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Memorandum

To: Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Chairman and Members of the Board of County Commissioners
Commission Auditor

From: Tom Quinn, Managing Partner

RE: Miami-Dade County February 2024 Monthly Report for Governmental Representation
and Consulting Services as per Contract EVN0000597-C

This is the first month of the new engagement between Miami-Dade County and the LSN Partners Federal Team that includes consultants from Ballard Partners, Continental Strategies, and Emprise Consulting.

Each month, this report will be updated with the team's activities and provided to Miami-Dade County.

February 2024 Activity

1. Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Engagement:

- **Actions Taken:** LSN Partners met with Alina Gonzales and Phillip Drujak to start our joint efforts and outline immediate actions.
- **Outcomes:** Agreed upon objectives and planned communication for updates and coordination.
- **Next Steps:** Set up a regular meeting schedule for continuous engagement and progress tracking.

2. FAA Reauthorization Bill Monitoring:

- **Actions Taken:** Kept Miami International Airport officials, through Mike McKay from Empire Consulting, informed about the progress and potential outcomes of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization bill.
- **Outcomes:** Airport officials received timely insights to prepare for possible changes in operations and funding.
- **Next Steps:** Continue monitoring the bill's progression and communicate any significant changes or potential impacts.

3. Federal Government Shutdown Contingency Planning:

- **Actions Taken:** Provided a detailed memo to County officials on the potential impacts of a federal government shutdown.
- **Outcomes:** Highlighted key areas of concern and possible scenarios for County operations.

- **Next Steps:** Recommend actions to safeguard against service interruptions and formulate a communication strategy to keep stakeholders informed. LSN and the team are monitoring this situation closely and will keep County officials updated in real time.

4. **Clean Ports Program Overview:**

- **Actions Taken:** A comprehensive memo was provided to the County, detailing the Clean Ports Program initiated by the EPA under the Inflation Reduction Act. Details Provided: The program will allocate nearly \$3 billion to facilitate the transition of the country's ports towards fully zero-emission operations. This substantial investment aims to:
 - i. Establish a robust foundation for ports to act as pioneers in the shift towards a greener freight sector.
 - ii. Significantly cut down on pollution from mobile sources in and around port vicinities, with an emphasis on aiding disadvantaged communities.
 - iii. Promote active community involvement and meticulous emissions reduction planning as standard practices within the port industry.
- **Outcomes:** Outlined strategic opportunities for Miami-Dade County to leverage this funding in support of modernizing port operations and enhancing environmental standards.
- **Next Steps:** Assist Miami-Dade County in understanding the application process for funding, advising on compliance with program goals, and advocating for the inclusion of community input in emissions reduction strategies.

5. **Meeting and Discussion with Commissioner Eileen Higgins:**

- **Actions Taken:** Engaged with Commissioner Higgins to discuss transportation and housing initiatives during her visit to DC for the National Association of Counties (NACO) Winter Meeting.
- **Outcomes:** Shared updates and explored federal support for local projects.
- **Next Steps:** Facilitate further discussions to align County projects with federal funding opportunities.

6. **EPA's Challenge Grant Program Briefing:**

- **Actions Taken:** Distributed information on the EPA's Challenge Grant Program which supports sustainable environmental practices.
- **Outcomes:** Identified opportunities for Miami-Dade County to develop projects in line with the grant's objectives.
- **Next Steps:** Encourage and support local bodies to apply for the grant, focusing on community impact and sustainability.

7. **Engagement with the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman:**

- **Actions Taken:** LSN Partners had the honor of hosting House Transportation & Infrastructure Chairman Sam Graves. We invited Miami-Dade County Commissioners to join this meeting, which focused on various transportation modes and infrastructure concerns pertinent to the County.

- **Discussion Points:**
 - i. Aviation policies and their impact on local airports.
 - ii. Highway improvements and transit developments within the County.
 - iii. Rail, pipelines, and maritime transportation enhancements.
 - iv. Wastewater infrastructure planning.
 - v. Emergency preparedness and response program coordination.
 - vi. Federal real estate management within the County.
 - vii. U.S. Coast Guard operations affecting regional waterways.
- **Outcomes:** The meeting yielded a productive exchange on critical infrastructure initiatives, providing a platform for discussing projects that fall under the purview of Congressman Graves' committee.
- **Next Steps:** Utilize the insights and connections forged during this engagement to refine Miami-Dade County's infrastructure proposals and pursue federal support, aligning with both local needs and national transportation and infrastructure strategies.

LSN Partners Federal Team is committed to ensuring that Miami-Dade County's interests are effectively represented at the federal level. Our efforts this month reflect our dedication to fostering strong relationships and strategic advocacy for the County's benefit.