

## 2018 State Legislative Priorities

### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**1. Sea Level Rise/Coastal Flooding**

The City of Miami Beach continues to face critically dangerous conditions due to climate change and consistent coastal and rainfall flooding. It is essential that the state recognize the urgency and severity brought on by these conditions. The City continues to request funding for infrastructure improvements caused by these conditions.

**2. Extended Stay/Short-term Rentals - Vacation Rentals**

The City supports legislation that allows local governments to regulate vacation and extended stay/short-term rental properties. This type of legislation is meant to prevent operators from running unlicensed “hotels”, which in most cases are in violation of zoning laws, safety codes and other commercial requirements.

**3. License Plate Readers**

Allow City License Plate Readers (LPRs) on State Roads. Currently, Florida Department of Transportation uses LPRs on some state roads.

**4. Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands**

The City urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District to take all steps necessary to expedite and complete the construction of Phase I of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) project and also to expedite the planning of Phase II for this project so that such planning occurs as soon as possible and prior to the current schedule scheduled start date of 2021.

The health of Biscayne Bay and the restoration of the greater Everglades' ecosystem is of great importance to the continued clean water supply, environmental and public health, and economic wellbeing. The purpose of the BBCW project, as authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, is to improve the ecological health of Biscayne Bay by adjusting the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of freshwater entering Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park through the redistribution of freshwater flow and the expansion and restoration of wetlands, which will help to restore or enhance freshwater wetlands, tidal wetlands, and near-shore bay habitats.

**5. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program**

The City urges the Florida legislature to expand the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program to provide financing for improvements that support resiliency in the State of Florida. In 2010, the Florida Legislature adopted provisions in Section 163.08 of the Florida Statutes that allow local governments to create PACE programs for residents and businesses that provide financing for energy conservation and efficiency (e.g., energy-efficient heating, cooling, or ventilation systems), renewable energy (e.g., solar panels), wind resistance (e.g., impact resistant windows), and other improvements that are not inconsistent with State law. The State of Florida should expand the PACE program to assist property owners with projects that raise foundation of existing historic structures above current elevation requirements, exceed elevation requirements for new

construction, raise and reinforce seawalls and other adaptation strategies, ie flood panels and raising infrastructure, that support resiliency.

**6. Local Authority and Unfunded Mandates**

The City opposes legislation that would impact home rule powers of municipal governments or in any way reduces local control and authority, as well as any efforts to pass additional costs from the state down to the City. The City supports all efforts made to identify and reduce the number of unfunded mandates imposed on local government.

**7. Florida's Fire Safety Standards**

The City supports legislation that amends Florida's Fire Safety Standards to preserve architecturally significant building features.

**8. Casino Gambling**

The City strongly opposes any bills related to casino gambling, and re-affirms the City's long-standing policy against casino gambling.

**9. Preserve Beaches/Beach Renourishment**

The City supports legislation that provides additional funding to preserve and repair the state's beaches.

**10. Texting While Driving**

The City urges Governor Rick Scott and the Members of the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would make texting while driving a primary offense.

**11. Tax/Surcharge on Carbonated Beverages or Soda**

The City urges the Florida Legislature to amend Chapter 212 of the Florida Statutes to authorize local municipalities to impose taxes or surcharges on carbonated beverages or sodas.

**12. Statewide Funding for Offices of the Clerks of the Circuit and County Courts**

The City urges Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature to provide statewide funding for the Offices of the Clerks of the Circuit and County Courts at a level sufficient to fully fund their court-related functions in accordance with their budget submissions to the Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.

**13. Local Tree Regulation**

The City opposes State Senate Bill 574 and House Bill 521 and any and all similar or substitute legislation, which would preempt local tree regulations; and in the alternative, requests that the Florida legislature grandfather all existing local tree regulations.

**14. Pupil Education Funding**

The City urges Florida Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature to increase per pupil education funding in Florida public schools to equal or exceed the national average of approximately \$11,392 per pupil and supports Miami-Dade County Public Schools' 2018 State Legislative Priority Position.

## **15. Florida Competitive Workforce Act**

The City urges the Florida Legislature to support Senate Bill 66 creating the “Florida Competitive Workforce Act,” which, among other things, adds sexual orientation and gender identity as impermissible grounds for discrimination in public lodging and public food service establishments, in certain employment practices, and in housing, residential transactions, and land use decisions and permitting; and, encourages the Florida legislature to amend Senate Bill 66 to also include protections against discrimination for those riding any form of transportation.

## **LEGISLATION TO BE MONITORED**

Legislation regarding the following issues will be monitored:

- Education/Early Childhood Funding/Class Size Amendment
- Alternative and Renewable Energy including Wind and Solar Energy
- Protect condominium owners
- State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program
- Enterprise Zones
- Film Incentives /Enterprise Florida
- Medical Marijuana
- Telecommunications/Wireless Communications
- Tourism-related Issues
- LGBTQ Issues
- Body Cameras
- Senior Programs
- Waterways and Water Regulations/Mooring Issues
- Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRA) Legislation
- Beach Re-nourishment/Erosion Protection
- Resiliency and Environmental Sustainability /Alternative Energy
- Public Private Partnerships
- Red light cameras
- Plastic Bags
- Workforce & Affordable Housing
- Affordable Workspace
- Technology Education Opportunities
- Education Accountability
- Florida Workers’ Compensation Reform
- Monitor and provide input to the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness

## **APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS**

The following Appropriations Requests will be submitted:

1.     **Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System**  
SCADA system upgrades to monitor, control and manage the City's water, wastewater and storm water pumps and piping systems.
2.     **North Beach Neighborhood Improvements**  
Replace the old, undersized water distribution system; the City will upgrade to 8" wide water pipes as required by the Fire District to provide adequate water for fire flow. The new system will be more reliable with fewer water main breaks.
3.     **Inclusionary Aides**  
Funding for inclusionary aides for afterschool and summer camp programs for youth and children with special needs.
4.     **Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) and Smart Parking System (SPS)**  
Funding for ITS and SPS Implementation.
5.     **North Beach Business Incubator Project**  
Includes funding for relocation/restoration of the Log Cabin.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Funding is sought for the following projects/programs:

- Education Programs
- State Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP) Funding
- Workforce and Affordable Housing
- Historic Preservation
- Planning for Resiliency/Mitigation
- Security Cameras
- Transportation
- Film Incentives