

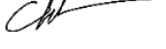


Memorandum

Memorandum No: 22-27

Date: September 9, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners

From: Greg Chavarria, City Manager 

Re: **Ft. Lauderdale Chamber Government Affairs Council Meeting Update**

On Tuesday, September 6, 2022, the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce held their Government Affairs Council meeting, where the following subcommittees provided some high-level reports of interest to the Commission.

Broward County Tourism Coalition Subcommittee

Tamas Vago, General Manager, Hilton mentioned the City of Fort Lauderdale's proposal to permit the serving of food and beverage on the beach. While there is general buzz about the topic, the legal team is still working on a proper framework for implementation and execution. Further topics summarized include:

- An update about lighting on the beach.
- The County budget proposal now includes an additional \$2 million for marketing expenses.
- The Convention Center expansion is on track to be completed in 2025.

Law, Regulations, Elections and Ballot Initiatives Subcommittee

The Fort Lauderdale Forum will be hosting two "Meet the Candidates" Programs at Broward College, 111 E. Las Olas Blvd.; 12th Floor; Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

- Districts 1 and 3 Candidates: Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 7:00 AM.
- District 4 Candidates: Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 7:00 AM.

As many of you are aware, Governor Ron DeSantis suspended Broward School Board Members from office following the recommendations of the Twentieth Statewide Grand Jury. He then immediately made four appointments in the place of the four suspended members:

- Torey Alston, former Broward County Board of County Commissioner;
- Manual "Nandy" A. Serrano, Florida Sports Foundation Board of Director, and CEO and Founder of Clubhouse Private Wealth;
- Ryan Reiter, Director of Government Relations for Kaufman Lynn Construction; and
- Kevin Tynan, Attorney with Richardson and Tynan.

Transportation Subcommittee

There was a [transportation surtax](#) update provided by Gretchen Cassini, Director, Mobility Advancement Program (MAP). The transportation sales surtax is authorized to be levied by Charter Counties (like Broward) under Sec. 212.055, Florida Statutes and begins on the calendar

year after successful passage by voter referendum; Broward County's sales surtax began generating revenues January 1, 2019. Municipal programs the community shuttles, capital projects, and rehabilitation and maintenance are some of the components of MAP Broward.

The commuter rail was briefly discussed. The County approved the southern portion of the commuter rail services link, which includes Miami, Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, and near 17th Street/Broward General Hospital. Further, a feasibility study is underway between the City and Broward County for an additional solution to traverse the New River which would allow for marine traffic to operate. Commuter rail plays an important role within the County's overall strategy for improving transportation and mobility at the local and regional level. Finally, the subcommittee plans on obtaining an overview of traffic light synchronization in the October meeting. More details to follow in the upcoming weeks.

Political Affairs Subcommittee

The Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce will host the annual [Washington Summit](#), which is an opportunity for business and government leaders to discuss critical issues such as the economy, healthcare, small business needs, workforce, housing, trade, and other local needs. The Summit will be held on September 19-21, 2022. This year, the legislative agenda supports:

- Pell Grants for Short-Term Training via the JOBS Act.
- The Central & South Florida Flood Control System (C&SF Project) Comprehensive Resiliency Study.
- Equitable Voting Rights.
- Federal funding for the New River Crossing.
- Restoring the Resilient Reefs Act.
- Pediatric and Adolescent Behavioral Health Policy.
- Improving Access to Homeownership, increasing housing inventory, and encouraging adaptive reuse of commercial properties.

In addition, the Chamber has a unique opportunity to meet with the Dubai Delegation, led by His Excellency Fahad Al Gergawi, CEO of [Dubai FDI](#), and H.E. Saed Al Awadi, CEO of [Dubai Industries and Exports](#). They will be joined by executives from:

- [Dubai Culture and Arts Authority](#) (Dubai Culture);
- [Dubai CommerCity](#) (DCC);
- [Dubai International Financial Center](#) (DIFC);
- [Dubai Multi Commodities Centre](#) (DMCC);
- [Dubai Silicon Oasis](#) (DSO);
- [Dubai Holding](#);
- The [Global Business Corporation \(GBC\)](#) of DP World; and
- [Emirates SkyCargo](#).

The U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council will be hosting a brief luncheon for Summit Delegates on September 21, 2022 at 1:30 PM, in the Akin, Gump Strauss office building. After the March 2022 economic development and trade mission to the U.A.E., the relationship has grown stronger and interest in doing business in Fort Lauderdale has grown as well. Local businesses looking to expand globally would also benefit from this interaction.

Inflation Reduction Act

Lacy Hofmeyer, General Counsel and Vice President, Public Affairs, Broward College provided a brief overview of the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), which contains tax implication provisions geared towards large businesses. Specifically, the IRA will impose a 15 percent alternative minimum tax on book income on applicable corporations, which includes U.S.-headquartered corporations with global financial statement revenue in excess of \$1 billion over a three-year average. The Act also includes, but not limited to:

- Extending the renewable energy production tax credit (PTC) until the end of 2024;
- Extending the investment tax credit (ITC) for solar energy property and most other ITC-eligible property until the end of 2024;
- Permission for taxpayers, in certain situations, to elect a direct pay option in lieu of a tax credit, or the option to monetize the credits by transferring them to another entity;
- Green Hydrogen production tax credits; and
- Extension and modification of the existing "New qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles" credit with a Clean Vehicle Credit, which will be worth up to \$7,500.

It is important to note that the Green Hydrogen tax credit has been a federal priority of the Chamber for some time. Creating the new green hydrogen market in the U.S. will enhance America's leadership position in innovation and cost-competitive clean technology, with further potential for exports to the global green hydrogen market that is seeing increasing momentum.

The next Governmental Affairs Council meeting will be held on October 4, 2022 at Chamber Headquarters. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ms. Daphnee Sainvil, Division Manager of Government Affairs & Economic Development

- c: Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager
Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, Interim City Auditor