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Mayor Kristin Jacobs Leads Broward Delegation to Secure OAS Reimbursement Meetings Taking Place in Washington D.C.

Broward County Mayor Kristin Jacobs is in Washington D.C. this week meeting with Florida Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez and members of the State's Congressional Delegation to help secure federal reimbursement for money that was necessary for Broward County to host the 35th Assembly of the Organization of American States in June.

Broward County Sheriff Ken Jenne and Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle join Mayor Jacobs in that effort. The OAS General Assembly meeting brought together foreign ministers and dignitaries from 34 member states to discuss issues of importance to the hemisphere. President George Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Governor Jeb Bush attended the event. This was the first OAS General Assembly meeting to be held in the United States in more than 30 years.

"This meeting brought worldwide attention to Broward County," said Mayor Jacobs. "We have shown that Broward County is a world class destination. The economic benefits are far-reaching. This important meeting could have taken place anywhere in the world; we are honored that they choose Broward County."

Federal, state, county and local law enforcement agencies joined forces to provide security for the foreign diplomats and the public. The three-day event drew peaceful protests. No arrests were made.

"To host the President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of State, world leaders from 34 countries, our governor and first lady, and to accommodate the public and those who wished to protest without incident, and without one arrest is indicative of the quality protection our public safety agencies provided," said Mayor Jacobs. "This kind of protection costs money, and we're hopeful the federal government will recognize our accomplishments and reimburse us for these costs."

The OAS meeting is considered an international diplomatic event and funding for such events falls under the purview of the federal government.

Public safety agencies are currently assessing the total security costs of the June meeting. These figures will be presented to the U.S. Congress later this summer.

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