

THE SOUTHERN GROUP

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
FINAL 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Four Appropriations Projects Funded

On the water project list, the Citywide Septic to Sewer Conversion Assessment was funded at \$375,000. The Legacy Sewer System Repair & Replacement and the Stormwater Master Plan projects also received funding allocation of \$500,000 each. In the transportation funding silo, the Repair of Historic Gondola Building project received \$750,000 in funding. The Mobility Hub was also funded at \$975,000 in the budget but vetoed by the Governor. The City of Coral Gables will receive a total of \$2,525,000 from the state in FY 2022-2023.

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Thank you for the opportunity to represent The City of Coral Gables this legislative session and for putting your trust in us. It was a pleasure working for the City and advancing your agenda. We had significant success this year, which we are extremely proud of, including funding for five of the City's appropriations projects. There is still some work to be done, though. Now that this budget has been signed, we can begin working with your team to identify potential projects for next year and assist as you start the process of updating your legislative priorities. We will also be here to help you with implementation of any of the projects funded this year.



PRIORITY BILLS

✓ **2022-2023 Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP)**

Applications: This year, the City of Coral Gables had two projects ranked on the Priority List for Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) funding through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The City's projects were both ranked highly at #5 and #12. The final budget passed by the Legislature ultimately including enough funding for FRDAP to ensure funding for both of the City's projects, adding \$400,000 to this year's overall budgetary wins.

✓ **HB 105/SB 224 Regulation of Smoking in Public Places:** These bills were identified as a priority for the City as they would authorize counties and municipalities to further restrict smoking within the boundaries of public beaches and public parks under certain circumstances. These bills passed on 3/2 and will now be sent to the Governor for his signature.

✓ **HB 403/SB 280:** Filed by Senator Hutson and Representative Giallombardo, these bills as originally filed would have been extremely detrimental to the City and municipalities/counties across the state. We worked with other stakeholders, including the Association of Counties and the League of Cities, to discuss with the sponsors the concerns related to these bills and as a result, substantial changes were made to the bills as they moved through the process. Despite the amendments that were made to the bill, it still would have created difficulty for local governments. While the bills gained early traction, they failed to make it across the finish line this session.

✓ **Local Business Protection Act:** This controversial bill would have allowed business owners to sue cities and counties to recoup lost revenue if a county or city enacts an ordinance that that reduce that businesses income. Ultimately, the Governor vetoed this bill, citing the broad and ambiguous language and its potential to create unintended consequences and litigation.

✓ **Tax Package:** During the final days of session, significant negotiations took place between the House and Senate regarding the scope of the proposed tax package. Several important tax related issues were included in the final package including an initiative championed by the state's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to provide a two-year sales tax exemption on the retail sales of items like impact windows and doors. The tax package also included a gas tax holiday to take place in October, a Back-to-School sales tax holiday, a Disaster Preparedness sales tax holiday and a "Freedom Week" sales tax holiday.

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

NUMBER	TITLE	SPONSOR
HB 301/SB 510	Financial Disclosures	Rep. Roach/Sen. Brodeur

This legislation would have required mayors, city commissioners, elected members of city councils, village councils or other governing bodies and city/town/village managers to file full and public disclosure of financial interests pursuant to the Florida Constitution. It would also have required members of the Commission on Ethics and the Elections Commission to file full and public disclosure of financial interests pursuant to the Florida Constitution.

02/17/22 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar for 2/23
02/23/22 SENATE Passed the Senate (30 Yeas, 7 Nays)
02/23/22 SENATE In Messages
02/28/22 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, 2nd Reading
03/04/22 SENATE Died in Messages
03/12/22 HOUSE Indefinitely Postponed and Withdrawn from Consideration

NUMBER	TITLE	SPONSOR
HB 985/SB 974	Soverign Immunity	Rep. Beltran/Sen. Gruters

This legislation would have revised the statutory limits on liability for tort claims against the state and its subdivisions (including cities). The House and Senate versions of these bills remained far apart as we moved into the final days of session and ultimately the bills did not pass this session. We do anticipate this will be an issue we have to work on again next year.

01/31/22 HOUSE Favorable by Appropriations Committee (23 Yeas, 1 Nay)
02/11/22 SENATE Reference to Rules Added; Remaining References: Rules; Appropriations
02/23/2022 SENATE Favorable by Rules Committee (16 Yeas, 1 Nay)
02/24/22 SENATE Now in Appropriations Committee
02/28/22 HOUSE Favorable by Judiciary Committee (19 Yeas, 0 Nays)
03/03/22 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, 2nd Reading
03/12/20 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 36 Yeas/1 Nay)
03/12/22 HOUSE Died on Second Reading Calendar

NUMBER	TITLE	SPONSOR
HB 7053/SB 1940	Statewide Flooding & Sea Level Rise Resiliency	Rep. Busatta Cabrera/Sen. Brodeur

This legislation built on the Resiliency bills passed last year. They establish the Statewide Office of Resilience to be housed within the Executive Office of the Governor and provide for the appointment of a statewide Resilience Officer. The bills also require the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature on resiliency efforts. A resilience action plan must also be developed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the State Highway System. Finally, the bill revises projects that DEP may fund within the Resilient Florida Grant Program which provides funding for local governments to help address climate change/resiliency and protect critical infrastructure.

03/02/22 HOUSE Passed by the House (114 Yeas, 1 Nays)
03/09/22 SENATE Passed by the Senate (37 Yeas, 0 Nays)

NUMBER	TITLE	SPONSOR
HB 1555/SB 518	Private Property Rights to Prune, Trim & Remove Trees	Rep. McClain/Sen. Brodeur

This legislation sought to clarify the 2019 legislation related to tree removal by better defining the terms used in the original bill and reduce potential abuses of that law that led to the removal of healthy trees.

03/24/22 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar for 3/1
03/01/22 SENATE Passed by the Senate (38 Yeas, 0 Nays)
13/08/22 HOUSE Passed by the House (116 Yeas, 1 Nay)