations to hold Agencies accountable for their review timelines.
2. SUPPORT a revision to 40 CFR 1508.7 allowing flexibility in the interpretation of NEPA language to allow counties to utilize non-traditional alternatives to beach maintenance. The following language is suggested: **“Where cumulative impact uncertainties remain or multiple resource objectives exist, adaptive management provisions for flexible project implementation, such as pilot project configuration, may be incorporated into the selected alternative.”**

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REGULATORY CHANGES

Corps regulations contain timeframes for issuing or denying permits. However, federal commenting agencies often exceed regulatory timeframes when reviewing permit applications. When the Corps’ process (including waiting on required comments from other agencies) exceeds the regulatory timeframes, there is currently no consequence or avenue for relief.

The County SUPPORTS an amendment to 33 CFR Part 325 (d) (10) such that a complete application (public notice) starts not only the Corps’ internal timeframes for review but also the NEPA Section 7 Consultation timeframes of commenting agencies as well.

The County additionally SUPPORTS efforts to delegate aspects of the Corps' Clean Water Act permitting responsibilities to the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Water Management Districts pursuant to agreements to be developed between the state and federal agencies.

SAND TRANSFER PLANT

The Sand Transfer Plant plays an integral role in maintaining the Lake Worth Inlet federal channel, but presently at the sole cost of the local sponsor. As the Army Corps does provide for annual channel dredging in its O&M budget, the addition of approximately \$300,000/year is far less than the alternative of having to fund an additional dredging event. The County seeks legislative directive to include operation and maintenance costs associated with sand transfer plants in the annual operations and maintenance budget of the Corps of Engineers.

CLIMATE COMPACT

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT

Background

Southeast Florida is one of the most vulnerable areas in the country to climate change and sea level rise. Recognizing their shared challenges, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties ("Compact counties") adopted the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact ("Compact") in 2010. The Compact includes a commitment to develop and advocate for joint state and federal legislative policies. Accordingly, the Compact counties have adopted a *Federal Energy and Climate Legislative Program* each year since 2011. The Compact has adopted as part of the Program the *2017 Federal Energy and Climate Legislative Principles* to articulate the overarching goals for the Program, as well as *Federal Energy and Climate Legislative Priorities* to identify those legislative issues that Compact members will support in the upcoming legislative session.

The County is committed to supporting the Principles and Priorities established by the Compact in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Counties 2017 State Energy and Climate Legislative Priorities and Principles with the top priorities as:

SUPPORT legislation to create and fund infrastructure funding sources to finance projects needed by state and local governments to adapt to climate impacts and address aging infrastructure. Emphasis should be placed on investments in water management, water supply, transportation and other projects that make urban infrastructure more resilient to extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

SUPPORT coordinated implementation of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard by federal agencies and specific guidance and flexibility for local communities affected by the federal rules.

SUPPORT federal legislation or administrative action that removes federal restrictions on Property Assessed Clean Energy programs and expands the list of eligible improvements to include weatherization measures.

SUPPORT continued focus on Everglades restoration as an essential component of protecting regional water resources and building regional climate resilience.

SUPPORT funding for authorized Everglades restoration projects and legislation authorizing the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) and expediting other projects related to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECT/HERBERT HOOVER DIKE

The federal share of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) should be sufficient to fully implement all plan components at the agreed upon cost share in accordance with adopted project schedules.

The failure of the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee could have severe effects on the surrounding region, including Palm Beach County. The Dike is currently undergoing rehabilitation with an estimated date of completion of 2025. The Board SUPPORTS any and all actions by the federal government to expedite full rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike. The State of Florida contributed \$50 million to help expedite the necessary work on the Dike during the 2017 Legislative Session and Governor Scott has included an additional \$50 million in his budget request for the 2018 Legislative Session.

The President's FY 2017 Budget Request included \$106,000,000 for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration and \$49,500,000 for the Herbert Hoover Dike (Seepage Control).

The County continues to SUPPORT the President's Budget Requests for the Hoover Dike rehabilitation and Everglades Restoration.

WATERS OF THE US (WOTUS)

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS the efforts of the Trump administration to further clarify the definition of "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act. The County SUPPORTS legislative and regulatory efforts to balance the needs of a growing population and economy with the need to protect and preserve those natural resources that are vital to support that growth. Palm Beach County understands the meaning and purpose of the Clean Water Act and the agencies' goal of protecting our nation's water resources while providing clarity and certainty for the regulated community. Any approach to protecting water quality in America must be accomplished through the Clean Water Act's vision of cooperative federalism, including partnerships at the local, regional and state levels. Palm Beach County continues to welcome the opportunity to work with the EPA, the Corps and our local, regional and state

governments in promulgating a reasonable and rational rule that will achieve the protection of our nation's water resources while recognizing the practical realities of specific regions.

OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

In January of 2018, the Trump Administration put forth a proposal that would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all United States coastal waters. This proposal could threaten Palm Beach County's coastline, canals, inlets, artificial reefs, and other major estuarine and freshwater enhancements projects. Palm Beach County also has a multi-billion dollar tourism industry that would be threatened by any future oil spills due to our extreme proximity to the Gulf Stream currents. SUPPORT federal legislation that will establish an Act prohibiting offshore drilling on the outer continental shelf off the State of Florida.

PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER RELIEF

SOBER HOMES

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is charged with the interpretation of the Fair Housing Amendments Act. There is an urgent need for clarification from HUD regarding the language within the Fair Housing Amendments Act ("the Act") and its application to sober homes. The courts have applied the Act inconsistently over the years and this has caused a great burden to be placed upon the states and local governments, some of which are currently facing over-concentration of sober homes in their single-family residential communities, as well as rampant abuse of vulnerable residents with substance use disorder who have been exploited by unscrupulous sober home owners and managers.

While the County has made strides with supported changes to federal rules and state funding of a local Sober Homes Task Force, there is much work still to be done. With a lack of standards and/or oversight of such homes or their operators, there has been increasing abuse and exploitation of the patients/residents in sober homes by the operators. Therefore, there is a real need for additional clarification from HUD regarding what actions related to sober homes may be taken by states and local governments in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of both the residents of the homes and the surrounding areas where homes are located.

The County SUPPORTS the following clarifications to the Fair Housing Amendments Act:

- provide a better definition of "currently using drugs or alcohol"
- allow state and/or local governments to require that sober homes be certified or sanctioned by non-profit entities that provide nationally accepted standards to protect residents from exploitation and abuse.

OPIOID ABUSE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that more than 140 Americans die every day from drug overdoses—including, on average, 91 specifically from opioids.

The Cures Act passed in both the House of Representatives and Senate with strong support and was signed into law in December of 2016. The Cures Act provides multiyear funding to reduce opioid abuse, mental research and drug development. The funding will total \$4.8 billion over the next ten years; however, the funding must be appropriated every year.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS continued full-funding of the 21st Century Cures Act, and will continue to monitor the activities of the federal Opioid Task Force.

HURRICANE RELIEF SUPPORT

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, Palm Beach County SUPPORTS requests by Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio to provide supplemental funding to a number of federal programs including relief for Florida's agriculture industry, funding for rural housing, and rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike.

The County continues to SUPPORT efforts to provide relief to industries and individuals affected by the natural disasters of the 2017 Hurricane season.

The County SUPPORTS the Disaster Displacement Act by Senator Nelson that will provide additional funding to local housing programs and create a Disaster Relief Medicaid Program to assist local governments and displaced evacuees.

The County continues to SUPPORT legislative changes to the audit time frames in which FEMA can de-obligate funds approved and granted for previous storm events.

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

Continue to monitor and request for the continuation of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians living in Florida who have been displaced due to economic instability and natural disasters in their country.

CYBER SECURITY

Cyberspace and its underlying infrastructure are vulnerable to a wide range of risk stemming from both physical and cyber threats and hazards.

A range of traditional crimes are now being perpetrated through cyberspace. This includes child exploitation conspiracies, banking and financial fraud, intellectual property violations, and other crimes, all of which have substantial human and economic consequences.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS legislation to strengthen the security and resiliency of cyberspace.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT

The County is concerned that without a prohibition of drones over or in the proximity of critical county facilities, such as jails, law enforcement facilities, courthouses, and other government buildings, that the possibility of escapes, terrorism, and breaches in confidentiality increase significantly; all which impact public safety or potentially compromise the judicial and policy setting process.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS a continued partnership with the FAA to ensure that critical infrastructure facilities are also protected under unmanned aircraft use rules.

SECURITY FUNDING

The FY 2018 Omnibus will likely include up to \$1.5 billion for State and Local Programs, which includes funding for several stand-alone DHS/FEMA grant programs, including: state homeland security grants, UASI, and Port Security. The programs are administered primarily through formula allocations to the states, but also entail competitive grants to states and regions for specific policy areas, including critical infrastructure, counterterrorism, and transportation. Monitor grant opportunities for security funding.

FEMA FUNDING FOR PARKS & RECREATION/PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAMS

Monitor any legislation concerning reauthorization of the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act particularly language that would have a significant negative impact on parks and recreation areas. Specifically, language should be opposed that denies funding under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act for disaster relief to parks, recreation departments, beaches and other similar entities. Also, monitor any proposals for FEMA to offer pre-disaster mitigation pilot grants in communities throughout the nation.

Also, SUPPORT the National Parks and Recreation Association's legislative platform.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE FUNDING (BYRNE GRANTS)

The Criminal Justice Commission administers the federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance formula grant allocations from the Department of Justice for Palm Beach County. This includes both the Local and State allocations. Funds for FY 2018 beginning October 1, 2017 have still not been released due to new regulations regarding communication with federal agencies about information of county residents on immigration or citizenship status.

Palm Beach County has signed the required certification documents required by DOJ but still the funding remains on hold threatening continuation of our Reentry Program funded in part through these dollars.

The Administration requested the following amounts for criminal justice initiatives in FY 18:

- \$383.5 million for Byrne-JAG grants.
- \$218 million for the COPS program, which is \$17.4 million more than the FY 17 continuing resolution
- \$480 million for Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs.
- \$105 million for the ongoing DNA Initiative Program funding the testing of sexual assault kits which is a \$20 million decrease from FY 17 amounts.

SUPPORT budget requests for similar criminal justice programs.

For prisoner reentry and diversion programs, the Justice Department proposed budget includes an additional \$48 million for Second Chance Act programs and grants supporting drug courts, mental health services and other diversion programs. In addition, SUPPORT the Labor Department request for reintegration of ex-offender training programs, and the Education Department's workplace and community training grants for incarcerated individuals. SUPPORT additional funding that promotes re-entry programs.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING

The County SUPPORTS the continued appropriation of funds for mental health services. It is estimated that untreated and mistreated mental illness costs American business, government and taxpayers \$113 billion annually. The County SUPPORTS efforts to develop evidence based community care that is accessible to all as well as treatment models that provide for a coordinated continuum of care for patients. Funding efforts should not be solely focused on treating those with the most disabling forms of mental illness, but rather a range of prevention, wellness, and crisis treatment, as well as educational outreach to reduce the stigmatism surrounding mental health. Additionally, the county SUPPORTS protecting the expansion of mental health benefits and parity protections under the Affordable Care Act.

FEDERAL CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE

For years, members of Congress from Florida and other coastal states have proposed creating a regional or national catastrophe fund to pool the risk for states and reduce the burden on taxpayers from natural disasters.

Previous House proposals called for a portion of homeowner's insurance premiums in participating states to be used to create a national fund. They provided reinsurance for state disaster funds, and would create federal financial backing of the fund if necessary.

Federal Catastrophic Insurance could be modeled similar to the Federal Flood Insurance Fund and could cover hurricanes, floods, tornados, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.

The County SUPPORTS amending the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to allow multi-peril coverage from a national catastrophic insurance fund could help create solvency for the flood program.

INSURANCE AND MAPPING FOR FLOOD AREAS

In March of 2014, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (H.R. 3370) was signed into law. The bill reformed the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by easing several flood insurance premium increases associated with the 2012 enactment of the Biggert-Waters Act.

The legislation restored NFIP subsidized premium rates for “grandfathered” policies, meaning that properties insured by the program would permanently pay rates based on the flood zone designation when the property was built, even if floodplain mapping later re-designates the property in a higher-risk category.

While H.R. 3370 addressed insurance issues, additional problems remain with mapping for flood areas.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Reform

SUPPORT legislative efforts, policies, and programs that ensure all property owners can receive affordable flood insurance within a program framework that helps the NFIP become financially stable.

ACOE Herbert Hoover Dike issue

In December 2014, Palm Beach County drafted a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) asking them to certify the work done on the South Eastern portion of the Herbert Hoover Dike so FEMA could use that data when drafting an updated flood map for the County. Under the current flood map draft, most of the Glades region of the County is designated a flood area and thus would be subject to increased insurance premiums. Without updated data, FEMA cannot make the necessary changes to the flood map calculations. Demand the ACOE certify completed work on the Dike so it can be used to calculate newly proposed FEMA flood map. Continue to request seclusion from the flood maps for the area abutting the dike under federal rule guidelines until such time as repair work on the Dike is certified by the ACOE.

VETERANS/PENSION POACHER

Individuals known as “pension poachers” are those who charge to ostensibly assist seniors with applying for benefits, but often times are trying to do little more than prey on America’s elderly and disabled veterans. It is illegal for anyone who is not an approved agent or attorney to charge veterans a fee for assisting them in filing a claim or appeal with the VA; however, there is currently no penalty for violations. Due to this, veterans are being

defrauded, often up to thousands of dollars, by financial predators who charge fees and provide little to no help.

Congressman Tom Rooney introduced a bill in the 115th Congress focused on protecting veterans from fraud and other types of crime. HR 506—The Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2017— amends the federal criminal code to declare that any person who knowingly engages in any scheme or artifice to defraud an individual of veterans' benefits, or in connection with obtaining veteran's benefits for that individual, shall be fined, imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

SUPPORT legislation that would make it easier to identify and penalize individuals participating in these types of scams that have compromised a veteran's ability to receive their pension benefits.

FUNDING FOR ENHANCED LIGHTING IN HIGH CRIME AREAS

In an effort to continue promoting safety in high crime areas, grant opportunities should be created to enhance lighting in these areas. According to a systematic review published by the Campbell Collaboration, improved street lighting is thought to affect crime in two ways: by increasing surveillance, thus deterring potential offenders, and by signifying community investment and pride in an area.

In Palm Beach County, Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) areas are residential neighborhoods generally characterized by infrastructure deficiencies (such as lack of water, unpaved roads or roads in substandard conditions, etc.); a need for neighborhood parks; a high number of code enforcement violations; and a high level of law enforcement need. These 85 designated areas may also be characterized by a concentration of very low to moderate-income populations and lower property values with an increased neighborhood crime rate.

Palm Beach County has adopted and currently applies Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in order to use lighting, amongst others, as a crime deterrent and enhance public safety in numerous areas of the County.

THE GRASSLEY/WHITEHOUSE JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION OF 2017

For the past 40 years, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA) has set federal standards for the custody and care of youth in the juvenile justice system and provided critical federal funding to assist states in meeting these standards. Efforts to remove youth from adult jails and halt the detention of status offenders were initiated under the JJJPA, and have been very successful.

Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island have filed the reauthorization of the JJDPa which is needed to overhaul the law to meet the most current issues in juvenile justice, such as reducing racial and ethnic disparities, keeping kids out of adult court and giving states incentives to stop using incarceration and implement effective alternatives to incarceration.

The Reauthorization Act would address many of the key issues in juvenile justice today, including:

- Phasing out any exceptions that would allow the detention of status offenders, i.e. youth who have not been charged with a crime
- Substantially reducing the placement of youth in adult jails
- Dramatically decreasing racial and ethnic disparities
- Giving states incentives to rely less on incarceration
- Promoting the use of alternatives to incarceration
- Improving conditions and educational services for incarcerated youth.

The bill has cleared the U.S. Senate and has been received in the House. SUPPORT the passage of the legislation by Congress.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PRESIDENTIAL VISITS

During his first year in office, President Donald J. Trump, a part-time Palm Beach County resident, has spent considerable time in our community. It is expected that when the President is in town local law enforcement and other security related functions will be required of the County and other local governments. The County has since received \$1 million in DOJ grants and \$3.4 million in FEMA grants to reimburse for costs associated with Presidential visits. Continue to work with the federal government to ensure that the local costs (i.e. law enforcement and fire rescue) associated with Presidential visits to his home in Palm Beach County are reimbursed by the federal government.

Additionally, work with the Secret Service to minimize the economic impact to the County and area businesses from closures to the Lantana Airport related to those visits.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE

SOUTH FLORIDA INLAND PORT

The development of an inland intermodal logistics complex in Western Palm Beach County, including completion of rail connections serving ports of South Florida and Tampa Bay, would create a significant economic impact to an area that is fiscally and economically

depressed. At the same time, it will provide a critical link in Florida's ability to efficiently handle rapidly growing levels of international commerce. Land to accommodate this project in Western Palm Beach County is consistent with recommendations of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded Glades Region Master Plan (GRMP). It is located in the Glades Region of Western unincorporated Palm Beach County. The target site of 850 acres can accommodate 10 million square feet, including a rail yard tie-in to the South Central Florida Express track and is within close proximity to an area of high unemployment/underemployment.

This inland facility, which has gained significant regional support, would be a hub for goods assembly, warehousing and manufacturing, as well as furnishing logistics providers with a central intermodal location between ports that lack sufficient waterfront acreage to accommodate trade volumes projected to double by 2020. This would create additional options for freight movement and distribution from Post-Panama ships heading to South Florida. SUPPORT workforce and funding opportunities to further the development of the inland port facility.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program offers a source of grant funding to states, counties, and municipalities used to meet local housing, economic, and community development needs. Palm Beach County focuses its CDBG funds on investments in infrastructure and public facilities including water and sewer systems, roadways and drainage improvements, and parks and recreational facilities in lower income neighborhoods. CDBG proves particularly important in lower income communities where municipal governments are fiscally constrained and property owners cannot bear assessments for public improvements. The impact of CDBG dollars is amplified by their use to leverage public and private investment in local projects. In Palm Beach County, this is exemplified by the provision of CDBG to non-profit social service agencies which use CDBG to leverage private donations and to meet matching requirements for State and other federal funding programs. CDBG funds are also a vital tool to stimulate economic activity. In addition to the economic activity directly generated by CDBG expenditures, Palm Beach County uses CDBG to support business growth and entrepreneur development through technical assistance, financial sourcing, and other business services.

NEW MARKET TAX CREDIT GRANT

In 2014, Palm Beach County submitted a \$40 million New Market Tax Credit application (Control Number: 13NMA005881). The County's Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability (HES) Loan Programs Experience and Success Rate over the past three years, including programs from HUD, EPA, USDA, DOE, has created over 2000 jobs to date. Of the \$35 million in local loan pool, \$27 million in loans have been made, creating over \$91 million of private investment in Palm Beach County.

SUPPORT County efforts to secure future NMTC grants.

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

SUPPORT Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) legislation that grants states the authority to compel online and catalog retailers ("remote sellers"), no matter where they are located, to collect sales tax at the time of a transaction - exactly like local retailers are already required to do.

In August 2016, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) released the Online Sales Simplification Act (OSSA). The bill is the latest iteration of the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) that would address a loophole in the current tax code by effectively allowing state and local governments to collect sales tax on online and remote sales, which they are already owed under current law. The bill seeks to reach a compromise between business community and state/local governments, encouraging states to join a clearinghouse for collecting sales tax.

Goodlatte's bill would prod states to take part in a clearinghouse for conveying online sales tax revenue. Under the plan, the seller's home state would collect sales taxes on an online purchase, based on the single statewide rate of the buyer's home state. The seller's home state (and the sourcing for the transaction) would be determined by where the seller is headquartered (physical presence) and has the largest number of employees. Funds would then be sent to the state clearinghouse for distribution.

FARM BILL REAUTHORIZATION

In 2017, Congress began laying the foundation for the reauthorization of a new farm bill. Current legislation, The Agriculture Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), expires in 2018.

Programs throughout the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) help counties make critical investments in infrastructure, workforce and economic development, nutrition, and conservation for some of our nation's most underserved communities. Preserving these programs is vital to the strength and stability of our local and national economy.

SUPPORT county programs throughout the development of the next farm bill.

FREE TRADE

Existing trade agreements such as NAFTA have had beneficial and deleterious effects on Florida's farmers and consumers. Proposed agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) could further complicate these effects. Such agreements have opened new export markets for farmers, and the competition has resulted in increased varieties and lower prices of certain fruits and vegetables for consumers. However, local farmers have faced difficulties in competing due to other countries having, for example, lower labor costs and less stringent environmental oversight laws. According to the Florida Farm Bureau Federation, a future trade agreement with Cuba would be particularly difficult for Florida farmers since its climate is so similar to ours, and Cuban farmers receive strong government

assistance. These variables would distort the market and allow Cuban farmers a competitive advantage.

Monitor the implementation of federal trade agreements so that jobs related to Palm Beach County's agricultural industry are not adversely impacted. SUPPORT language in trade agreements that include strict measures to control the spread of animal, insect, and animal pests to protect Florida's crops.

FAIR CHANCE ACT

The Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act of 2017 or "Fair Chance Act" was introduced in April of 2017. The Fair Chance Act would require both the federal government and federal contractors to remove the conviction history question from their job applications and defer any background checks to the end of the hiring process. It includes exceptions for law enforcement and national security jobs, positions requiring access to classified information, and those for which access to criminal history information before the conditional offer stage is required by law.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS the passage of this legislation.

HOUSING - INCOME LIMITS

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sets income limits that determine eligibility for assisted housing programs. These income limits are based on median family income estimates and fair market rent definitions. Work with HUD to develop guidelines that separate the Glades region or other local disadvantaged communities from the overall county calculations if those calculations are beneficial to securing additional housing funds and resources to the region. In addition, SUPPORT efforts to maintain and expand USDA rural housing options.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CADILLAC TAX UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The "Cadillac tax" is a component of the Affordable Care Act that will trigger a 40 percent excise tax on health benefits that exceed a certain threshold. The tax was developed as an alternative to placing a cap on the existing tax exclusion for health benefits. Changes in federal law during 2015 extended the effective date of the tax from 2018 to 2020, but employers are already taking action to plan for and/or avoid the tax. It was further extended to 2022 under the tax package recently signed by President Trump. Affected employers will pay an average of \$2,700 per employee that year.

Continue to monitor additional developments related to the Cadillac Tax.

TITLE IV-E FUNDS

Every state's largest source of funding for child welfare services comes from federal Title IV-E funds. In nearly every state, these funds can only be expended after the government removes a child from a home due to unsafe conditions.

In 2005, Florida recommended another solution to the federal government: Allow flexibility in the use of Title IV-E funds so necessary services could be provided to children and families before safety is threatened, and before children endure the trauma of being removed from their families. Florida's Title IV-E Waiver is set to expire September 2019.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS the reauthorization of Florida's Title IV-E Waiver.

EDUCATION

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

In the President's Proposed Budget to Congress for FY 2019, there is a proposal for funding for the closure of the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences.

Without IMLS funding for museums and libraries, it could become more difficult for people to gain access to the internet, continue their education, learn critical research skills, and have the resources to help them find employment.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS continued funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services.