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## Urban Area Security Initiative



Broward County Mayor Sue Gunzburger led a delegation in Washington, DC to advocate for Miami-Fort Lauderdale Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding and Tier 1 status. In FY 2011, for example, Tier I included the nation's 11 highest risk areas and were allocated 81.6 percent of the total UASI funding available; Tier II included the other 20 eligible areas, including Miami-Fort Lauderdale, and were allocated the remaining 18.4 percent of the total UASI funding available. The tier approach was employed to allow applicants with a similar level of risk to compete for funding on a level playing field. The total FY 2011 allocation for the UASI program is \$662,622,100.

The group included staff from Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Monroe counties, along with members from The Ferguson Group (TFG), partner cities, law enforcement and fire-rescue agencies who met with each member of the Broward Delegation as well as members of the Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach county delegations. Meetings were also held with staff from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications. The group strongly urged Members and Congressional staff to ensure that the Miami/Ft. Lauderdale UASI is recognized as an essential component of this program, with its risk factors being accorded proper weight, and recognition that it is among the most at-risk areas nationwide as a Tier 1 UASI.

The Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI includes a population of 5.6 million encompassing four large counties, and serving as home to four international airports, three major convention centers, four major seaports, military installations, and numerous high profile facilities and critical infrastructure that are vital to regional and national commerce and homeland security.



Staff from the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Professional Standards (OIAPS) also met separately with each member of the Broward Delegation to advocate for the following issues:

- Reprogramming Beach Nourishment Funds.
- Port Everglades Dredging and Maintenance Project.
- Port Everglades Deepening and Widening Project.
- Waste Tire Removal Project.
- Support for SunShot Initiative and Transit Climate Change Adaptation Pilot grant applications.
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
- Customs and Border Patrol Staffing.

## Port Everglades

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Senator Bill Nelson participated in a tour of Port Everglades on Monday, September 12 to see first-hand the growth and opportunities and specifically the status of Broward County's funding requests for the following projects:



- Maintenance Dredging of Federal Channels.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deepening and Widening.
- Radiation Portal Monitors (RPMs).
- Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF).

Port Director Phil Allen provided updates to Florida's Senior Senator on each of the projects and their status in the federal appropriations/grants processes. Staff from OIAPS and Broward County's Federal Lobby firm, The Ferguson Group, also attended and coordinated the last minute request from Senator's office. Senator Nelson voiced his support for and offered the good services of his office to assist in funding and completing these important projects.

## 3% Withholding

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The 3% withholding law mandates that federal, state and local governments that spend more than \$100 million per year on goods and services withhold from each contractor 3% of its contract payments. Compliance with this law will impose significant, unnecessary financial burdens on both the public and private sectors. The effective date of implementation for the 3% withholding requirement has again been delayed until January 2013.

The House version (H.R. 674) of the 3% withholding repeal legislation now has 241 cosponsors, representing an outright majority of House members that have signed on as cosponsors of the bill; meanwhile, the Senate version of the legislation (S. 164) now has 22 cosponsors.

## Economic Growth and Deficit Reduction

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President Obama unveiled his plan to jumpstart the nation's economic growth and job creation on Monday, September 19, 2011. The [President's Plan for Economic Growth and Deficit Reduction](#) is intended to be a balanced approach by saying that everyone – including millionaires and billionaires – must contribute to reducing the deficit and “pay their fair share.” It is envisioned to create the conditions where businesses can hire and middle class families can feel a basic measure of economic security.

The plan's main components include:

- Paying for the [American Jobs Act](#).

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- Producing net savings of more than \$3 trillion over the next decade, on top of the roughly \$1 trillion in spending cuts that the President already signed into law in the [Budget Control Act](#) – for a total savings of more than \$4 trillion over the next decade.
- Investing in education, innovation, clean energy, and infrastructure.

The plan proposes nearly \$580 billion in cuts and reforms to a wide range of mandatory programs and recommends a series of reforms that will:

- Save \$248 billion in Medicare.
- Save \$72 billion in Medicaid and other health programs over 10 years.
- Extend the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by three years.

Additionally, the plan calls on the Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction to undertake comprehensive tax reform and lays out the following five key principles:

- Lower tax rates.
- Cut wasteful loopholes and tax breaks.
- Reduce the deficit by \$1.5 trillion.
- Boost job creation and growth.
- Making people making more than \$1 million a year pay a larger share of their income in taxes than middle-class families pay.

The President offered a detailed set of specific tax loophole closers and measures to broaden the tax base that are intended to hit the \$1.5 trillion target for additional revenue. These measures include:

- Cutting tax preferences for high-income households (households with income above \$250,000 per year).
- Eliminating tax breaks for oil and gas companies.
- Closing the carried interest loophole for investment fund managers. (Carried Interest is a share of the profits of a successful partnership that is paid to the manager of the partnership (a private equity fund or hedge fund) as a form of compensation that is designed as an incentive to the manager to maximize performance of the investment fund. A manager's carried-interest allocation is in addition to any investment that the manager may have in the private equity fund or hedge fund).
- Eliminating benefits for those who own corporate jets.

Local municipal governments, as detailed by The Ferguson Group's Federal Funding and Policy Update, have concerns under the plan as interest proceeds from municipal bonds would only be tax-exempt until a high-income taxpayer's deductions and exclusions reached the 28% cap. All interest earnings beyond that cap would be subject to federal taxation; reducing the benefits of municipal bond investments for high-income persons. This might make these bonds less attractive to investors, raising interest rates and reducing the amount available for municipal borrowers.

## **Transportation and FAA Reauthorization**

The United States Senate, last week, passed H.R. 2887, the Surface and Air Transportation Programs Extension Act of 2011, sponsored by Florida Representative John Mica, by a vote of 92-6. The compromise measure, if signed by the President, will fund the Federal Aviation Administration through January 31, 2012 and federal highway programs through March 31, 2012 at current levels. The House of Representatives unanimously approved the bill earlier last week. The bill now heads to President Obama who is expected to sign it.

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## Miss Florida 2011

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Mayor Gunzburger had a chance encounter with Miss Florida 2011, Kristina Janolo, in Washington, DC prior to her meeting with Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz. The informal meeting gave the Mayor a chance to invite Miss Florida to Broward County in the upcoming year.



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