



May 14, 2010

Mr. Patrick Salerno
City Manager
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Dear Mr. Salerno:

I am pleased to invite the City of Coral Gables to become part of an exciting new initiative that is underway in Southeast Florida. The South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils are developing a joint application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program through a collaborative effort of the "Southeast Florida Regional Partnership." This is a growing partnership of public, private, non-profit, and civic stakeholders from the seven-county region of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties. This partnership includes, but is not limited to, water resource, housing, environmental and transportation agencies; local governments; non-profits; human services funders; community-based and civic organizations; academia and research institutions; school boards and other educational partners; economic development organizations; and private sector organizations.

A key component of the Sustainable Communities Initiative is the development of a "Regional Plan for Sustainable Development" for regions that lack a cohesive, integrated regional "vision" across issue areas and jurisdictional boundaries. This program is expected to provide up to \$5 million for large metropolitan regions to support the development of the Regional Plan. This Plan will serve as the framework for future federal investment and support the efforts of individual counties, municipalities and other partners whose plans and projects further the implementation of the regional vision and plan.

The absence of a regional, collaborative partnership and shared vision for Southeast Florida has left our region at a competitive disadvantage when we seek to access needed state and federal resources. Envision Utah, One Bay (Tampa), Portland Metro 2040, Denver Metro Vision 2040, Sacramento Area Blueprint (2004), and Myregion.org (Orlando) are examples of regions that have well established multi-sector partnerships and regional strategies for quality communities and growth. We can and must do better if we are to build a prosperous and sustainable region and access the resources Southeast Florida needs to move ahead.

We hope that the City of Coral Gables will consider adding its support to this effort by executing the enclosed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and preparing a letter and/or resolution of support that can accompany the federal funding application due this summer. We ask that you please designate a point of contact for your organization to ensure that you are kept fully up-to-date with information about ongoing activities and opportunities to participate in the work of the Partnership.

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May 14, 2010

Page 2

The HUD Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), with specific grant requirements, is expected to be published in the next few weeks. At this time we are anticipating an application due date in mid-summer. Please find herewith additional information related to this effort and the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program. Electronic copies of the Abstract, Memorandum of Understanding, Sample Resolution of Support, and the Sample Letter of Support can be accessed at www.sfrpc.com by clicking on the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership logo.

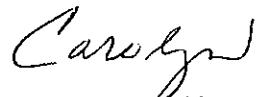
- Abstract
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Cover Letter from Council Chairs Scuotto and Ferreri
- SFRPC / TCRPC Resolutions
- Sample Resolution of Support
- Sample Letter of Support
- Memorandum of Understanding

Additional information about the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants Program can be accessed at:

<http://www.icleiusa.org/action-center/affecting-policy/Sustainable%20Communities%20Planning%20Grants%20Webinar%20slides.pdf>

Thank you in advance for your time, consideration, and support. I look to you for guidance regarding what are the next steps related to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Isabel Cosio Carballo (isabelc@sfrpc.com) of Council staff, if we can provide you with additional information or otherwise be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Carolyn A. Dekle
Executive Director

CAD/kal

Enclosures

cc: Michael J. Busha, TCRPC