



# 2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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# FORT PIERCE CITY COMMISSION



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## ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

### ST. LUCIE RIVER ISSUES TEAM

The St. Lucie River Issue Team (SLRIT) was formed by the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to document the existing condition of the St. Lucie Estuary (SLE), describe the impacts of the discharge event, and develop an interim action plan with specific

short term projects that could be implemented within five years to improve water quality in the SLE. The team is made up of a variety of federal, state and local governments in addition to agricultural and environmental interests. For more than a decade, the SLRIT has solicited, ranked and submitted to the Florida Legislature local

turn-dirt projects focused on the restoration of the SLE and the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). The City fully **SUPPORTS** the funding of all ranked projects by the St. Lucie River Issues Team.

PROJECT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	REQUEST AMOUNT	CITY MATCH
Regenerative Air Street Sweeper	The project will improve the “Street Sweeping Best Management Practice (BMP)” conducted by the City of Fort Pierce, in order to reduce Total Phosphorus (TP) and Total Nitrogen (TN) to accelerate the implementation of the St. Lucie River Estuary and Central Indian Lagoon Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). This will aid in the prevention of pollutants from entering our stormwater conveyance systems which can cause impacts to beneficial uses of our surface water bodies.	\$113,623.00	\$113,623.00

**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	REQUEST AMOUNT	COUNTY MATCH
Fort Pierce Inlet Management Plan	FY 2017/18 includes partial State funding (\$1,818,315) of the Erosion District's original request of \$2,459,500 for the inlet sand trap. The current request of \$679,185 will fulfill the remaining amount.	\$679,185.00	\$130,000.00
Fort Pierce Shore Protection Project	2018 Physical and biological monitoring	\$130,000.00	\$130,000.00
	2015 Federal Nourishment - State Reimbursement	\$52,820.00	\$52,820.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$862,005.00	\$312,820.00



**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.

**BEACH & INLET  
MANAGEMENT FUNDING**

**SUPPORT** revised statutory authority and continued state funding for the enforcement and removal of derelict vessels, with emphasis on chronic offenders.

**VESSELS & WATERWAYS**

**SUPPORT** local regulation of vessels, mooring fields, bulkheads and seawalls, floating vessel platforms, and seagrasses.



## 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.

### ENTERPRISE FLORIDA/JOB GROWTH GRANT FUND

**SUPPORT** the continued funding of the Florida Job Growth Grant 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.

### ALCOHOL LICENSING

In 1967, the Legislature enacted ch.67-1190, Laws of Florida, to provide specific requirements regarding the issuance of Special Restaurant Beverage (SRX) licenses in St. Lucie County. Under the special act, in St. Lucie County SRX licenses may be issued to any bona fide hotel, motel, motor court, or to any bona fide restaurant with service for 200 or more patrons at tables and occupying more than 4,000 square feet of floor space. This has caused a significant impact to our smaller restaurants. The City **SUPPORTS** the repeal of ch.67-1190 Laws of Florida, to allow for service of 150 or more patrons and occupying more than 2,500 square feet of floor space.

### EXPANSION OF GAMING AT

### PARI-MUTUEL FACILITIES

In 2004, voters of the state passed an amendment that paved the way for expansion of gambling at pari-mutuel facilities in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. Since that time, gambling facilities at several locations throughout the state have sought to expand their operations, but been unable to do so, placing the St. Lucie County pari-mutuel and others at an unfair competitive disadvantage. Proposed gaming legislation may prevent St. Lucie County facilities from being able to expand gaming to compete with existing and future gambling facilities in Miami-Dade and Broward County. In November 2016, the voters in St. Lucie County overwhelmingly supported a ballot initiative to authorize slot machine gaming at existing licensed pari-mutuel facilities within the County.

The City **SUPPORTS** any legislation, including the Seminole Compact, which will allow for the inclusion of slot machine expansions at pari-mutuels in those counties which have

held successful voter referenda. The City also **OPPOSES** any legislation that would place the County's pari-mutuel facilities at an unfair competitive disadvantage as it relates to the expansion of gambling in the state.

### VACATION RENTALS

The City of Fort Pierce **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.

## BUDGET & TAXATION

### HOME RULE AUTHORITY

During the 2017 Legislative Session, there were a significant number of legislative bills filed that proposed to preempt the Home Rule Authority of local governments thereby preventing the ability of local governments to respond in a timely manner to matters of local importance. It is imperative and critical that decisions and legislation regarding local government services be left to the form of government closest to the citizens. Therefore, the City **OPPOSES** any legislation which would preempt their Home Rule Authority.

### 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

The City **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.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### PUBLIC RECORDS

The City **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.

### COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

The Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (FPRA) was established in 1982 to guide the city in its redevelopment efforts. The purpose of the agency is to revitalize both the physical and economic environment of the redevelopment area. Prior to 1982 the Downtown Redevelopment Corporation was formed to study the issues of the declining downtown and was instrumental in the creation of the agency. The City **SUPPORTS** legislation to improve municipalities' use of community redevelopment agencies to effectively carry out redevelopment and community revitalization in accordance with Home Rule.



## 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	REQUEST AMOUNT	COUNTY MATCH
Fisherman’s Wharf Roadway Improvements	Total re-construction of the Fisherman’s Wharf roadway with upgraded utilities and improved stormwater management.	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00
Fisherman’s Wharf Bulkhead Construction	To construct and rehabilitate the insufficient and seriously deteriorated bulkhead at Fisherman’s Wharf.	\$1,380,000.00	\$460,000.00

### 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. (Cont'd)





### 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.

### OPIOID ABUSE

The City of Fort Pierce **SUPPORTS** policy changes on opioid abuse to support providing life-saving interventions, medically-assisted detoxification programs, and diversions from the criminal justice system for those suffering from opioid addiction.

## 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. The City of Fort Pierce **SUPPORTS** a continuation.



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



### **Mission Statement**

*To provide community leadership, quality public service, and a safe environment for all citizens, by an empowered team of employees motivated by pride in themselves and their work.*

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