

RESOLUTION No. 2009-104-1049

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE 2009/2010 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Alcalde and Faye, the City's lobbyists, represents the City's interest in all federal legislative matters, and

WHEREAS, staff has established a federal legislative program based upon input from various City Council members and staff, and

WHEREAS, the City Council would like to approve a 2009/2010 Federal Legislative Program for submittal to the lobbyists,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS: The foregoing Whereas paragraphs are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true, and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

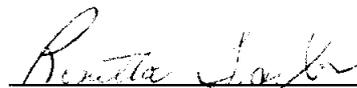
Section 2. APPROVAL: The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens hereby approves the 2009/2010 Federal Legislative Program attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 27, 2009.


SHIRLEY GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:


RONETTA TAYLOR, MMC, CITY CLERK

PREPARED BY: SONJA KNIGHTON DICKENS, ESQ.
City Attorney

SPONSORED BY: DANNY CREW, CITY MANAGER

MOVED BY: Councilwoman Pritchett
SECONDED BY: Councilman Gilbert

VOTE: 7-0

Mayor Shirley Gibson	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)
Vice Mayor Barbara Watson	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)
Councilman Aaron Campbell	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)
Councilman Oliver Gilbert, III	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)
Councilman André Williams	<u> x </u> (Yes)	<u> </u> (No)

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1515 NW 167 Street, Building 5 Suite 200
Miami Gardens, Florida 33169

City of Miami Gardens Agenda Cover Memo

Council Meeting Date:	May 27, 2009		Item Type:	Resolution	Ordinance	Other	
			<i>(Enter X in box)</i>	X			
Fiscal Impact: <i>(Enter X in box)</i>	Yes	No	Ordinance Reading: <i>(Enter X in box)</i>	1st Reading		2nd Reading	
		X		Public Hearing: <i>(Enter X in box)</i>	Yes	No	Yes
Funding Source:			Advertising Requirement: <i>(Enter X in box)</i>		Yes		No
Contract/P.O. Required: <i>(Enter X in box)</i>	Yes	No	RFP/RFQ/Bid #:				
		X					
Sponsor Name	Dr. Danny O. Crew		Department:	<i>City Manager</i>			

Short Title:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE 2009/2010 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Staff Summary:

As of March 1, 2009, the City of Miami Gardens acquired the services of Alcalde and Faye to represent the City's interests in all federal legislative matters. In order to provide our federal lobbyist with clear direction during the 111th Congress, staff established a Federal Legislative program based on the input from various City Council members and staff. The proposed Federal Legislative Program documents the City of Miami Garden's legislative priorities during the 111th Congress and will be used to assist our lobbyist in advocating for the City.

Proposed Action:

That the City Council approve the attached resolution adopting the 2009-2010 City of Miami Gardens Federal Legislative Program.

Attachment:

Attachment A- Proposed 2009-2010 Federal Legislative Program

**ITEM K-1) RESOLUTIONS
2009/2010 Federal Legislative Program**



2009-2010 Proposed City of Miami Gardens Federal Legislative Program

POLICY STATEMENTS

Energy Conservation

The City of Miami Gardens City Council supports the National League of Cities Core Principal, which states that sustainability is a defining issue of our time. The reason: increasing concern about climate change and other threats to public health and the environment related to human activities. Today, local governments find themselves at the epicenter of the sustainability movement. Cities and towns are actively pursuing initiatives to conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment in other ways. The federal government should be a full partner in these efforts, providing national leadership when appropriate, and supporting creative efforts that can only happen at the community level.

The National League of Cities urges Congress to:

- Provide \$2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Block Grant Program in the fiscal year 2010 budget to further these local efforts.

Home Rule

The City of Miami Gardens is dedicated to the fundamental concept that the government closest to the people is the appropriate authority to serve the needs and requirements of the community. **The City of Miami Gardens City Council supports** maintaining the integrity of home rule power that allows cities to develop and implement solutions to local problems.

Safe Cities

The City of Miami Gardens City Council supports the National League of Cities Core Principal, which states that the security of the United States and its citizens is a defining issue of the decade. In the face of these new challenges, the leaders of our cities and towns are best positioned to address traditional public safety needs while at the same time advancing the nation's homeland security priorities. National top-down plans are not sufficient. We need collaborative strategies that emphasize partnerships, innovation and "all-hazard" approaches to public safety.

The National League of Cities urges Congress to:

- Direct resources where they are needed most;

- Strengthen information sharing at all levels; and
- Create a culture of public awareness and action to ensure all Americans understand their own responsibilities in preventing crime and preparing for disasters.

Stabilize the Housing Market

The City of Miami Gardens City Council supports the National League of Cities Core Principal, which states that encouraging home ownership for as many Americans as possible and giving people a stake in the future of their community remains a laudable goal. However, the challenge for the federal government, working in partnership with state and local governments, is to resolve the crucial questions raised by the collapse of the housing market — questions like: what kinds of housing we need; how to finance construction, rehabilitation and resale of homes; and how best to engage the private sector in the work of building houses and revitalizing America’s hometowns.

The National League of Cities urges Congress to:

- Ensure the availability of capital for mortgage financing and refinancing and continue to encourage lenders and loan servicers to work out unsound loans as an alternative to foreclosure;
- Invest in programs that stabilize and enhance neighborhoods while helping communities minimize the damage caused by the national foreclosure crisis;
- Protect homebuyers from predatory lending by ensuring that mortgage brokers are effectively regulated and that mortgage loans are well-suited to the financial means of the homebuyer.

Unfunded Mandates

The City of Miami Gardens City Council supports the National League of Cities Core principal that the federal government should avoid policies that impose disproportionate responsibilities or increased financial liability on local governments without recognizing the fiscal impact of those policies. In particular, federal policies should not mandate new costs for local governments without providing adequate funds to reimburse local governments for these new mandates.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Iran and Darfur Divestment

The United States has imposed trade sanctions on the Government of Sudan since November 1997 under Executive Order (E.O.) No. 13067. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) issued Resolution 1591 and Resolution 1672 condemning the actions of the Government of Sudan and calling on member nations to take certain measures against persons responsible for continuing conflicts. In response to UNSC Resolution 1672, President Bush issued a new Executive Order expanding on the original sanctions of E.O. No. 13067, which authorizes the Department of Treasury and Department of State to designate additional persons as needed. Under this expanded authority, persons named as, or doing business with persons named as “Specially Designated Nationals” of Sudan would face the following sanctions:

- U.S. persons are prohibited from transacting business with these individuals and entities and all of their property in the United States or in the possession or control of a U.S. person is blocked.
- Any U.S. individual or organization engaging in transactions with foreign nationals must take reasonable care to make certain such foreign nationals are not owned, controlled by, or acting on behalf of Sudan.
- U.S. individuals or organizations that violate the regulations may be subject to civil or criminal prosecution. Goods or services of Sudanese origin may not be imported into the United States.

The City of Miami Gardens City Council urges Congress to adopt further legislation, which prohibits the investment of public funds managed by local governments nationwide in “scrutinized companies “ or “specialty designated nationals”. (Councilman Williams)

Reinstatement of the Assault Weapons Ban

The Federal Semi-Automatic Assault Weapon ban expired in 2004, since that time there is credible evidence that it has been easier for criminals to buy powerful firearms. In the City of Miami Gardens alone, over 20 assault weapons have been seized in the commission of a crime since December 2007. **The City of Miami Gardens City Council urges** Congress to reinstate the Semi-Automatic Assault Weapons Ban. (Councilman Williams)

Temporary Protected Status for Haitians Living in the United States

In 2008, Haiti was struck by four devastating storms, displacing thousands of citizens, wiping out roads, bridges, schools, and homes. In addition to these natural disasters, Haiti is currently in a state of political unrest. South Florida community and the City of Miami Gardens are home to many undocumented Haitian nationals who contribute to our society while sending money home to help their families. Due to the devastating circumstances that may prevent these undocumented Haitians from returning home, **the City of Miami Gardens City Council urges** the current Administration to grant temporary protected status to Haitian Nationals living in the United States. (Councilman Williams)

APPROPRIATION AND AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS

Livable Neighborhoods Initiative	\$2,500,000
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The Livable Neighborhoods Initiative for Sewer System Improvements project will fulfill the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) priority to modernize waterways and protect the vital public service of water infrastructure. The initial benefits of this project include the elimination of the danger of flash flooding and extended water ponding posed by a lack of adequate drainage in these neighborhoods, especially during Hurricane Season. During the 2005 Hurricane Season, many residents were stranded in their homes because of excessive flooding. Emergency vehicles were unable to get to any resident that lived in these areas. The supplemental benefits are that this project intends to serve as the impetus for revitalization of neighborhood areas that are impoverished and whose residents feel

neglected by local government. The City will provide matching funds in the amount of \$925,000 for this project.

State Road Seven Livable Community Corridor Project	\$1,930,000
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The State Road 7 Livable Community Corridor Project as proposed will acquire right-of-way, design, and construct ten (10) feet of widened ADA accessible stamped concrete sidewalks and bus bays through the State Road 7 corridor in the City of Miami Gardens. This project is part of a Livable Community Corridor Study of State 7 (US 441 – six lanes) from NW 215 Street (Miami Dade County and Broward County line) to the Golden Glades Interchange (SR 826, I-95, and U.S. 441).

Total Appropriation and Authorization Requests: \$ 4,430,000