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Economic Development

State and Local Economic Development Partnerships

The City SUPPORTs legislation and appropriation that enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the state and local government partnership in economic development through the greater use of targeted strategic investments to induce sustainable economic activity resulting in a consistent positive return on investment for both state and local governments.

Florida Enterprise Fund

SUPPORT creation and funding of the Florida Enterprise Fund and the state's economic development toolkit in a manner that supports increased economic growth and development by incentivizing businesses to relocate to or expand in all regions of the state of Florida.

Public Record and Open Meeting Exemptions for Economic Development

SUPPORT changes to s.286.0113 and s.288.075, F.S., that would allow the City Commissioners to deliberate in private regarding an economic development proposal and preserve the confidentiality of confidential information in the possession of an economic development agency.

Budget & Taxation

Unfunded Mandates

The State Legislature has frequently passed legislation that compels local governments to provide a service, program, or benefit without providing the appropriate funding or a funding source. This compromises local governments' ability to provide services requested by their local communities by diverting resources to these state-directed, unfunded mandates or cost shifts. In addition, as more and more mandates are created, local governments are faced with the burden of using local tax dollars to finance functions that they have little control over.

The state must do a better job of truthfully identifying costs to local governments when passing new legislation and must provide funding or a funding source for every legislative initiative that imposes a cost on counties. City of Fort Pierce OPPOSES new unfunded mandates and unfunded state to county cost shifts.

Local Communication Tax

SUPPORTS legislation that protects general revenues collected from the local communications services tax. These revenues are used to provide essential municipal services, such as public safety, and constructing and maintaining roads, bridges, public parks and open spaces. Maintaining a diversified revenue base strengthens the fiscal stability of local governments and improves their ability to serve all citizens and businesses.

Local Business Tax

SUPPORTS legislation that protects general revenues collected from the local business tax and preserves the local authority to levy the tax.

Property Tax

OPPOSE legislation that would eliminate currently existing recapture provisions for homestead and non-homestead property.

General Administration

Vacation Rentals

SUPPORTS legislation that repeals the state preemption of the regulation of vacation rental properties in order to allow local governments to regulate such properties to protect the health and welfare of residents, visitors and businesses.

Public Records

SUPPORTS public records reform to discourage or eliminate schemes designed to generate violations of public records laws as well as limit harassing or unreasonable public records requests.

Environmental & Natural Resources

Beach & Inlet Management Funding

The Beach Management Funding Assistance Program is a Long-Range Budget Plan administered through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to assist eligible local governments with their beach erosion control projects. Each application request must include a detailed project description, cost estimate, and supporting resolution from the governing body. Individual projects then receive a priority ranking based upon several criteria.

Project	Project Description	Requested Amount	County Match
Fort Pierce Shore Protection Project	2018 physical and biological monitoring	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00
	Next planned Federal nourishment in 2016/2017	\$910,000.00	\$910,000.00
Fort Pierce Inlet Management Plan	Fort Pierce Inlet Management Plan Update	\$150,000.00	\$50,000.00
	Inlet Sand Trap (Phase 1) Construction	\$2,250,000.00	\$750,000.00
	Inlet Sand Trap (Phase 1) Construction-Engineering	\$198,750.00	\$66,250.00
	Inlet Sand Trap (Phase 1) Construction-Monitoring	\$48,750.00	\$16,250.00
	TOTAL	\$3,682,500.00	\$1,917,500.00

Florida Water & Land Conservation Amendment

SUPPORT a balanced distribution of funds for land acquisition and for water quality and quantity projects throughout the state, with equitable allocation irrespective of a project's urban or rural nature, or its coastal or inland location. As well as, SUPPORT maintenance, monitoring and sustainability of existing state conservation lands.

Indian River Lagoon, Lake Okeechobee Basin & Everglades

SUPPORT state funding for the construction of additional water storage and water quality treatment facilities within the Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee, St. Lucie, Indian River Lagoon and Everglades watersheds.

Vessel & Waterways

SUPPORT revised statutory authority and continued state funding for the enforcement and removal of derelict vessels, with emphasis on chronic offenders. SUPPORT continued state and local regulation of vessels, mooring fields, bulkheads and seawalls, floating vessel platforms, and seagrasses.

Transportation & Infrastructure

Florida Seaport Transportation & Economic Development (FSTED)

The Florida Legislature created this on-port investment program in 1990, which is administered by the FSTED Council, consisting of the port directors of the 15 public seaports, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, and the Director of the Department of Economic Opportunity. This state and local investment entity is statutorily charged with accomplishing the state's seaport development mission of implementing capital improvement projects at the local level.

The City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County have entered into an interlocal agreement to collaborate efforts in the development of the properties owned by both entities at the Port of Fort Pierce.

Project	Project Description	Requested Amount	County Match
Fisherman's Wharf Bulkhead Rehabilitation and Dredging Basin Design - Phase 1	The work will include the re-design of the Fisherman's Wharf Bulkhead and the study/investigation/permitting for the Fisherman's Wharf Basin Dredging.	\$225,000.00	\$75,000.00
Fisherman's Wharf Roadway Development - Construction - Phase 2	Total re-construction of the Fisherman's Wharf roadway with upgraded utilities and improved stormwater management.	\$700,000.00	\$700,000.00
Harbour Pointe Seagrass Study and Conceptual Development Plan for Bulkhead/Docks/Berths (Planning Studay)	This is a seagrass study and conceptual plan for design of a bulkhead/docks/berths, and shore stabilization plan for the north side of the Harbour Pointe parcel, along Taylor Creek.	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00

Transportation Funding

Municipalities have limited revenue options for funding transportation projects. A major portion of transportation funding flows to municipalities through the county, state and federal governments. Much of that funding is generated through a tax on gasoline, and recent data has shown the purchase of gasoline has decreased significantly, in effect decreasing the available revenue to municipalities for transportation infrastructure. Transportation projects are often the catalyst for economic development and the result of growth within a community. As municipalities lack options to increase revenue and continue to struggle to fund local transportation projects, increased and alternative funding sources at the state level are a necessity. The City of Fort Pierce SUPPORTS legislation that provides opportunities for increased and alternative revenue sources for municipal transportation infrastructure projects.

Impact Fees

Impact fees and transportation concurrency are mechanisms used by local governments to ensure that new developments pay for the infrastructure needs they generate.

An impact fee is based on the proportionate share of the cost of the public facilities needed to serve new development. Florida law requires that calculation of an impact fee be based on the most recent and localized data. In addition, a city imposing an impact fee must provide for an accounting and reporting of impact fee collections and expenditures.

Transportation concurrency is a state law that requires each local government in Florida to adopt a comprehensive plan and implement regulations that require adequate basic services and facilities be provided at the same time as, or concurrent with, any new development.

The City of Fort Pierce OPPOSES legislation which would preempt their authority to set impact fees or transportation concurrency.

Health & Human Services

Homelessness

SUPPORT State funding for establishing and maintaining local homelessness programs, housing for the homeless, and operating capital for the aid groups and statewide agencies that oversee them.

Foreclosures, unemployment rates, and lack of job opportunities have left communities nationwide devastated with an increase of homelessness. Statistics show that Florida ranked third highest nationally in the number of homeless individuals in 2012, with approximately 54,300 homeless individuals. Homelessness brings many complications to communities besides leaving thousands of people without a sustainable living environment. Having more affordable housing in the community can help individuals at risk of being homeless.

Affordable Housing

The State of Florida established the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund to create a source of funding for affordable housing. Funding comes from a dedicated tax on housing transactions. Recently, the trust fund has been swept by the State Legislature for other uses.

The City of Fort Pierce SUPPORTs allocating the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues for state and local affordable housing programs. As well as, SUPPORTs investing in affordable housing to create jobs in home repair, hardening homes, retrofitting and constructing affordable rental units, and lowering energy costs to make housing more affordable.

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Services and Funding

In the last two years over \$30 million in mental health funding had been lost to Florida's communities. Increased community funding is required to meet the needs of persons residing in the Treasure Coast who are mentally ill and often also have severe substance use disorders.

Additionally, the human and economic costs of untreated mental illness in our state continue to rise. Those costs include the criminalization of people with untreated mental illness, family erosion, substance abuse, job loss, domestic violence, homelessness, medical problems, crime and suicide. Florida must do more to invest and fund community-based and integrated mental healthcare.

The City Fort Pierce SUPPORTs efforts to increase supportive housing, jail diversion, and employment and education initiatives for people with mental health or substance abuse issues. SUPPORTs diverting, medically assisting, or treating mentally ill outside of the criminal justice process through alternative programs, such as Crisis Intervention Teams. SUPPORTs continued efforts to work through Medicaid reform initiatives to ensure that persons with substance abuse and mental health treatment needs are appropriately served.

Furthermore, the City SUPPORTs appropriate funding for core mental health and substance abuse services. SUPPORTs increased funding of the Criminal Justice Mental

Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program with recurring dollars in a trust fund. SUPPORTs sustainable matching state funds to counties that have received both planning and implementation Reinvestment Grant funds.

Healthy Families

The City of Fort Pierce supports a continuation of funding for the Florida Healthy Families program.

Early Steps Program

Treasure Coast Early Steps Program, within Children's Medical Services, serves families with infants and toddlers, birth to 36 months of age, who have developmental delays or an established condition likely to result in a developmental delay. Each child receives an Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) that meets his or her needs. Families and caregivers also receive support to develop the skills and confidence they need to help their children learn and develop. The City SUPPORTs continued funding of the program.

Serg. Ardie R. Copas Veterans Nursing Home

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs operates six veterans' nursing homes in Daytona Beach, Land O' Lakes, Pembroke Pines, Panama City, Port Charlotte and St. Augustine and one veterans' assisted living facility in Lake City. St. Lucie County was awarded the site for the seventh state veterans' nursing home following a unanimous vote at the Sept. 23, 2014 Cabinet Meeting.

The City SUPPORTs all future funding for the construction and operation of the Sergeant Ardie R. Copas Veterans Nursing Home.

Education

State Library Funding

Local governments receive State support for libraries through three different programs: the State Aid program, the Regional Multi-type Library Cooperative Grant program, and the Public Library Construction Grant program. Continuation of these funding sources will ensure that the State will play an appropriate role in enhancing public library service by matching local library expenditures, enhancing consortia services to area libraries, and providing needed dollars for the construction of new public libraries.

Indian River State College

SUPPORT Indian River State College (IRSC) with increased operational funding for workforce-related initiatives and enhancing the institutions capacity to serve the community; additionally, support revisions to the Florida College System Performance funding methodology which would more equitably evaluate its collective institutions and promote even greater success in the nation's best state and community college system.

SUPPORT IRSC's ability to serve the region with upper-division, baccalaureate programs that meet the current and future workforce needs of our communities. Conversely, oppose legislative measures which may potentially incapacitate growth in existing programs, or severely limit the institution's ability to implement new programs if a workforce need is demonstrated.

SUPPORT any IRSC College Improvement Plan (CIP) building construction projects that come forward for funding on the state's Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) prioritized list.