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BROWARD METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION WEEK OF OCTOBER 9TH, 2017

Happy Friday the 13th! We kicked off the beginning of the 2018 Legislative Session this week. Between the fundraisers and the leadership designations, committees across the board mostly listened to presentations on information they will focus on as they begin to craft this year's policies and budget. It does not appear that we as a state will be reaping any benefits given the grim fiscal outlook as we recover from the effects of the recent hurricanes. One thing is clear, the budget will reflect for priorities surrounding hurricanes and healthcare, such as debris cleanup, generators for nursing homes and the opioid crisis. The following report will highlight some of the discussions that we feel you need to be aware of while crafting our priority asks this year. As I've already stated, this year will be challenging both from a policy and budget standpoint. I say this to make sure the reality of focus is one that we all understand.

The Delegations in both Broward and Palm Beach are meeting this week so please be sure to take notice on subject matters. Also, we have Senator Galvano coming in on October 30th for the Broward Days kick-off at Brightline Fort Lauderdale station. Please be sure to join us to give him a warm South Florida welcome! As always please don't hesitate to call me should you have any questions or would like additional information. Have a wonderful weekend!

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HURRICANE RECOVERY

Hurricane recovery efforts dominated many of the committee discussions and presentations this week, ranging from the strain on the budget, FEMA reimbursements and backlogs from previous hurricanes, debris removal, utilities, the significant loss sustained by Florida's agricultural industry, insurance and Florida's Catastrophe fund, the Florida Keys, nursing home generator standards, affordable housing, derelict vessels and how to accommodate the influx of Hurricane Maria evacuees from Puerto Rico. Presentations can be found in the packets below.

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=2978&Session=2018&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets&FileName=schrp%2010-12-17.pdf>

http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Committees/2016-2018/AP/MeetingRecords/MeetingPacket_3942.pdf

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http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Committees/2016-2018/CU/MeetingRecords/MeetingPacket_3967.pdf

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

House Transportation & Tourism Appropriations listened to agency Legislative Budget Requests from the departments to be included in its subcommittee budget. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development also heard from agencies, however much of their discussion was focused on the Governor's Job Growth Grant Fund for local infrastructure grants meant to lure in private companies. The Senators expressed concern and frustration on the lack of clear rules and standards for applicants, including the lack of a deadline for submission of applications. House Tourism and Gaming Control also heard an update on the status of partnerships between state and local tourism marketing entities, which are on ice since the passage of the Speaker's accountability and transparency requirements during the 2017 Special Session.

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=2899&Session=2018&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets&FileName=tta%2010-11-17.pdf>

RESILIENCY

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Environment and Natural Resources heard presentations on beaches, parks, water infrastructure needs and the impacts of sea level rise in South Florida. The water infrastructure discussion touched on the state funding process for local water projects. The presentation on sea level rise looked at the impacts of King Tides and the negative impact sea level rise can have on the economy in terms of traffic conditions and local businesses.

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/AEN/Meeting%20Packet/3946>

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

House Ways & Means voted 15-4, with one Republican member dissenting, to approve a bill that would require additional meetings, public notices, and a debt analysis prior to any tax or fee increase. It would also require property tax and commission voting records relating to tax and fee increases be posted on local government websites. The bill is a priority of

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the House Speaker and “fast tracked” by the House (or only assigned to one committee.) The bill is now ready to be taken up by the full House when the Session convenes in January and would need a 2/3 vote to pass because of the additional meetings mandate. Due to the House’s rush, most conversations regarding this bill will take place with Senators. There is no Senate companion at this time, however one is anticipated to be filed as it is an ethics and elections proposal in an election year.

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/00007>

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Senate Ethics & Elections unanimously passed a bill similar to a proposal from last year that would allow two or more board members to gather without public notice so long as official business is not conducted. The bill is meant to correct what some see as a broad interpretation of the Sunshine Law that can impede government process. The bill has two more committee stops in the Senate. Its House companion has not yet been heard in its first of three committees.

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/00192>