

Broward FLI

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CONTENTS

Urban Area Security Initiative

The American Jobs Act

Community Development
Block Grants

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Urban Area Security Initiative



Mayor Gunzburger, along with Broward County Intergovernmental Affairs staff, Emergency Management personnel and representatives from Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Monroe and Broward Counties will travel to Washington, DC September 14th and 15th to advocate for increased funding for the Miami-Fort Lauderdale Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The proposed FY 2012 Appropriations bills would reduce funding for the nation's UASIs \$1.2 billion below FY 2011 levels and give the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA sole discretion over funding allocations for the various state and local homeland security grant programs. For FY 2011, the Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI is scheduled to see a 44% reduction in funding.

Broward County is specifically concerned about how these proposed reductions will affect the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale UASI, which is already constrained by FY 2011 funding reductions. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the Department of Homeland Security, recently combined the Miami and Fort Lauderdale UASIs into one entity. This action, along with the proposed funding cuts, raises concerns about how the partnering counties, municipalities, and other participating entities will be able to fund the Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI's strategic needs and secure the regions critical infrastructure and high-profile facilities.

Accordingly, meetings with congressional leaders will seek to achieve the following six goals:

1. Acknowledgment and recognition of the unique risks within the Miami-Fort Lauderdale UASI.
2. Secure support for recognition as a Tier I UASI.
3. Obtain greater transparency in DHS risk calculation and scoring of UASIs.
4. In the event of additional UASI cuts, equal sharing of reductions among all UASIs.
5. Necessity of maintenance of UASI programs to preserve and sustain developed capacity (high cost to recover lost capability).
6. Retention of other Florida UASIs, including Jacksonville, Orlando and Tampa.

In early September, the four counties sent a joint letter to Senators Nelson and Rubio, which was signed by the Mayor and Sheriff of each county, to spearhead a

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coordinated effort in support of full funding for the Miami Fort Lauderdale UASI.

During the Washington, DC Fly-In, the UASI Advocacy Group will meet with the following offices:

- Senators Rubio, Coats, Nelson, and Landrieu.
- Representatives Ted Deutch, Allen West, Wasserman Schultz, Hastings, Bennie Thompson, Peter King, Tom Rooney, Jeff Miller, Mario Diaz-Balart, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and David Rivera.
- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee staff.

Broward County's federal lobbying firm, The Ferguson Group, will accompany Mayor Gunzburger and Intergovernmental Affairs staff to the meetings and strategy sessions.

The American Jobs Act



President Obama, in a speech to a Joint Session of Congress on September 8, proposed a \$447 billion American Jobs Act, intended to create jobs now and restart the country's fragile economic recovery. The plan outlines a series of initiatives, including tax cuts for small businesses, rebuilding and modernizing the nation's infrastructure, extending unemployment insurance, retention of first responders and cutting payroll taxes.

The major areas of the legislation include:

- Cutting in half the taxes paid by businesses (to 3.1%) on their first \$5 million in payroll.
- Eliminating payroll taxes for firms that add new workers or increase the wages of their current workers (the benefit is capped at the first \$50 million in payroll increases).
- Extending to 100 percent expensing to allow all firms (small, medium and large) to take an immediate deduction on investments in new plants and equipment.
- Reforms and regulatory reductions to help entrepreneurs and small businesses access capital.
- A "Returning Heroes Tax Credit" providing tax credits from \$5,600 to \$9,600 to encourage the hiring of unemployed veterans.
- Investments in infrastructure and creation of a National Infrastructure Bank to modernize our roads, rail, airports and waterways.
- Creating a new "Project Rebuild" to rehabilitate homes, businesses and communities, leveraging private capital and scaling land banks and other public-private collaborations.
- Reforming and extending the unemployment insurance program to prevent 5 million Americans looking for work from losing their benefits, including work-based reforms to prevent layoffs, and giving states greater flexibility to use UI funds to best support job-seekers, including:
 - Work-Sharing: UI for workers whose employers choose work-sharing over layoffs.
 - A new "Bridge to Work" program: The plan builds on and improves innovative state programs where those displaced take temporary, voluntary work or pursue on-the-job training.
 - Innovative entrepreneurship and wage insurance programs:

states will also be empowered to implement wage insurance to help reemploy older workers and programs that make it easier for unemployed workers to start their own businesses.

- A \$4,000 tax credit to employers for hiring long-term unemployed workers.
- Prohibiting employers from discriminating against unemployed workers when hiring.
- Expanding job opportunities for low-income youth and adults through a fund for successful approaches for subsidized employment, innovative training programs and summer/year-round jobs for youth.
- Expanding the payroll tax cut passed last year to cut workers payroll taxes in half in 2012 providing a \$1,500 tax cut to the typical American family, without negatively impacting the Social Security Trust Fund.
- Allowing more Americans to refinance their mortgages at today's near 4 percent interest rates, which can save a family more than \$2,000 a year.

The President's Long-Term Deficit Reduction Plan ensures that the American Jobs Act is fully paid, and the President will call on the Joint Committee to come up with additional deficit reductions necessary to pay for the Act while still meeting deficit reduction targets. In the coming days, the White House will release a detailed plan that will demonstrate how to pay for the Act's provisions to achieve the President's broader goal of stabilizing the nation's debt as a share of the economy.



Preliminary cost analysis of the President's proposal are outlined as follows:

Cut employer payroll taxes in half	\$65 billion
Extend 100% expensing in 2012	\$ 5 billion
Teacher rehiring and first responders	\$35 billion
Modernizing schools	\$30 billion
Immediate surface transportation	\$50 billion
Infrastructure bank	\$10 billion
Rehabilitation of vacant property (neighborhood stabilization)	\$15 billion
Veterans hiring initiative	n.a.
Unemployment Insurance Reform and Extension	\$49 billion
Jobs tax credit for long term unemployed	\$ 8 billion
Pathways back to work fund	\$ 5 billion
<u>Cutting employee payroll taxes in half in 2012</u>	<u>\$175 billion</u>
TOTAL	\$447 billion

The President also committed to sending Congress, for their immediate approval, the free trade agreements recently renegotiated with Columbia, Panama and South Korea in an effort to boost exports and create additional jobs.

Community Development Block Grants



The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development released its version of the FY 2012 Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies bill. The bill would increase funding to the CDBG program by \$200 million, bringing total funding to \$3.5 billion. Unfortunately, the bill only allows for 10% of any CDBG grant to be used for planning and administration purposes; the current program allows for 20%.

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This provision may hinder the total job creation spurred by the CDBG program and may be opposed by local housing finance agencies.

Funding for the HOME program is reduced to \$1.2 billion from the current \$1.6 billion, possibly in partial response to a Washington Post report finding that HUD failed, in some cases, to sufficiently monitor construction projects funded through the program. The bill directs the GAO to complete a study within 180 days of enactment identifying waste, fraud and abuse in HUD's Community Planning and Development programs.

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