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BROWARD METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION WEEK OF NOV 6TH, 2017

This Veterans Day Weekend, we are all extremely thankful for those who have served and continue to serve our Country. The House is facing an appropriations request filing deadlines. In light of some challenges that the Senate is currently facing, it would be fair to say things have slowed up a bit. The week was light in terms of meetings, however the House moved multiple House Speaker priorities this week. We are continuing to educate and speak to members regarding your priorities. The following report highlights the discussions that took place this week. As always, please don't hesitate to call me should you have any questions or if you would like additional information.

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HURRICANE RECOVERY

Presentations on Hurricane recovery and preparedness continued this week. The House Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness heard presentations that focused on protecting vulnerable populations. The presenters included Florida's Area Agencies on Aging, Florida Health Care Association local County Emergency Management, and the Agency for Health Care Administration on current standards for shelters and health care facilities, continuity of health services during the storm, disaster preparedness, and on the emergency rule requiring generators for nursing homes within a certain timeframe.

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=2978&Session=2018&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets&FileName=schrp%2011-9-17.pdf>

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee heard presentations from utility and energy companies and the Division of Emergency Management on storm hardening, undergrounding, and continuity of operations.

https://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Committees/2016-2018/AGG/MeetingRecords/MeetingPacket_4008.pdf

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

ETHICS REFORM

The House began moving several sweeping ethics bills this week. HB 11 is a Speaker

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priority that requires local governments to have internal controls against waste, fraud and abuse; post budget documents online within a certain time frame; respond to audits in a certain time frame and require specific certification for audits; and report travel. It also codifies language passed in a budget implementing bill limiting travel reimbursement for state travel for agency employees. House Government Accountability voted 22-1 and moved the bill straight to the floor for when the Session convenes in January. It's Senate companion, which is not identical, also passed its first committee unanimously. It has two more committee stops in the Senate.

Public Integrity & Ethics unanimously voted to file three proposed committee bills, mostly similar to legislation from the previous session. HB 7003 is identical to a local government ethics package passed last year. The bill includes lobbyist registration requirements, creates a local government lobbyist registry, places ethics training certification requirements on local government officials. and includes language for municipal officials to file the same Form 6 financial disclosures as county and state elected officials. HB 7003 would create a trust to fund the local government lobbyist registration. HB 7007 addresses the state's "revolving door" on employment of former legislators and agency staff and changes lobbying requirements. The committee adopted an amendment that would prohibit representatives of governmental entities to participate in PSAs after qualifying as a candidate to public office. The bills have not yet received committee references or Senate companions.

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/00011>

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/07007>

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/07003>

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/07005>

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (CRAS)

Senate Community Affairs voted 5-1 to approve a bill that would reform Community Redevelopment Agencies. The bill includes: requiring CRAs to stick with an adopted budget, capping administrative and overhead costs to 18%, requiring ethics training for board members, requiring audit and performance data be posted online, requiring municipal CRAs to send adopted budgets to the county in which it is created within 10 days since adoption. The bill also prohibits use of tax incremental funding for festivals that promote tourism. CRA reform is a priority of several members, including the House Speaker, in light of a grand jury report and of recent high-profile scandals. Unlike the House bill, the Senate bill does not phase-out the existence of CRAs. The Senate bill has three more committees of reference. The House bill - HB 17- is scheduled to be heard in its first and only committee of reference next week.

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/00432>

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<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/00017>

FINANCE & TAX

GOVERNOR UNVEILS TAX CUT PACKAGE

Governor Scott rolled out a \$180 million tax cut proposal. The proposal has three main elements: \$88 million worth of sales tax holidays, including a 10-day back-to-school and three disaster preparedness holidays; \$87 million reduction in drivers licence renewal fees; and a \$4 million (18 percent) reduction in traffic fines for drivers who elect to take a drivers course. The amount is significantly smaller than previous years due to the State's estimated budget deficit.

LOCAL TAX REFERENDA

House Local, Federal and Veterans Affairs voted 12-2 to pass a bill that would stipulate that local tax referenda must have 60% vote threshold to pass when the vote is during a special election. Under the bill, a majority of voters would be sufficient during a general election. The committee adopted an amendment that removed a requirement that 60% of a local governing board be needed to increase the millage. The bill has two more committees of reference in the House and three more committees of reference in the Senate.

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/00317>

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Senate Transportation and Economic Development heard on Affordable and Workforce Housing on the current situation after Hurricane Irma and what they are looking for moving forward. As soon as the presentation began Senator Rader asked him about Local Preference Funding and whether or not that will still be included. This is a local government area of opportunity funding that requires a specific request for application and yes that will continue for counties. Short-term solutions include a housing locator which locates affordable rental units to assist funding short term leases and that also accept FEMA vouchers. They are also looking at disaster strategies using SHIP fund that requires \$5 million to be held back for disaster funds. Florida Housing has \$5 million available, although they understand that it's not much but it is a beginning. They have identified 17 developments out of 12 that are equipped and ready to help out displaced residents (173 households displaced to storm related issues and all of them should be habitable by January). There is also a pilot to offer grants and they are revising compliance rules. As a longterm solution, SHIP and SAIL is allocating resources using FEMA data. This would include \$135 million for a rental recovery program and \$208 million SHIP Hurricane Housing. Please understand that this plan is what they are putting together and these numbers are based on 2004/2005.

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<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=2918&Session=2018&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets&FileName=hqs%2011-8-17.pdf>

TRANSPORTATION

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

House Transportation and Infrastructure voted unanimously to approve an autonomous vehicle package that would update statutes to allow for technology to operate vehicles instead of a human driver with a valid drivers license. Some members expressed concern over questions of liability of who would be at fault in cases of an accident. The concerns of who would be sued in an accident were also raised by the trial-lawyers. The bill has two more committees in the House. Its Senate companion, which is significantly more detailed and encompassing, has not yet been heard in its first of three committees of reference.

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/00353>

PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION (PIP)

House Commerce Committee voted 18-7 to approve a bill that would repeal the state's no-fault automobile insurance and replace it with bodily injury requirements. The bill is identical to the previous Session, which made it far in the House but stalled after the Senate bill died over concerns of medical payments to providers. The bill is a Speaker priority and was fast-tracked to go before the full House when the Session convenes in January. Its Senate companion, which contains 5% medical payments requirement, has not yet been heard in its first of three committees of reference.

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/00019>

UP NEXT WEEK:

SB 544- Procurement Practices (impacting South Florida Regional Transportation Authority)

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/00544>

SB 572- High-Speed Rail

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/00572>

HB 3- Part of the Speaker's tourism agency accountability package:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/00003>

HB 17- House CRA bill

HB 405/SB 494- Linear Facilities

SB 148- Concealed Weapons

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