

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2012 -

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADEQUATE HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING AND TIER I DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) DESIGNATION FOR THE MIAMI-FORT LAUDERDALE URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI).

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security, through the Urban Area Security Initiative Program, provides homeland security grant funding to address the unique planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, and assists them in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security, through the UASI Program, distinguishes among urban areas as Tier 1 and Tier II, with the 11 highest risk urban areas deemed Tier 1, and the remaining 20 deemed Tier II; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security allocates significantly more funding to Tier 1 Urban Areas, including over 80 percent of total UASI funding in FY2011; and

WHEREAS, the Tier 1 designation is based on a DHS formula that assesses risk based on factors such as threat, vulnerability, and consequence, taking into account population, borders, economic impact, and critical infrastructure ; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI is the eighth-largest Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in the United States, with a permanent population of 5.6 million residents living throughout Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties, along with millions of seasonal residents and tourist travelers; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI includes over 110 municipalities, four international airports, three major convention centers, and other critical utility and water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI encompasses four international seaports: Port Everglades, Port of Key West, Port of Miami, and Port of Palm Beach, with the Port of Miami the busiest passenger cruise ship port in the world; and

WHEREAS, Port Everglades is the site of South Florida's primary fuel storage and distribution center that supplies nearly one-fifth of the State's energy requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI region includes Lake Okeechobee and the Herbert Hoover Dike, which if respectively contaminated or breached, would cause enormous disruptions in drinking water supplies and agricultural irrigation with flooding that would endanger South Florida and much of Central Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI has both national and international economic significance, with a gross domestic product (GDP) of \$252.6 billion, and is home to the largest concentration of international banks in the United States, and is the future home of the Permanent Secretariat of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI is home to the National Access Point (NAP) Center of the Americas, which is the primary internet and telecommunications distribution center for all of Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI is of immense significance to our Nation's defense and homeland security, serving as the home to US Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM), Homestead Air Reserve Base, US Coast Guard operations at Air Station Miami and Station Miami Beach; and the National Hurricane Center; and

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States cites specific localities within the Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI region through which some of the 9-11 terrorists are known to have traveled; and

WHEREAS, UASI funding is essential in providing funding for the training and coordination of communication and response for over a hundred different fire, EMS, HazMat, law enforcement, emergency operations and public health agencies within the Miami/Fort Lauderdale UASI; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Fort Lauderdale Urban Area is not currently designated as a Tier I high-threat, high density urban area; and

WHEREAS, the current UASI methodology utilized by DHS does not adequately account for airport and sea borne threats, nor the presence of thousands of passengers filling cruise ship beds; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Fort Lauderdale Urban Area despite being among the top 13 UASIs in the country, sustained a 44 percent reduction in funding from \$17.1 million in FY2010 to \$9.6 million in FY2011, while the eleven Tier 1 Urban Areas sustained no reductions in funding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables as part of the Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI, is concerned that the Department of Homeland Security through the UASI Program will continue to dedicate insufficient resources to safeguard the Miami-Fort Lauderdale Urban Area; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has been given the discretion in FY2012 to allocate both overall UASI funding and the specific distribution of UASI dollars to individual UASI areas; unlike previously where Congress has annually set forth the overall amount for the UASI program, and given DHS discretion solely to make Tier level rankings and allocations to individual UASIs; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security funding for FY2012 for first-responder programs including UASI is \$1 billion less than for FY2011.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:

SECTION 1. That the City of Coral Gables strongly encourages the Department of Homeland Security to recognize the Miami-Fort Lauderdale Urban Area as a Tier I UASI funding recipient within the UASI Program, and allocate adequate funding commensurate with its risk profile and importance to the nation.

SECTION 2. That the City of Coral Gables supports an allocation of FY2012 Department of Homeland Security funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative program that at a minimum maintains individual UASI capabilities and critical functions.

SECTION 3. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the offices of Senator Bill Nelson, Senator Marco Rubio, and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D., 2012.

APPROVED:

JIM CASON
MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

CRAIG E. LEEN
CITY ATTORNEY