



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #VI.E

DATE: FEBURARY 26, 2018

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: SOUTH MIAMI-DADE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

Over the past twenty-five years, South Miami-Dade County has been subjected to an unrelenting series of disasters, hardships, and disruptive change. Hurricane Andrew, the closure and realignment of the Homestead Air Reserve Base, the passing of NAFTA, the housing market collapse/great recession, and recently Hurricane Irma have negatively impacted the economy of South Miami-Dade County and the Region. Estimated agricultural losses from Hurricane Irma alone totals nearly \$226 million.

Through the leadership of Councilmember and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dennis Moss, the Council, in its role as the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Economic Development District for South Florida, is spearheading, in partnership with Miami-Dade County staff and key stakeholders from the South Miami-Dade County community, the development and implementation of a South Miami-Dade County Economic Development Strategy. Council staff is assisting with the preparation of an EDA Economic Development Assistance Program grant proposal to secure funding for this initiative. Total project costs are estimated at \$2 million, inclusive of \$1 million in in-kind match. Additionally, on February 15th Council staff submitted to EDA a preliminary funding request for Disaster Supplemental Funding to support the development and implementation of this Economic Development Strategy.

Thus far, SFRPC staff have participated in the following activities to further this initiative:

- Participated in the South Miami-Dade Solutions Summit on November 30, 2017, including providing information on the Council's Revolving Loan Program for small businesses.
- Met with Diana Gonzalez, a consultant representing the Economic Development Council of South Miami-Dade, to review the history and needs of the South Miami-Dade County community.
- Participated in multiple planning meetings and conversations, convened by Commissioner Levine Cava and staff, to make progress on the written proposal.
- Conducted a site visit of the area with Diana Gonzalez.
- Submitted a preliminary request to Greg Vaday of EDA upon news of Disaster Supplemental Funding.



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Next steps for this project include:

- Conference call with Greg Vaday, EDA.
- Commissioner Levine Cava and Commissioner Moss to co-convene a working group meeting with attendees including: Greg Vaday of EDA, Beacon Council, SFRPC, relevant County staff, and representatives from all South Dade Cities and Chambers (tentatively scheduled for March 15th from 1-3 p.m.).

Recommendation

Information Only