

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2025

South Florida Regional Planning Council to Convene in Key Largo for First Meeting of 2025 and Executive Committee Election

Monroe County Commissioner Michelle Lincoln set to become Council Chair

Hollywood, FL. – The South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) will host its first meeting of the new year on **Monday, January 27, 2025, at 10:00 AM** at the **Murray E. Nelson Government Center**, located at **102050 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL**. Elected officials and members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Council Meeting will commence immediately following the conclusion of the Southeast Florida Regional Prosperity Institute's Annual Meeting which begins at 10:00 AM.

During its meeting, the Council will elect its Executive Committee members for the upcoming year including Monroe County Commissioner Michelle Lincoln as SFRPC Chair. This leadership team is key to advancing SFRPC's regional planning and policy initiatives.

"I am delighted to welcome the South Florida Regional Planning Council to Monroe County for its January Meeting. The updates from County staff on the groundbreaking work that is underway to enhance Monroe County's resilience and coral reefs is leading the way in South Florida and is of great importance to Monroe County's elected leaders and residents. I hope that you will join us at the Council's meeting this upcoming Monday, January 27th," said SFRPC Incoming Chair and Monroe County Commissioner Michelle Lincoln.

This meeting marks a pivotal start to 2025, bringing together regional leaders, stakeholders, and community members to chart a path toward a more prosperous and resilient South Florida. The SFRPC serves as a vital public policy agency, equipping state and local policymakers with the tools and information needed to build a better future for South Floridians.

Representing the geographic area of Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties, the SFRPC focuses on identifying long-term challenges and opportunities across the region and works with elected officials and private, nonprofit, and civic stakeholders to address challenges and maximize opportunities. Through collaboration and innovative strategies, the Council aims to promote sustainable growth, equitable communities, a cleaner environment, and a thriving economy. Monday's Council Meeting will open with a welcome by The Honorable **Steve Geller**, SFRPC Chair,

Broward County Commissioner, District 5, and Former State Senator; **Michelle Lincoln**, SFRPC First Vice Chair, Monroe County Commissioner, District 2; and **Holly Merrill Raschein**, Monroe County Commissioner, District 5.

“The South Florida Regional Planning Council is comprised of elected officials and gubernatorial appointees representing Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties. We are the Economic Development District for South Florida for the U.S. Department of Commerce. We also work on long-range planning for Southeast Florida. We are excited to be meeting again in Monroe County, where we expect to elect a Monroe County Commissioner as our new Chair,” said SFRPC Chair and Broward County Commissioner Steve Geller.

This meeting will feature state and local experts speaking on a variety of critical topics, including innovative regional initiatives and Florida Keys community-focused projects. **Hanna R. Koch, Ph.D., Director of Artificial Reefs for the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners**, will provide an update on the Artificial Reefs Program, including the recent deployment of new artificial reefs in the Florida Keys. The program, supported by state grants, aims to create habitats for marine life and relieve pressure on natural reefs, contributing to the region’s environmental sustainability.

Additionally, **Rhonda Haag, Chief Resilience Officer for the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners**, will present “Roads to Resilience in the Florida Keys,” highlighting the County’s efforts to address infrastructure challenges and enhance resilience to environmental changes. The presentation will cover sustainability efforts aimed at preparing coastal communities for the impacts of sea level rise.

A public hearing will provide an opportunity for community members to share their comments and perspectives on the topics discussed.

The Council welcomes elected officials and members of the public to be part of this conversation. Please join us this Monday, January 27th at 10:00 AM. The draft agenda and meeting materials are available at the SFRPC website at <https://sfregionalcouncil.org/meeting-materials/> .

This event has been Publicly Noticed. This is an in-person/virtual meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89673887616?pwd=8WIZkP8hEzb233i6sxNabfq7JdYshs.1>

Meeting ID: 896 7388 7616

Passcode: 245858

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kcwloqny0z>

For more information about the programs available through the SFRPC, please visit www.sfregionalcouncil.org. Please do not hesitate to contact the SFRPC at (954) 924-3653 for additional information or assistance.

About the South Florida Regional Planning Council

The South Florida Regional Planning Council is the largest of Florida's ten regional planning councils. The Council serves three counties—Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Broward—70 municipalities and an estimated 4.8 million residents. The membership of the South Florida Regional Planning Council consists of county and municipal elected officials, gubernatorial appointees, and ex-officio members from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the South Florida Water Management District. The Council supports the region's elected leaders and public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders through regional, collaborative planning and the development and implementation of programs and strategies which create a better future for Southeast Florida.

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