



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #VII.A

DATE: JULY 11, 2016
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE AND ATTENDANCE

Recommendation

Information only.



South Florida Regional Council
3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, Florida 33021
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www.sfregionalcouncil.org

ATTENDANCE RECORD 7/2015-6/2016

Councilmembers	7/6/15	9/9/15	11/2/15	1/4/16	2/1/16	3/7/16	4/4/16	5/2/16	6/6/16
ASSEFF, Patricia, <i>Chair</i> Governor's Appointee	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
BAILEY, Mario Governor's Appointee	P	*	CC	P	CC	*	P	P	CC
BATES, Margaret Commissioner, Lauderhill	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	P	A
BOGEN, Mark Broward County Commission	*	*	*	A	A	*	A	A	A
CAPLAN, Frank, <i>Treasurer</i> Commissioner, Key Biscayne	P	*	P	P	P	*	P	P	P
CAVA, Daniella Levine Miami-Dade Co. Commission	P	CC	P	*	P	P	P	P	CC
DAUBERT, Tim, <i>Vice-Chair</i> Councilman, Miami Lakes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P
FURR, Beam Broward County Commission	-	-	-	-	-	*	P	P	P
GOLDBERG, Cary Governor's Appointee	*	P	P	P	CC	P	*	P	CC
HERNANDEZ, Nelson Governor's Appointee	P	P	A	A	P	*	A	A	A
KIAR, Martin Broward County Commission	CC	CC	P	CC	A	*	*	CC	*
NEUGENT, George Monroe County Commission	*	*	*	CC	*	*	CC	A	P
RICE, David Monroe County Commission	*	CC	P	CC	*	*	*	A	P
ROSS, Greg, <i>Secretary</i> Mayor, Cooper City	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
SUAREZ, Xavier Miami-Dade Co. Commission	A	*	P	CC	*	P	P	CC	P
WALLACE, Paul Governor's Appointee	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
WALTERS, Sandra, <i>Past Chair</i> Governor's Appointee	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
WEEKLEY, Jimmy Commissioner, Key West	CC	*	P	P	*	P	P	P	P

ATTENDANCE RECORD 7/2015-6/2016

Ex Officio Members	7/6/15	9/9/15	11/2/15	1/4/16	2/1/16	3/7/16	4/4/16	5/2/16	6/6/16
CORRY, Laura South Florida Water Management District	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P
HUYNH, DAT Florida Dept. of Transportation	-	-	-	D	D	D	P	P	P
MARTELL, Roberto Mayor, Town of Medley Department of Economic Development	-	-	P	A	P	*	P	P	*
SMITH, Jennifer Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection	*	*	*	A	-	-	-	P	CC

P = Present

A = Absent

D = Designee Present

* = Excused Absence

- = Not Yet Appointed

CC = Via Conference Call

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0917

May 30, 2016

Patricia B. Asseff
3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140
Hollywood, FL 33021-6900

Dear Patricia:

Thank you for reaching out to express your concerns about the outbreak of the Zika virus. While no instances of local transmission have yet been reported in the continental United States, cases have been reported in the U.S. among travelers who visited Central and South America, and transmission is ongoing in Puerto Rico. Because imported cases could result in local spread of the virus in some areas of the U.S., I would like to inform you of Congress' ongoing efforts to address the outbreak and to prevent the spread of Zika infections to our state.

On February 1, 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) determined that the rapid spread of Zika infections in the Americas and the suspected link to a serious birth defect constituted a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern" under the International Health Regulations. Under this designation, nations are expected to cooperate, expand monitoring, and share information in order to stem the spread of the disease, and WHO issued a \$56 million global Strategic Response Framework and Joint Operations Plan to guide and support the international response to the spread of Zika. On February 8, the Obama Administration submitted a request to Congress for more than \$1.89 billion in additional funding to respond to the Zika epidemic, despite having immediate access to roughly \$2.7 billion in unspent Ebola funding. On April 6, the Administration announced it would redirect \$510 million of the unspent Ebola funds on immediate efforts to control and respond to the spread of the Zika virus in the Americas.

The Appropriations Committee's job is to review the details of the Administration's requests for funding, especially for significant amounts of emergency funds, to understand how the money will be spent and ensure it is spent wisely. Certainly, a public health threat like Zika deserves our quick attention and I assure you that Congress has been working diligently to determine the appropriate amount of resources necessary immediately and over the next year to prevent the spread Zika within our borders and to expedite the development and production of a vaccine. Rest assured that as a Floridian and a Member of the Appropriations Committee, I will prioritize the health and safety of our communities when Congress considers a Zika response funding bill on the floor.

Florida is one of several U.S. states that are on the front lines of combating the spread of the Zika virus. So far, there have been over 100 travel-related cases of Zika reported to health authorities in Florida, and zero reports of locally-acquired cases of Zika. In an effort to keep Florida residents and visitors safe and aware about the status of the Zika virus, the Florida Department of Health will issue a Zika virus update each week day at 2PM. Updates will include a CDC-confirmed Zika case count by county and information to better keep Floridians prepared. CDC has been responsive to Governor Scott and Members of Congress in providing Florida with Zika virus antibody test kits.

I will continue my work as a member of the House Appropriations Committee to ensure that appropriate existing funds can be repurposed to fight the Zika virus as well as determine what additional funding is needed to prevent Zika from breaching our borders. Please visit the CDC's website to learn more about the Zika outbreak in the U.S. and do not hesitate to contact me again with any federal issue that is important to you. I also encourage you to visit my website at www.rooney.house.gov to see how I am representing you in Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Rooney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Rooney" clearly distinguishable.

Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress

ICC/KH
ORIG



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
State Surgeon General

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

SFRC
JUN 03 2016

May 25, 2016

Karen Hamilton
South FL Regional Planning Council
3440 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, Florida 33021

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

Thank you so much for your contribution to the Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Prize. Your work with the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade is a major contributor to have reached the site visit stage. I want to add a special thank you for your part in the video submission, attending the proclamation announcement and the Community Conversation on April 29th at Camillus House. The wide representation of agencies, organizations and individuals sharing enthusiasm, belief and pride in efforts towards achieving a Culture of Health in Miami-Dade County certainly must have made an impression on the judges. The openness and candor of the comments added to the demonstration that Miami-Dade County is advancing in its efforts.

A CD of photos taken throughout the two day Culture of Health Prize site visit is enclosed. We look forward to sharing good news with you in a few months when the judges' decision is announced.

Sincerely,

Lillian Rivera, RN, MSN, PhD
Administrator/Health Officer
Florida Department of Health in
Miami-Dade County

2016 | 15TH ANNUAL CHARTER AWARDS

Charter Award

MERIT AWARD PRESENTED TO

South Florida Regional
Planning Council

DOVER, KOHL & PARTNERS | MARCELA CAMBLOR & ASSOCIATES
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

PROJECT

Seven50: Southeast Florida
Prosperity Plan

CONGRESS FOR THE NEW URBANISM

Controversial Everglades oil well plan moving forward

June 12, 2016



National Park Service



David Fleshler Contact Reporter Sun Sentinel

Everglades oil well plan still seeking approval

After generating an uproar last summer over plans to drill for oil in the Everglades near Miramar, the Kanter family of Miami has submitted paperwork for state permits that could result in decisions by late summer or early fall.

The family has proposed a single exploratory well about six miles outside Miramar, in hopes of adding to the modest group of oil fields that have been operating in South Florida since World War II.

Environmentalists have denounced the proposal, and city commissions throughout Broward County adopted resolutions in opposition. Members of the Broward County Commission, from which the family would need to obtain a zoning change, have said they would never support it.

But the family pressed on and recently submitted detailed responses to questions from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, in hopes of completing its applications with that agency. Once the applications are determined to be complete, the agency will have 60 days to decide on one of them and 90 days to decide on the other. Applications are also pending with the Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District.

Family patriarch Joseph Kanter, who developed real estate during South Florida's postwar boom years, accumulated 20,000 acres in the Everglades for a town that was never built.

John Kanter, president of Kanter Investments Inc., described the approval process as extremely thorough and said the company was committed to producing a plan that would protect the environment.

We are focusing all of our efforts on acting responsibly in accordance with the law, while protecting our water supply and the environment. — John Kanter, president, Kanter Investments Inc.

"I would tell you at this preliminary stage we are involved in the rigorous permitting process to address all comments and concerns of the Florida Department of Environment Protection," he said. "We are focusing all of our efforts on acting responsibly in accordance with the law, while protecting our water supply and the environment."

Opponents say they will fight the plans, if the project wins approval.

"We're just waiting to see what the verdict is going to be from DEP so we can ascertain what the next steps are going to be," said Miramar Mayor Wayne Messom, who has rallied much of the opposition to the plan. "The thought of oil drilling just outside our city limits, piercing our fragile drinking water supply out in the Everglades is just unconscionable. To think there would be any technology that could guarantee its safety just seems unbelievable."

The thought of oil drilling just outside our city limits, piercing our fragile drinking water supply out in the Everglades is just unconscionable. — Miramar Mayor Wayne Messom

The Kanter company filed hundreds of pages of documents to the state environmental department, in response to its request for details on construction plans, safety measures, standards for pipes and other equipment. It also asks what is being proposed to minimize impact to wetlands, monitor water quality and protect wildlife. In addition, the company had to specify its plan for a potential release of hydrogen sulfide, a poisonous gas that has been released by oil drilling.

The company said the risk of spills or blowouts is small because the oil likely to be found there would be thick and under little pressure, contrary to the popular image of the Texas gusher.

"The Sunniland Trend contains minimal amounts of natural gas, so the oil is under low pressure," the company told the environmental department. "As a result of the low pressure and viscous consistency, the oil does not naturally come to the surface in the manner most people associate with oil wells. Submersible pumps are required to bring the oil to the surface."

At the same time, the company applied to the Army Corps of Engineers for permission to destroy 6.83 acres of wetlands, which would be "mitigated" by improving or expanding wetlands elsewhere. The Corps recently received additional information requested from the Kanters and is now evaluating whether the application is complete, spokeswoman Nakeir Nobles said.

The applications are for an exploratory well only. If sufficient oil is found to make recovery financially worthwhile, the family would have to go through another round of applications for permission to extract and ship the oil.

dfleshler@sunsentinel.com, 954-356-4535

Business / Real Estate News

Bank fund targeting affordable housing in South Florida



By **Paul Owers** · **Contact Reporter**

JUNE 18, 2016, 4:21 PM

Ken Thomas, a longtime economist and banking consultant, thinks it's inexcusable that many South Floridians making \$40,000 or \$50,000 a year can't afford to buy a home.

He recently launched the Community Development Fund, an investment vehicle exclusively for banks and thrifts designed to promote affordable or work force housing across Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

The fund started with \$25 million from 10 banks, including six in South Florida.

The money is used to invest in securities backed by mortgages valued in the \$100,000 to \$200,000 range, Thomas said. Investing in those mortgages would encourage lenders to keep making the loans and builders to find ways to develop communities that first-time buyers and young professionals can afford, according to Thomas.

"There are fewer and fewer affordable homes available," he said. "It's a crisis. But if we can get more banks involved in this fund, maybe instead of building one \$2 million condo or home, a builder could go build 10 affordable homes."

Investing in the fund also helps banks and thrifts satisfy their obligations under the 1977 Community Reinvestment Act, which requires that financial institutions make capital available to the communities they serve, including low- and middle-income households, Thomas said.

The Miami resident has advised federal banking regulators and testified before Congress about the CRA. Thomas has written two books on the subject. He has a doctorate degree from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and was a faculty member there for 42 years.

Miami-based Sabadell United Bank and Gibraltar Private Bank & Trust of Coral Gables are two of the original investors in the fund.

Executives with both banks said Thomas' standing in the industry helped convince them that

investing the minimum \$1 million was the right move.

"Reputation carried weight," said Carlos Bell, executive vice president of Sabadell.

"We feel very comfortable that [Thomas] will identify the right type of investments," said Adolfo Henriques, chairman and CEO of Gibraltar. "There continues to be a need for financing on the affordable side of the market."

Banks and thrifts that invest in the fund pay a 1 percent management fee. For every \$1 million invested, Thomas said he and another adviser each earn \$1,500.

Last fall, the Trulia.com real estate website ranked South Florida's three counties among the 35 least affordable housing markets nationwide. The report measured home prices and the costs of utilities and traveling to work.

In the 100 largest metro areas, Miami-Dade County was third least-affordable, behind only San Francisco and Los Angeles. Miami-Dade buyers need to spend 69.2 percent of their incomes on housing, utilities and commuting, according to Trulia.

Palm Beach County was the 15th least affordable at 50.6 percent, while Broward ranked 31st at 44.9 percent.

Median prices for existing, single-family homes in South Florida have increased by more than 40 percent since 2012, while wages have been mostly stagnant over the same period.

"Prices have risen so rapidly that they've really gotten out of whack with incomes," said Brad Hunter, an industry consultant and chief economist with HomeAdvisor, a website that helps homeowners find contractors and other industry professionals. "People say, 'At least mortgage rates are low,' but where are they going to be a year from now? Probably higher, and that will affect affordability."

Jaimie Ross, CEO of the nonprofit Florida Housing Coalition, has called for local governments in South Florida to require developers to build homes and rentals for low- and middle-income residents as a condition of being allowed to build more expensive housing.

Miami-based 13th Floor Homes is building hundreds of homes for first-time buyers and young families in Tamarac. Division President Mike Nunziata said the company got a favorable deal on the land, allowing 13th Floor to build homes in the high \$200,000s and low \$300,000s. Many new homes across South Florida are priced from the \$400,000s and \$500,000s.

Nunziata said he's intrigued by Thomas' Community Development Fund, but he thinks the lack of

affordable housing is more a function of high land costs than the absence of mortgage financing.

When builders have to pay top dollar for land, they're left with little choice but to construct high-end homes and condos to satisfy their bottom lines, he said.

"[Builders] are not nonprofits," Nunziata said. "They're not doing this for free."

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