

City of Fort Lauderdale

2007 State Appropriations
And Legislative Requests



October 2006

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
2007 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUESTS AND LEGISLATIVE
PROPOSALS**

APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

**New River Dredging Survey and Engineering Survey
Phase 1** **\$56,250**

Request is for matching funds in the amount of \$56,250 to conduct an engineering survey for dredging of the New River from the Intracoastal Waterway to the western terminus of the City limits on the South Fork of the New River. The funds will be utilized as matching source to cover approximately 25% of the estimated cost of \$225,000 for the study. The remaining \$168,750 will be provided through a grant from the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND). The study includes an environmental assessment, hydrographic surveys, geotechnical investigations, real estate administration, and various cost estimates. A preliminary estimate of the dredging Phase II construction element of the project is approximately \$5,300,000. Previous dredging projects have not been sufficiently deep enough to meet the growing demand of large vessel access to marine repair facilities and public storage sites east and west of I-95.

**South Side School – Renovation
(South Side Cultural Community Center)** **\$3,800,000**

This request is for funding for a four-phase project to renovate the South Side School building as a Cultural Community Center. The South Side School is the oldest school structure still standing in Fort Lauderdale. It has received Local and State historical designations and is pending National designation. The restoration of this derelict historical school building into a lively and useful public cultural facility will answer the community requests and benefit the entire City and county at large.

Melrose Park Community Center **\$2,000,000**

This is a funding request for \$2 million to construct a new community recreation center with parking and security and site lighting. Recreation programs have been a proven deterrent to crime. A recreation center in the Melrose Park community would enable the Parks and Recreation Department to provide recreational and after school programming for the surrounding community. We would also be able to provide both adult and cultural arts programming. A new community center would bring recreational programs to a newly annexed area of Fort Lauderdale at a park that currently has no organized recreational programming.

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

**Osswald Park/ Recreation
Amenity Improvements**

\$2,000,000

This request is for funding for the improvement and renovation of the existing amenities at Osswald Park, a newly annexed park in the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This 30-acre park has a community center building, baseball/softball fields, football/soccer fields, picnic shelters, tennis courts, a fitness room, a cricket pitch, basketball courts, a game room, a walking path, a playground and a 3-hole-par-3 executive golf course with putting green. Also on the property is a Broward County Library building that will be vacated for City use when the new library is built on the southwest corner of the main park entrance. The facilities and amenities at the park are in need of repair or replacement in order to provide the citizens in the community with safe quality recreation services.

**Jimmy Evert Tennis Center
Renovation/Addition**

\$2,000,000

This request is for funds to provide needed improvements to the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center (JETC). The JETC is Fort Lauderdale's premier tennis center. The center has been in operation for almost fifty years and the courts and clubhouse have not had any major structural improvements in 10 years. Great improvements in tennis court technology and maintenance are now available which hold both environmental and economic benefits for the community. If the center is to remain one of the leading municipal facilities, it must be brought up to date so that it serves the community on the environmental and economic front and is also competitive on a local, national and international level for tournaments that provide for and enrich the economy of our City.

Mills Pond Park Softball Clubhouse

\$1,800,000

This request is for funds to construct a state of the art two-story 6,000 sq. ft. Softball Clubhouse to accommodate the present and future needs of the community. Annually, Mills Pond Park is home to over 800 softball teams, hosts over 50 softball tournaments drawing teams from throughout the nation, and accommodates over 150,000 visitors. A softball clubhouse is a community, county and state need. In November 1996, voters approved a \$35 million bond to improve existing parks and purchase land for the development of new parks. It has now been ten years since the bond improvements, and the softball complex is in need of a clubhouse to accommodate the demand of its citizens for better up to date facilities

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

SHIP (Sadowski Act Funds)

\$2,400,000

The City will continue its support of housing activities such as substantial rehabilitation/housing replacement and down payment assistance. Housing prices in the local market have caused greater stress on capacity to fund at current funding levels. More funds are needed to allow increases in these assistance levels. If funding level is not increased, we will be unable to provide the assistance to fill the "gap" in making homes affordable for first time homebuyers. A minimum of \$2.4 million of funds is requested for housing activities. The State has capped the funding level of this doc stamp revenue at \$242 million. This restricts amount of funding to local governments.

**Radio Upgrade Public Safety
And SMART Zone Project**

\$22,000,000

The current police/fire voice radio system is old and nearing the end of its operable functionality. This request would purchase a new radio system for the City of Fort Lauderdale Public Safety. Current radio coverage due to annexation, construction and radio degradation is spotty and weak in some areas of the city. Equipment and technology are both aging and do not meet the full needs of the SMART Zone plan for improvement. SMART zoning will increase radio connectivity throughout the county by allowing calls to utilize all radio channels on the system to provide more efficient radio communications. It will further service to enable a regional response to a disaster or act of terrorism. Lack of adequate radio communications among agencies responding to crisis events has been cited as one of the top reasons for lack of effective and efficient action. Regional responses to disasters and terrorism will all suffer due to the limitations of our current system.

Public Safety Mesh Network

\$10,000,000

Funding is being requested for a Wi-Fi broadband solution dedicated to Police, Fire and Public Works. Our current legacy infrastructure is old and near its life expectancy resulting in limited connectivity to other systems and slow response. It would provide patrol officers, firefighters and Public Works personnel high-speed access to various essential computer systems (ie; CJNet, FLPD Records Management System, streaming video and Sheriff's office booking/arrest photo records, etc.). The ability to implement fully, both remote camera surveillance and facial recognition solutions, for example, will be possible. This will further serve to provide emergency services in the face of disaster or terrorism. Vital information from sources such as the office of Homeland Security is available but we are unable to provide that without an adequate solution such as broadband.

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

New Police Facility

\$100,000,000

The Police department building serves as the emergency operations center for the City during times of disaster and in dealing with issues of domestic terrorism. It offers no space or facilities other than a single dual-purpose classroom for this function. Other critical training areas do not exist and require much of our training to be conducted at other facilities. Storage of WMD equipment or any emergency supplies is problematic and displaces or reduces the amount of other essential supplies on hand. The building houses our Police/Fire Dispatch Center, which is a critical operating component on both a daily basis as well as during crisis. No redundancy exists and backup is provided by the Sheriff's office, located approximately 1 mile west of this building. Key support units cannot be located on-site reducing efficiency and effectiveness.

State Mutual Aide Response Team (SMART)

\$60,000

This request is to purchase a truck and trailer to store and transport enough equipment to support a mutual aid response team of twelve (12) employees. For the past two years, the hurricane season has become increasingly active and numerous storms with mass destruction have necessitated more requests for mutual aid from our and other law enforcement agencies. We are not considered self-supporting as we do not have the capability to store and transport tents, cots, generators, MREs, etc., for an extended deployment in an area of need. This would allow us to become self-supporting and be able to respond to mutual aid requests in other areas of the State.

Electronic Traffic Citation Process

\$104,027

This project would implement electronic versions of traffic citations. On January 10, 2005, we were advised that the Broward County courts would now accept electronic versions of traffic citations. The judge's administrative order stated "this circuit recognizes the value of enhanced technology that creates Uniform Traffic Citations resulting in safer traffic stops for law enforcement, more efficient transmittal to the court system with fewer errors and which minimizes delay to the public at large". We currently hand-write citations which are dependent upon legibility for accuracy and successful prosecution. We will streamline the records entry process at the local level by electronically submitting the data to the courts as well as our local records department.

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

**Conceptual Feasibility Study of a Sub-regional
Lower East Coast Water Supply Solution**

\$250,000

The City is requesting \$250,000 to offset the cost of a study on an alternative water supply with an estimated cost of \$500,000. It is anticipated that the South Florida Water Management District's planning document known as the Lower East Coast (LEC) Water Supply Plan will conclude that there will be insufficient water from the Biscayne Aquifer, the area's historical water supply source, to meet future water demand. Although the District's LEC Plan will identify the need for Alternative Water Supply (AWS) Projects, it is the responsibility of local area public water supply utilities to determine the most economical and advantageous AWS solutions. Additionally, it is expected that District concerns over Lake Okeechobee dike integrity will result in a lowering of water levels in the Lake, thereby increasing the frequency of water supply restrictions for even existing populations.

A1A Light Pole Replacement (East)

\$800,000

This project proposes to replace the 72 aging concrete cobra poles on the east side of A1A from Las Olas to Sunrise with more aesthetically pleasing, environmentally sensitive and hurricane resistant light poles. Hurricane Katrina and Wilma both took a toll on these already vulnerable light poles. The new light poles will be more attractive, safer, environmentally friendly and more hurricane resistant.

A1A Light Pole Replacement (West)

\$800,000

This project proposes to replace the 72 aging concrete cobra poles on the west side of A1A from Las Olas to Sunrise with more aesthetically pleasing, environmentally sensitive and hurricane resistant light poles. Hurricane Katrina and Wilma both took a toll on these already vulnerable light poles. The new light poles will be more attractive, safer, environmentally friendly and more hurricane resistant.

A1A Median Project

\$2 Million

This project is to repair and landscape the medians along A1A between 17th Street and Sunrise Boulevard. Years of erosion and most recently Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma have significantly damaged the medians and all but wiped out the landscaping within the medians. Fort Lauderdale Beach represents the heart of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County economy. A1A is the main artery serving the Barrier Island and Fort Lauderdale Beach. The medians make an impression on residents and visitors and we need to make the best impression possible to be able to compete with other beach

destinations like Palm Beach and Miami.

Bridges Repair Project

\$2,055,000

There are 34 bridges around the City that are the only way in and out from the residential areas to main streets. These bridges were constructed in the 1920s - 1940s and therefore they are currently functionally obsolete and/or structurally deficient to carry today's heavy traffic loads. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 4 inspects these bridges every year and provides the City with a report of deficiencies and remedies. The heavy construction vehicles are overstressing the structures creating cracks that allow the corrosive environment to penetrate the concrete and corrode the reinforcing steel leading to concrete deterioration. Currently all the bridges have a medium to high degree of deterioration. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 4 inspects these bridges every year and provides the City with a report of deficiencies and remedies. This proposal is to implement the solutions and prevent further deterioration of the structures that could lead to failure. The repairs will extend the life of the bridges for at least fifteen years.

Canal Dredging

\$2 Million

Fort Lauderdale has 70 miles of canals and waterways within the City. Periodic removal of sediment and runoff is needed to maintain safe navigation water depths. Many of the City's canals have silted up from storm water inflows. The City removes sediment (dredging) from only a small portion of these canals because of funding constraints and the baseline program has been unable to keep up with this process. The project will restore the capacity of the City's drainage outfall areas, enhancing drainage and reducing flooding.

Edgewood Drainage Project

\$500,000

This project is to construct stormwater infrastructure in the Edgewood neighborhood in the southwest quadrant of Fort Lauderdale. This will eliminate the malfunction of plumbing in the households and the discharge of fecal matter from septic tanks due to drainfield malfunctions. It will also minimize mosquito breeding grounds caused by area wide flooding and allow the City to install controls for surface water quality in the New River. The proposed project will include conveyance swales, exfiltration trenches, retention ponds, and the necessary purchase of land for this infrastructure.

Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex

\$250,000

The Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex is 40 years old and in need of total reconstruction and redevelopment, which would bring the facility in compliance with current national governing body and ADA standards. The City desires to complete a comprehensive feasibility study for the use/reuse of the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center and surrounding parcels. The study will include a review of current market demand to determine the size and mixture and types of businesses needed/necessary, and an economic, operational,

review of several “best use” redevelopment alternatives. The intent of the project is to re-establish the facility as the best outdoor aquatic venue in the United States and quite possibly the world, bringing much attention to the U. S., State of Florida, and the City of Fort Lauderdale. Estimated costs for the feasibility study are \$250,000.00

Gospel Museum Site Selection Acquisition Study **\$250,000**

The City has endorsed the concept of a \$45 million gospel world headquarters and museum to be built with the support of a number of public and private organizations and would like to explore the acquisition of property in the historic Sistrunk Boulevard corridor. This request would fund the appropriate research and appraisal study for site selection in the vicinity of the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center on Sistrunk Boulevard.

In-Car Video Cameras **\$1.5 Million**

The Police Department would like to purchase in-car video cameras to enhance officer safety and to improve successful prosecution of criminals filmed in the act of committing a crime. Currently the Police Department does not own any of these cameras and believes that they would significantly contribute to both officer safety and increase the successful prosecution of criminals. The equipment is estimated to cost \$5000 per vehicle and there are 300 marked units in the fleet.

Las Olas Streetscape Phase 1B **\$3 Million**

The City hopes to beautify and make streetscape improvements along A1A and at the gateways to Fort Lauderdale Beach. Streetscape Phase I will alter the intersection of Las Olas Boulevard and A1A as well as the eastern most end of Las Olas to allow for a wider sidewalk and trees on the south side of Las Olas as well as landscape improvements. The current area, in the heart of Broward County’s tourism industry, is not pedestrian friendly and years of wear and tear have taken a toll on the landscape.

Las Olas Transportation Improvements **\$800,000**

This project addresses concerns of residents and businesses located east of U.S. 1 in the area known as the Las Olas Community (bordered on the north by Broward Boulevard, on the south by Las Olas Boulevard, on the west by Federal Highway, and on the east by the Intracoastal Waterway) regarding the amount of roadway congestion and cut-through traffic in the area. The request is to implement the recommendations in the 2000 Las Olas Community Transportation Plan that would include streetscape/landscape enhancements, traffic calming, and improvements to traffic flow including ROW acquisition. These improvements would result in a steady, consistent flow of vehicular traffic through the area as well as increased, sustainable economic development and an increase in non-motorized travel. The total cost of the proposed improvements is \$1.6 million. We are requesting \$800,000 in federal appropriations with the intention that the balance would be funded by assessment.

Mobile Police Vehicle Technology **\$562,508**

This request is for \$562,508 to purchase 60 sets of mobile police vehicle technology units to be installed in police vehicles. This project would allow for the implementation and utilization of available technology for Computer Aided Dispatch Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and Automated Field Reporting (AFR). This request includes Vehicle data radio, GPS, docking station, laptops, software and installation services. The MDT provides real time query capability to FCIC/NCIC and local databases. The AFR provides electronic transfer for Incident and Accident reports. Automation of these systems improves the ability to apprehend suspects, reduces manual processing and provides greater data availability. This will improve data migration between the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, the County Sheriff and the Clerk of Courts.

New Police Headquarters

\$70 Million

The current police headquarters is over 50 years old. We are spending a considerable amount in upkeep of the facility in order to keep it operational as well as in rent for off-site locations to accommodate the drastic shortage of space at the central location. A new building will address consolidation of off-site space that is currently leased and will eliminate the need for that expense. It will also improve the efficiency and effectiveness of communication between units and operations in general. A new facility that is hurricane hardened would also provide a safe haven for first responders and emergency personnel during critical incidents.

Northeast Drainage Area Improvements

\$2 Million

This project proposes to design and construct a stormwater management system in the northeast areas of the City that have had repetitive flooding incidents. They are located in areas with little or no adequate drainage to address the amount of stormwater that they receive. In addition, the project would perform an analysis on the newly incorporated area (Twin Lakes North) to determine if there is a need for stormwater improvements. The project would reduce flooding in the areas and minimize mosquito breeding grounds caused by this flooding. It will allow the City to manage stormwater in these areas in a way that will reduce repetitive and future flood insurance claims. It will also increase public safety by managing stormwater in these areas. While the project is local in scope, it serves greater interests by promoting stormwater management that will help improve regional water quality.

OSHG Generation System

\$9 Million

This project is regional in scope. The City of Fort Lauderdale's Fiveash water treatment plant currently uses elemental chlorine gas as part of the disinfection process. The existing chlorine system is composed of a 90-ton rail car and 10 tons of chlorine stored as 1-ton containers. Safety concerns about the 90 ton rail car have been magnified since September 11th and the City of Fort Lauderdale has conducted extensive analyses to determine the most cost effective and reliable solution to provide the disinfection required for the Fiveash water plant. It has been found that an On-Site Sodium Hypochlorite Generation (OSHG) System will provide a safer method of disinfection required in the treatment process.

Summer Youth Program**\$250,000**

The City of Fort Lauderdale is interested in establishing a Summer Youth Employment Program to provide positive experiential workplace learning opportunities for area teens during the summer months. The program would offer students basic employment skills training and assist them in job placement in a field of interest. The students' salaries would be paid by the program. The City believes that this commitment to its resident youth would provide valuable mentoring experiences to students as well as broadening their horizons by exposing them to a wide variety of career fields in constructive, positive settings during the summer months.

S.W. 11th Avenue Bridge Repair Project**\$800,000**

This project is for electrical, mechanical and general structural repairs to the historic S.W. 11th Avenue Bridge. After 78 years of service, the bridge is showing the natural wear and tear on some of its components. The electrical and mechanical systems are the most affected making the bridge subject to breakdown often affecting the resident's daily activities. The repairs will extend the life of the bridge for at least twenty years, preserve the historical significance of the structure, and continue to provide automobile and pedestrian access to the Sail Boat Bend neighborhood.

Wingate Redevelopment**\$4 Million**

This project proposes to convert the former federal superfund Wingate Landfill and Incinerator site into a golf facility with the intent of bringing significant economic development and recreational opportunities to this former environmentally challenged site. Such re-development would also produce an esthetically pleasing greenspace area in the urban core of the City that would contribute to the quality of life for area residents. It is envisioned that this project would be key in turning an area that has been the subject of environmental scrutiny and rehabilitation into a positive landmark and economic generator. The City anticipates that this facility would promote job creation as well as bring other types of economic opportunity to the area.

The City of Fort Lauderdale is aiming to provide its citizens and visitors with a quality golf experience at the Wingate site with a Clubhouse, 9-hole playing facility, and Pro-shop. It is the City's expectation that the facility would be maintained at a superior level for a municipal golf operation. The facility would also serve as a much needed centerpiece amenity to the community as well as a possible location for hosting a variety of local events and private affairs. The cost projection includes preliminary design, land acquisition, environmental review, design, construction, construction management, administration and contingencies.

Purchase of a portable modular classroom for mandatory public safety officer and WMD training**\$40,000**

Over the last several years, an effort has been made to update the Police Department's training curriculum to provide for changes in mandatory retraining subjects and accreditation objectives. A major problem we are encountering is locating the space to

hold these training sessions. The Police Department only has two classrooms and scheduling conflicts occur on a regular basis. A portable modular classroom would provide that additional space and allow us to move the space to the most appropriate learning environment.

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE 2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance (EMPA) Competitive Grant Programs

The City of Fort Lauderdale urges that legislative appropriations for the EMPA Competitive Grant Programs be increased substantially. The City of Fort Lauderdale's Emergency Management program currently consists of an Emergency Manager in the City Manager's Office, an administrative person, and an Emergency Management Coordinator in the Fire-Rescue Department. While these positions are funded by the City's budget, additional funds for planning, training, exercises, coordination, and other emergency management programs are extremely limited. The City is very dependent on grant funds for much of its emergency preparedness activities. In 2006, Fort Lauderdale applied for a grant from the Emergency Management Competitive Grant Program, invested substantial time in this effort, and attempted to fund important needs within the City. Initial award announcements revealed that the state legislative appropriation was only sufficient to fund nine out of 141 applications in this program and nine out of 35 applications in the Municipal Competitive Grant Program. This limits local capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. As only counties are eligible for base grants from the EMPA Trust Fund, this makes funds for competitive grants even more important for municipalities.

Lobbying Strategy to Combat Proposed Changes to Chapter 163 of the Florida Statutes

The City of Fort Lauderdale has a CRA that has two areas: Central Beach and Northwest-Progresso-Flagler that have in many respects been very successful in its initiatives. Some of the suggested changes to CRA legislation that have been proposed could have detrimental impacts on our ability to take on long-range planning and projects. Over the past 5 to 7 years numerous lawmakers have tried to curb the influence of CRAs over local government issues by suggesting ways to amend Chapter 163 of the Florida Statutes. Because of the continuous fight and recent decisions/discussions on issues such as eminent domain and economic incentives have enabled opposing viewpoints to suggest radical changes to the functions of CRAs. The City's position should be similar to the position taken by the Florida Redevelopment Association (FRA) and the Florida League of Cities (FLC). The position of these organizations is developed as the legislation presented is analyzed and vetted by its membership.

Continued Funding: State SHIP (Sadowski Act funds) & Federal CDBG

The City is requesting an increase in funding levels of CDBG (federal) funds back to 2000 funding levels and the maintenance of funding levels for SHIP (State) funds. The City has lost more than \$500,000 in CDBG (federal) funds since 2002 and the CDBG program is being threatened to be cut. For State funds, funds will be capped to avoid increases in funding levels. Cuts in CDBG funding have lessened the capacity to offer funding for sorely needed public services programs. The City receives approximately \$7 million of request against a budget of approximately \$350,000. Significant programs are not being funded due to this decrease in funding.

Remote Red Light Violation Enforcement

The City supports this initiative and requests statewide acceptance of this technology and enforcement effort. This technology is used in other areas of the country and is being tested in other jurisdictions via adoption of a local ordinance. Acceptance statewide would serve to ensure that this technology is used and seen as a serious effort to reduce both red light violations and traffic crashes. Currently, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department uses manual observation to catch and cite violators. This is labor intensive and not always efficient. The most frequent complaints received by the Police Department almost always relate to traffic infractions and the demand for more effective enforcement. Adopting this statewide will encourage the local jurisdictions to use this technology to address red light violation complaints more effectively and efficiently. It will also reduce the number of traffic crashes at intersections due to running red lights.

School Resource Officers

The City of Fort Lauderdale and Fort Lauderdale Police Department supports the funding of SRO's through the lottery. Current funding reimbursement through the local school board is nominal versus the actual cost of the officer and equipment, and the local municipal budget or other funding sources support the majority of costs. The Local Law Enforcement Trust fund is not an on-going viable funding source due to account balances. The general fund budget does not fund the SRO's. Currently, elementary schools in the City do not have full-time assigned SRO's. Only middle and high schools are staffed with SRO's. Recent events confirm the necessity of placing SRO's full time in the schools at all levels.



Florida Police Chiefs Association

Legislative Issues

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2007 FPCA Legislative Initiatives

FPCA INITIATIVE:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND TRAINING TRUST: FPCA supports the proper training of all Florida law enforcement officers and as such the CJST Trust Fund provides fiscal support for such training that has not increased since 1986. Therefore, the FPCA advocates for a \$2 increase in fees from fines, from \$3 to \$5.

FPCA SUPPORTS:

PRIMARY SEATBELT ENFORCEMENT: FPCA supports legislation authorizing primary enforcement of seatbelt violations.

OFFENDER MONITORING: FPCA supports legislation that requires that high risk offenders who are not confined be subject to continuous electronic monitoring of their whereabouts, using a system that reports an offender's presence near a crime scene, their entrance into a prohibited area, or their departure from a specified geographical limitation.

ADEQUATE FUNDING OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM: FPCA supports adequate funding of the juvenile justice system and urges the Legislature to sufficiently fund all aspects of the system, including diversion, juvenile assessment centers, treatment, pretrial detention and post trial commitment programs.

DUI REFUSAL: FPCA believes that DUI drivers pose one of greatest risks to the safety of Florida's citizens and supports legislation that would make the refusal of providing a breath test post-arrest for the offense of DUI a misdemeanor offense under Florida law.

FPCA OPPOSES:

CUSTODIAN INTERROGATIONS: FPCA supports the ethical and lawful investigation of all crimes inclusive of the proper receipt of all statements from victims, witnesses, and suspects. The FPCA opposes any legislation that limits the introduction into a court of law of any evidence that would provide a jury the ability to evaluate all issues, inclusive of confessions and admissions.

DART FIRING STUN GUNS: FPCA opposes any limitations on the proper deployment of non-lethal weapons such as dart firing stun guns from use to deescalate violence on school grounds or other arbitrary considerations.

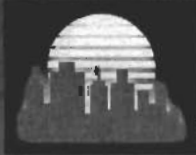
PAROLE BOARD: FPCA believes the Florida Parole Board has the responsibility for evaluating the release of certain violent offenders and therefore opposes the elimination of the Parole Board from its current configuration.

REEMPLOYMENT: FPCA opposes any legislation that reduces the ability of law enforcement managers to employ any person that will best serve the jurisdiction and agency.

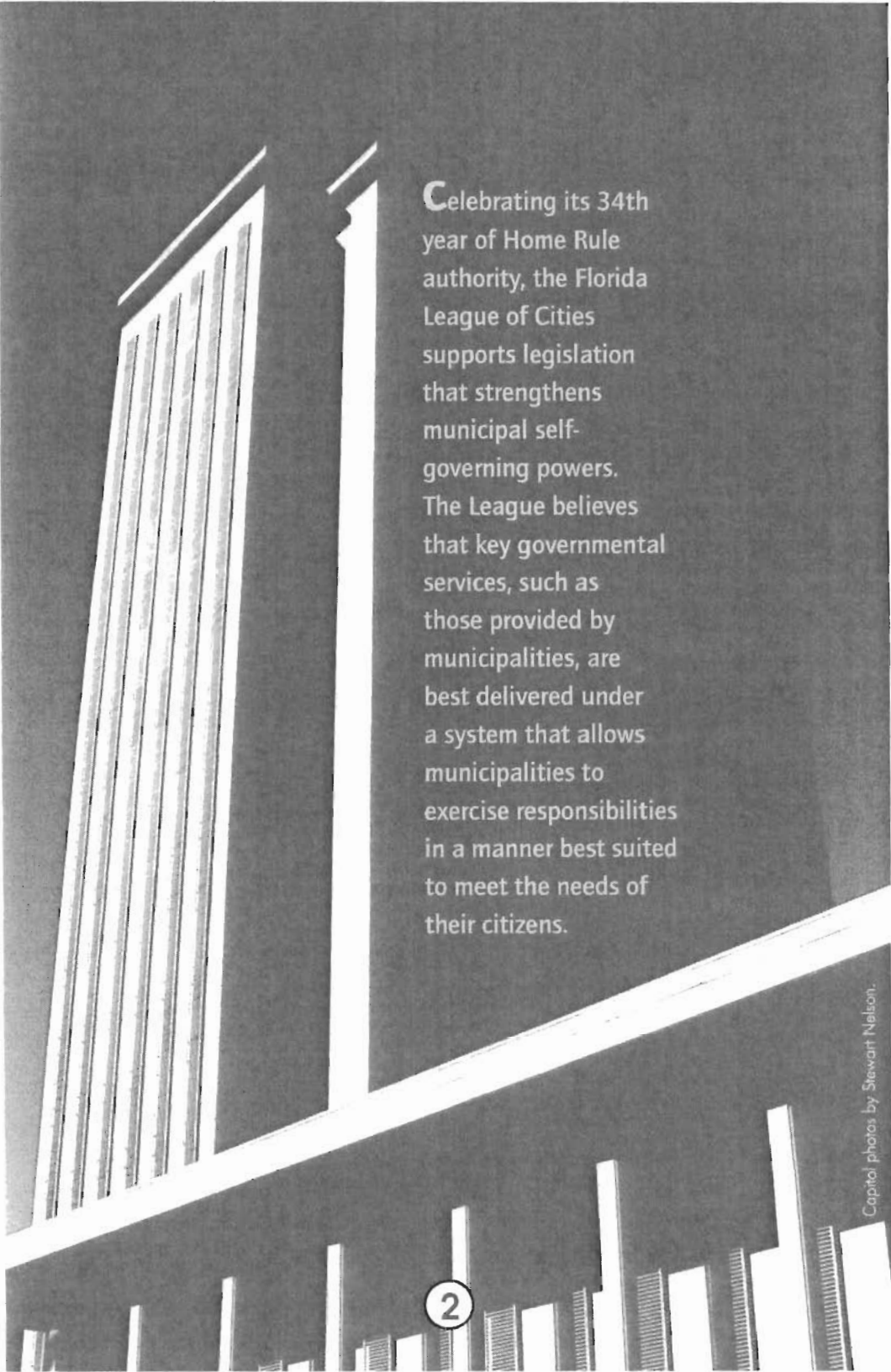
ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS: FPCA opposes any legislation that limits the ability of law enforcement managers to conduct internal or administrative investigations and uphold the highest standards of ethics in government.

The image features a stylized graphic of the year 2007. The digits are large and white with a black outline. The '1' is the tallest, followed by the '0's, and the '7' is the shortest. The background is a dark grey gradient with a white architectural structure that looks like a bridge or a modern building facade. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a city skyline with various skyscrapers of different heights. In the bottom left corner, there is a small square logo with a white archway and a city skyline inside. The text 'Legislative Action Agenda' is centered over the '0's in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**Legislative
Action
Agenda**



Florida League of Cities, Inc.



Celebrating its 34th year of Home Rule authority, the Florida League of Cities supports legislation that strengthens municipal self-governing powers. The League believes that key governmental services, such as those provided by municipalities, are best delivered under a system that allows municipalities to exercise responsibilities in a manner best suited to meet the needs of their citizens.

Capitol photos by Stewart Nelson.

Florida League of Cities' Priorities

Charter County Relations

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that restores and maintains municipal Home Rule authority for municipalities located within charter counties.

Municipalities are voluntary forms of government formed specifically to serve the unique needs and characteristics of a community, following a vote of the people. Municipalities possess full Home Rule authority under the Florida Constitution to exercise governmental, regulatory and proprietary powers to serve the needs of their residents. Preemption of municipal Home Rule authority by other forms of local government undermines the will of voters who elected to incorporate. Such actions are essentially taking away municipal powers and transferring them to a larger, regional government.

Charter counties throughout Florida are attempting to take over municipal land-use and annexation powers, municipal permitting responsibilities and urban redevelopment initiatives. These charter county efforts are undermining the decisions of voters in cities, towns and villages throughout Florida to govern themselves. It is imperative that the Florida Legislature protect the fundamental right of citizens to have voluntary local self-government by preventing county government intrusion into municipal Home Rule.

Affordable Housing

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that preserves the dedicated documentary stamp fees as a funding source for the State and Local Government Housing Trust Fund (Sadowski Trust Fund) and eliminates the cap placed on fund distribution, and will oppose any funds being diverted to the General Appropriations Fund.

Property Tax Reform

The Florida League of Cities supports a tax structure that is fair and equitable, is competitively neutral and allows municipalities the flexibility to provide adequate services in their communities. In addition, the League supports simplifying and stabilizing Florida's state and local revenue structure in a manner that provides tax fairness for both businesses and citizens of our state. As such, the Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

- Establishes a more simplified and informative truth-in-millage (TRIM) process for property owners specifically as it relates to a taxing authority's proposed budget and the implications for the property owner's tax bill, including the elimination of information such as the "rollback" rate;
 - Enhances a local budgeting process to encourage public participation;
 - Establishes an equitable assessment system with standards and criteria that apply equally to all types of property and is based on the market value of the property's current use;
 - Establishes a statutory ceiling determined by the average assessment change in the previous five years to protect all property owners from unanticipated spikes in property tax bills. However, the League generally opposes artificial caps on property assessments, municipal expenditures or revenues;
 - Authorizes municipalities and counties to provide exemptions or changes to property tax assessment criteria (such as Save Our Homes, Save Our Seniors, portability of exemptions or special assessments for affordable housing) under specific circumstances within their jurisdiction;
 - Provides state financial assistance, in a revenue-neutral manner, to impacted local governments to allow for property tax adjustments without reductions in municipal levels of service, if exemptions or changes to property tax assessment criteria are implemented statewide;
 - Establishes specific assessment criteria and standards for the taxation of very-low-, low- and moderate-income housing;
 - Establishes property tax equity by authorizing property appraisers to assess new construction, subject to appropriate exemptions, on a partial-year basis;
 - Provides a constitutional amendment to clarify the intent of Section 1, Article VIII of the Florida Constitution that prevents the dual taxation of municipal property for the primary benefit of the property or residents in the unincorporated areas; and
 - Authorizes municipalities to levy any tax authorized by the state for any public purpose.

The ad valorem tax or "property tax" is the primary source of general tax revenue for Florida's counties, municipalities and public education. For example, beginning in 2001, local property tax collections have exceeded state sales tax collections. In fact, during the current 2006-07 fiscal year, property tax collections are anticipated to exceed all of the state's general revenue sources.

During the past five years, market conditions have contributed to five consecutive years of double digit growth (11 percent, 12.2 percent, 18.2 percent, 19 percent and 25 percent) in property values. The combined impact from all levying jurisdictions is property tax revenues have doubled. Similarly, properties not benefiting from homestead exemptions or assessment caps have experienced significant increases in their taxable value. Despite efforts to control property tax increases for individual homeowners, increases in property tax revenue have been spurred from new development, low interest rates, increased construction costs and increased demand in housing from speculative investors.

On the expenditure side, during the same five-year period, Florida's local governments have responded to the cleanup and rebuilding from multiple natural disasters, enhanced public safety requirements from the aftermath of 9/11, amended financial plans to accommodate mandated growth management policies shortening the gap between new development and the provision of infrastructure and local services, and increased budgets due to a variety of cost factors impacting **nonrecurring capital projects and recurring operational expenses**. Likewise, at the **state level, property tax revenue has** grown in its overall percentage of education funding.

Other Key Issues

Growth Management

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

- Ensures growth management decisions are driven foremost by land-use planning rather than concurrency;
- Supports multi-modal transportation initiatives **and alternative means of mobility based on urban form and design;**
- Provides municipalities with state and **local option revenue sources to meet financial feasibility requirements and infrastructure demands;**
- Clarifies the statutory authority of **the state land planning** agency and prohibits the agency's use of non-rule policy in implementing growth management laws; and
- Revises proportionate fair share mitigation requirements to address the unintended impact on sprawl, urban infill and redevelopment, and affordable housing.

Water & Sewer

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that authorizes additional funding for alternative water supply development by local governments, and will oppose legislation that prohibits a local government from requiring mandatory connections to central sewer when it becomes available.

Municipal Benefits and Retirement

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

- Authorizes municipalities to establish investment standards for any pension plan consistent with Chapter 112, Florida Statutes;
- Eliminates statutory provisions that require municipalities to provide or make available health and other related benefits to retired employees; and
- Eliminates existing statutory restrictions on the use of Chapters 175 and 185 revenues (insurance premium tax) and allows the increase in revenue caused by the insurance crisis to help offset growing actuarial liabilities and to benefit the municipal taxpayers.

Transportation

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that provides a dedicated and recurring source of revenue, including municipal local option fuel taxes, rental car surcharges, or other taxes or fees, for municipalities to fund transportation projects such as the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP), urban arterial and other projects. Furthermore, the existing distribution formula for local option transportation taxes imposed by a county should be revised to allow for a more equitable distribution to municipalities and provide for indexing of local option fuel tax.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that requires the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to obtain legislative approval to remove or delay projects contained in the FDOT 5-Year Work Plan, unless approved by the appropriate metropolitan planning organization (MPO), transportation planning organization (TPO) and the affected local governments and such removal or delay will not adversely impact the comprehensive plans of the local governments. Furthermore, no new projects shall be added to the FDOT 5-Year Work Plan until all delayed projects are reincorporated in the subsequent 5-Year Work Plan.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that enhances the protection of life and property by authorizing the use of electronic traffic

infraction detectors at traffic intersections, and the authority to assess fines to the owner of any vehicle determined by such devices to have violated traffic laws.

Cable Franchising

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that preserves municipal authority to franchise cable and video services.

Workers' Compensation for the First Responders

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that provides a comprehensive and uniform workers' compensation system for all municipal employees, regardless of employee classification, at a reasonable cost to employers.

Emergency Management

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that mandates the Public Service Commission be accountable to the needs of Florida's residents and ensures that the recovery of losses due to natural disasters be apportioned fairly and equitably among all stakeholders of the utilities.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that appropriates monies for grants to fund hazard mitigation programs in local communities, loss prevention efforts, and the costs of un-reimbursed hazard-related damages.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that modifies current law to require the provision of alternate generated power sources by each corporation or other entity that owns five or more motor fuel retail outlets within a single county. Furthermore, the League supports legislation to remove the preemption of local government authority to require alternate generated power sources.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that develops and funds a statewide information system permitting direct access by municipal and county emergency operations centers (EOCs).

2007 Key Dates

January

- 10 Florida Institute for Community Housing,
Crowne Plaza Orlando Airport Hotel – Orlando
- 8-12 Senate Interim Committee Meetings – Tallahassee
- 8-12 House Interim Committee Meetings – Tallahassee
- 22-26 Senate Interim Committee Meetings – Tallahassee
- 22-26 House Interim Committee Meetings – Tallahassee

February

- 5-9 Senate Interim Committee Meetings – Tallahassee
- 5-9 House Interim Committee Meetings – Tallahassee
- 6-7 FAST Fly-in to Washington, D.C.
- 12-16 Senate Interim Committee Meetings – Tallahassee
- 12-16 House Interim Committee Meetings – Tallahassee
- 16 Florida Institute for Community Housing – Orlando
- 19-23 Senate Interim Committee Meetings – Tallahassee
- 19-23 House Interim Committee Meetings – Tallahassee

March

- 6 Opening Day of the 2007 Regular Legislative Session
- 10-14 NLC Congressional City Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 16 Florida Institute for Community Housing Program
Seminar – Orlando
- 28 FLC Legislative Action Day – Tallahassee/Leon County
Civic Center

May

- 4 Last Day of Regular Session (Sine Die)

June

- 15 Florida Institute for Community Housing,
Renaissance Orlando Hotel – Orlando

July

- 20 Florida Institute for Community Housing,
Renaissance Orlando Hotel – Orlando

August

- 15 Florida Institute for Community Housing, Orlando
- 16-18 FLC Annual Conference, Orlando World Center Marriott

November

- 8-9 Legislative Conference,
Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport Hotel

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Public Records

Special Districts

Urban Infill



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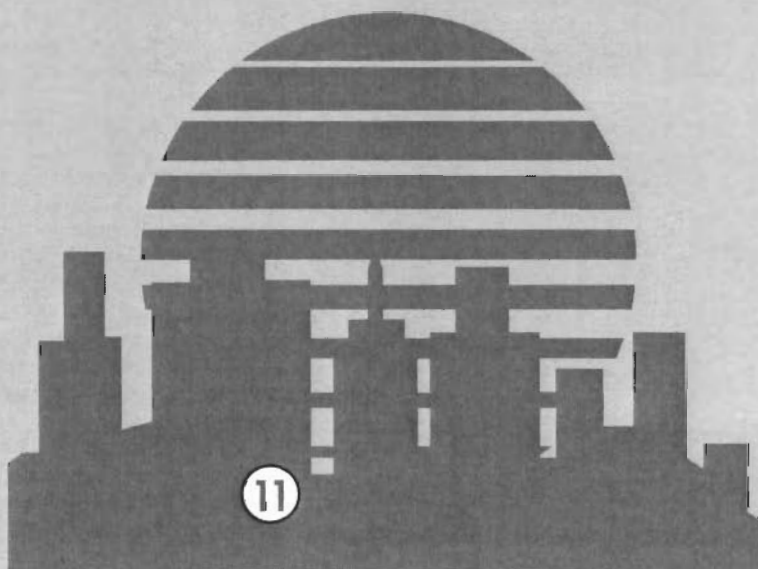
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This brochure reflects the priorities of 413 municipalities, as prepared by the four legislative policy councils and adopted by the full membership at the Florida League of Cities 46th Annual Legislative Conference on November 17, 2006, in Orlando.

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The Florida League of Cities, Inc., formed in 1922, represents the municipalities of Florida. Its mission is to concentrate the influence of all city, town and village officials upon other policymaking bodies for the purpose of shaping legislation and public policy, sharing the advantages of cooperative action, and exchanging ideas and experiences.

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FY 2006/2007 AD VALOREM TAX PROFILE: BY SELECTED MUNICIPALITIES

Municipality	County	2005 Population Estimates ¹	FY 2006/2007 Operating Millage ²	FY 2006/2007 Debt Millage ³	2006 Total Taxable Value ⁴	2006 Per Capita Taxable Value	2006 Total Taxes Levied	2006 Per Capita Total Taxes Levied
Fort Lauderdale	Broward	175,270	4.8066	0.2760	\$28,333,655,642	\$161,657	\$144,008,638	\$821.64
City of Miami	Miami-Dade	384,332	8.3745	0.6210	34,090,043,898	88,699	306,656,990	797.90
Hollywood	Broward	143,025	6.8051	0.2293	12,613,733,659	88,193	88,730,048	620.38
Orlando	Orange	217,337	5.6916	-	21,170,749,883	97,410	120,495,440	554.42
Jacksonville (Duval) ⁵	Duval	816,149	9.6400	-	46,803,070,354	57,346	451,181,598	552.82
Tampa	Hillsborough	325,775	6.4080	-	26,971,312,432	82,791	172,832,170	530.53
Clearwater	Pinellas	111,225	5.2088	-	10,661,184,191	95,852	55,531,976	499.28
St. Petersburg	Pinellas	253,548	6.6000	-	16,323,406,243	64,380	107,734,481	424.91
Pembroke Pines	Broward	150,467	4.5990	0.2606	10,597,721,821	70,432	51,500,689	342.27
Coral Springs	Broward	128,247	3.8715	0.2134	9,484,432,125	73,954	38,742,957	302.10
Hialeah	Miami-Dade	230,407	6.8000	-	9,632,850,768	41,808	65,503,385	284.29
Tallahassee	Leon	172,900	3.7000	-	10,037,300,613	58,053	37,138,012	214.79

SOURCES/NOTES:

1. 2006 Local Government Financial Information Handbook - Adjusted 2005 Population Estimates
2. Adopted Operating Millage Rates as reported by Property Appraiser's for the selected Cities.
3. Adopted Debt Millage Rates as reported by Property Appraiser's for the selected Cities.
4. DR420 Line 4 Gross Tax Value of 07/01/06 as provided to Cities by their Property Appraisers.
5. Duval represents the county-wide levies for school district, county government debt, water management district, and independent special districts.

Office of Management and Budget
 Research & Budget Division - 10/30/06
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