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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 March 2024 Monthly Report for Governmental Representation
and Consulting Services as per Contract EVN0000597-C

This memo provides an overview of the activities of Miami-Dade County's federal team consisting of LSN Partners and 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. General Government Updates:

- **Actions Taken:** LSN Partners maintains contact with Phillip Drujak to ensure that we are on top of issues of importance to the County as they arise. Mike McKay has provided multiple updates on issues related to housing, the FAA, the Department of Health and Human Services (including CMS), as well as congressional leadership updates.
- **Outcomes:** The team works together daily to ensure that Miami-Dade County leaders are always up to date on actions in DC that could impact that County or State of Florida.

2. FAA Reauthorization Bill Monitoring:

- **Actions Taken:** The federal team continues to keep the 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 will always receive timely insights to prepare for possible changes in operations and funding. Congressional leaders on the aviation-related committees believe that they have momentum to get the latest FAA reauthorization completed soon. In the past month, numerous updates were shared including intelligence from the Office of Management and Budget. Mike also provided an invitation to the FAA's global leadership conference March 19th & 20th
- **Next Steps:** We are working with Phillip to setup a call with MIA officials in the near future.

3. **FY2024 Federal Appropriations Wrap-Up:**

- **Actions Taken:** The federal team provided a comprehensive overview of relevant FY2024 spending bills approved by Congress and enacted by the president during the month of March.
- **Outcomes:** Highlighted key programs for County operations and future grant opportunities.

4. **FY2025 President's Budget Request Analysis:**

- **Actions Taken:** A comprehensive memo was provided to the County, detailing the President's Budget Request (PBR) for next year. The PBR includes proposed funding levels for all federal programs of interest to the County including transportation and housing.
- **Next Steps:** Congress will begin hearings to support the PBR and begin to develop spending bills by early summer. The Federal Team will be monitoring this process closely and keeping the County updated on any actions that could impact operations. We have also begun working with Phillip on appropriations priorities.

5. **FY2025 Federal Appropriations Requests**

- **Actions Taken:** The federal team is actively working with the Phillip and the County on Community Project Funding and other federal programs of importance. We have reviewed and assisted in the development of requests including those impacting transportation and housing.
- **Next Steps:** The Federal Team will now work with the County to meet with the Congressional Delegation and Appropriations Committee to support the requests. This activity will likely continue until May.

6. **Ongoing Transit and Housing 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 last month. We have continued this discussion and are planning for a visit to DC from Commissioner Higgins during the upcoming APTA conference.
- **Next Steps:** The Federal Team will be scheduling meetings for Commissioner Higgins on Capitol Hill to support transportation and housing-related appropriations requests.

7. **Ongoing discussion with Jeve Campbell about upcoming visit to DC by Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins**

- **Actions Taken:** The Federal Team spoke with Jeve Campbell and are working with him on an upcoming visit to DC from Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.
- **Next Steps:** The Federal Team will be scheduling federal meetings to accompany this visit.

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

- **Actions Taken:** LSN Partners maintains a close relationship with transportation leaders on Capitol Hill and regularly meets with them to highlight County priority programs and receive intelligence helpful to County officials.

9. Meeting with Water and Sewer on WRDA

- **Actions Taken:** On March 27th, LSN Partners met with the leadership of the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WSD) to discuss the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The WRDA bill authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out projects related to the improvement of environmental, waterway, and flood protection infrastructure throughout the United States. It addresses critical needs for water and environmental restoration, flood control, navigation, and ecosystem management.
- **Next Steps:** Congress is about halfway through their current WRDA process. The Federal Team is working with WSD on implementation on currently authorized programs and seeking future opportunities to fund water projects in the County. We are also working on an introduction for WSD to the White House's Infrastructure Implementation Team to discuss new sources of funding.

10. Preparation for April

- **Actions Taken:** The Federal Team is working on multiple visits from County Officials to Washington, DC, during the month of April. We will be keeping Phillip updated on our actions. Additionally, we anticipate continuing to work with the County on appropriations requests through the month of April.

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.