



Office of the Town Manager

Rafael G. Casals
Town Manager

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council

From: Rafael G. Casals, Town Manager

Date: October 19, 2016

Re: Amending Coastal Management Element within the Town Growth Management Plan:
First Reading includes comments from State of Florida Department of Economic
Opportunity letter dated September 2, 2016

REQUEST

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA AMENDING THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT WITHIN THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO BE CONSISTENT WITH RECENT STATE LAW LEGISLATION; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Town staff is requesting that the Town Council transmit the amendment to the Coastal Management Element to the Department of Economic Opportunity and other review agencies. Based on a comment from the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in their letter dated September 2, 2016 (*Attachment "A"*), there were no objections to the Town's first Climate Change Element. However, there were comments to amend the Coastal Management Element to include an Objective and implementing Policies.

Since incorporation, the Town has been a leader in green building and other environmentally friendly programs, within Miami-Dade County and beyond. The Town Growth Management Plan and Land Development Regulations are at the forefront of "going green".

On July 1, 2014 the Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force issued a Report (the "Report") and Recommendations concerning Sea Level Rise. The conclusion of this report was the need for an adaption plan, everglades restoration and measures to prevent salt water intrusion. As stated previously the Town has been proactive. For example, the





Town's Floodplain Mitigation Plan adopted by Resolution #15-27 in May, 2015 recognizes the challenges of Climate Change and Sea Level rise (Sec 3.2.1).

The Report concluded that it is important to understand that sea level rise is not an endpoint but rather a continuing trend and the Town must consider and plan for sea level rise in future policy decisions. By examining local rates of sea level change and local projections for sea level rise at six to ten (6-10) inches by 2030 and fourteen to thirty-four (14-34) inches by 2060, the Town can begin to analyze and plan for the impacts of sea level rise in long range planning.

With respect to Peril of Flood, recent 2015 Florida legislative changes (Section 163.3178(2)(f), F.S. direct coastal communities to address principals that must be used to eliminate inappropriate and unsafe development in coastal areas when opportunities arise. The Town has included the required new strategies.

The amendments to the Coastal Management Element address the recent Peril of Flood 2015 legislative requirements. The Department of Economic Opportunity provided comments consistent with Section 163.3168(3), F.S. These comments are included in the amendment and help strengthen the Town's Comprehensive Plan in order to foster a vibrant, healthy community and ensure consistency with Chapter 163, F.S.

According to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, recent 2015 Florida legislative changes known as "Peril of Flood" direct coastal communities to address principles that must be used to eliminate appropriate and unsafe development in coastal areas when opportunities arise. The Town has included the required strategies in the Coastal Management Element.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on a comment from the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in their letter dated September 2, 2016, there were no objections to the Town's first Climate Change Element. However, there were comments to amend the Coastal Management Element to include an Objective and implementing Policies. Staff is recommending approval of the amendment to the Coastal Management Element.

ATTACHMENT

- Attachment "A" – State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Letter
- Attachment "B" – Advertisement Miami-Herald Local Section (October 9, 2016)

