



# **TOWN OF CUTLER BAY**

**2019**

## **STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**Mayor Tim Meerbott**

**Vice Mayor Sue Ellen Loyzelle**

**Council Member Robert "BJ" Duncan**

**Council Member Michael P. Callahan**

**Council Member Roger Coriat**

**Town Manager Rafael G. Casals**





## **Town of Cutler Bay Legislative Principles**

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- State Government should focus on state-level issues and allow local governments to operate with minimal state interference. The Town of Cutler Bay will oppose legislation that increases the involvement of state government in municipal affairs and preempts local governing prerogatives.
- For Florida's economy to prosper, cities need to succeed. The Town of Cutler Bay will promote state investments in municipal infrastructure in order to create jobs and promote municipal revitalization. This will include funding for wastewater and stormwater improvements, local transportation projects, park and recreational activities, green technologies, and energy-saving initiatives.
- State Government should not be allowed to continue disrupting the relationship between citizens and their city elected officials' authority to make decisions impacting the provision of municipal services and quality of life. The Town of Cutler Bay will oppose additional arbitrary limits on property assessments, municipal expenditures, and local revenues.
- State mandates should be funded with state resources and should not seek to access local tax dollars. The Town of Cutler Bay will oppose unfunded mandates and support policies that require full funding of state initiatives and mandates to cities.



## LEGISLATION – SUPPORTS

- ❖ The Town of Cutler Bay **supports** the South Florida Water Management District **AND** the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Phase I Project. The Cutler Wetlands re-establishes connectivity between coastal and near shore wetlands and hydrates areas susceptible to hyper saline conditions including a pump station, culverts and a spreader canal.

The intent of the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project is to rehydrate coastal wetlands and reduce freshwater point source discharges to Biscayne Bay. In addition, the project will replace lost overland flow and partially compensate for the reduction in groundwater seepage by redistributing available surface water entering the area from regional canals through a spreader canal system.

- ❖ The Town of Cutler Bay **supports** legislation relating to disposable plastic bags; authorizing certain municipalities to establish pilot programs to regulate or ban disposable plastic bags; provides program criteria, provides for program expiration; directs participating municipalities to collect data and submit reports to municipal governing bodies and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); defines term “coastal community”; effective date upon becoming a law.
- ❖ The Town of Cutler Bay **supports** strengthening the prohibition on existing and new unfunded mandates, requires enhanced staff analyses of quantification of the costs to cities, and ensures full state funding sources be assigned whenever unfunded mandates are identified.
- ❖ The Town of Cutler Bay **supports** the creation of regulations related to retail business centers with parking lots containing 25 or more parking spaces; providing for installation of security camera systems for parking lot surveillance. The Town Council of Cutler Bay finds that the parking lots of retail, restaurant and service establishments may expose people to the risk of abductions, robberies, and other similar criminal acts. A study conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services has determined that there is a reduced level of fear amongst people who are aware they are under video surveillance, while also encouraging people to be more security conscious. (For more details please refer to Town Ordinance #09-03).



## **LEGISLATION – SUPPORTS**

- ❖ **UPDATED:** The Town of Cutler Bay **supports** the broad exercise of home rule powers granted to municipalities under the Florida Constitution and statutorily enacted by the Legislature within the provisions of 166.021, Florida Statutes. Municipal Home Rule which is essential in reflecting the needs and desires of local communities (Town Resolution #17-19).
- ❖ **UPDATED:** Consistent with the Town of Cutler Bay’s support of home rule powers, the Town **supports** legislation that allows local municipalities to control and manage its ordinance process with regard to short term rentals and the ability to reasonably enact standards supported by the community.
- ❖ **NEW:** The Town of Cutler Bay **supports** state and local economic development efforts and urges Enterprise Florida, the Small Business Development Network, and other similar state entities to focus on the needs of local communities with regard to the revitalization of their business core and job creation efforts.
- ❖ **NEW:** The Town Cutler Bay **urges** the Florida Department of Agriculture to enact and fund an Urban Forestry Program to provide technical assistance and funding for the greening of communities.
- ❖ **NEW:** The Town of Cutler Bay **supports** the prohibition of “texting while driving” and urges the Florida Legislature to enact policy prohibiting this practice.
- ❖ **NEW:** The Town of Cutler Bay **supports** the legislative initiatives of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
- ❖ The Town of Cutler Bay **supports** legislation that allows for the removal of Billboards along the Florida Department of Transportation Right-of-Ways adjacent to the South Dade Transitway.
- ❖ The Town of Cutler Bay **supports** legislation for the 2019 Legislative Session to fund flood mitigation in affected communities. The Town further proposes that communities with an adopted Flood Mitigation Master Plan that has been reviewed and approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) receive priority when being considered for funding.