



CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH - MEMORANDUM

TO: HON. MAYOR, CHAIRPERSON, AND CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: JONATHAN EVANS, CITY MANAGER, MPA, MBA, ICMA-CM

SUBJECT: **FY 2019 – 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – RIVIERA BEACH**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

CC: GENERAL PUBLIC

Background:

On September 18, 2019, the City of Riviera Beach adopted five overarching goals for the city. These goals intended to set a course to prepare for the city’s initiative of Riviera Beach 2030, whereby the city focuses on economic development, tourism and protecting and preserving the quality of life that is uniformly enjoyed by all. To formulate these five organizational goals, the board conducted an executive retreat on Saturday, August 10, 2019. As part of this facilitated discussion, the following five priorities were developed:

- A prosperous, resilient and sustainable economy
- Great neighborhoods
- Operational excellence
- Government stewardship and accountability
- Community engagement and empowerment

As a result of these goals, the staff has crafted broad-based legislative priorities that should be used to address the five strategic initiatives that will be focused on in the fiscal year (FY) 2019–2020. The state legislature has and will be convening its legislative committees to discuss multiple areas of public policy that impact the operation and governance of our communities. This particular legislative session will invariably be for the city, as Governor DeSantis has made it abundantly clear that his commitment is funding water and wastewater projects as part of the budget appropriation process. From every account concerning the activities in both Tallahassee and Washington, there is an assumption that



infrastructure projects will be favorable for local government agencies but extremely competitive. The regular session of the legislature will commence on January 14, 2020, and conclude on March 13, 2020. However, November 22, 2019, is the deadline for requesting a draft of general bills and joint resolutions, including the request for companion bills. Additionally, the deadline for approving final drafts for general bills and joint resolutions, including companion bills, is January 10, 2020.

Based on the research and the immediate needs of the city, the staff recommends that the board adopt the following overarching legislative priorities to provide direction and guidance to the staff, as well as state and federal lobbyists.

- Water Supply & Water Quality
 - Lime system replacement – Nanofiltration membrane softening (new water plant)
 - Parallel intercostal water and wastewater main
 - Aerial crossing rehabilitation
- Environmental Preservation
 - Protect/preserve the aquatic ecosystem (Lake Worth Lagoon)
- Capital Construction – Job Creation
 - Funding for new municipal facilities
 - City hall
 - Library
- Public Safety
 - Cybersecurity
 - Preservation of neighborhoods
 - Sober homes/short-term rentals
 - Construction of modern public safety facility
 - Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Preservation of Home Rule Authority
- Transportation Infrastructure
 - Advocate for additional monies to be invested in supporting innovative infrastructure and transportation projects that meet the surging transportation demand driven by the growth projected to impact the State of Florida
- Affordable Housing
 - Require an advocate for all monies from the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund to be used only on Florida’s affordable housing programs



The items mentioned above were merely scratching the proverbial surface as it relates to projects and initiatives; nonetheless, it is vital that the city establishes priorities and provides guidance to members of the lobbying firms that represent the city in both Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.

Citywide Goals:

Applicable citywide goals include the following: government stewardship and accountability, prosperous, resilient and sustainable economy, great neighborhoods, and operational excellence.

Fiscal/Budgetary Impact:

N/A – This particular memorandum does not possess any budgetary impact, as it is only providing legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative sessions. However, the city does have two contractual relationships with lobbying firms that the city pays approximately \$120,189.00, per FY.

Recommendation:

The staff recommends that the City Council provide additional comments, concerns, or legislative direction concerning the proposed FY 2019–2020 draft of legislative priorities. Should the board desire to make modifications and alter any of the proposed legislative priorities developed by the staff, those changes made in the resolution will honor the City Council’s wishes.