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Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Honorable Jean Monestime, Chairman
And Members
Miami-Dade County Commission
111 NW First Street, 2nd Floor
Miami, FL 33128

Re: Sea Level Rise Resolutions, January 21, 2015 Agenda - Resolutions 11A11 – 11A16

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

I am writing today on behalf of the Builders Association of South Florida's (BASF) Miami-Dade Legislative Committee. **They have considered the above resolutions regarding Sea Level Rise (SLR) and offer their endorsement and support at this time.** We do request that our members be provided a seat at the table in all discussions on these matters going forward.

While the members see the great importance of beginning to work on an SLR adaptation plan, many unanswered issues exist that will have to be continuously monitored and addressed to ensure that our community is moving forward in the correct direction. **BASF Members are keenly interested in participating in all aspects of these regulatory and code issues.** As they see them, they include, but are not limited to these issues:

- **Building Code Changes** – appropriately led by the Board of Rules and Appeals, this effort needs to focus on the myriad of changes to the building code, including such issues as handicapped accessibility ramp geometry and driveway calculations into high rise building entry ways.
- **Public Works Manual changes** – changes to base flood elevation for ALL structures, including all buildings, homes, roadways, drainage structures, and other infrastructure which developers and governments must build.
- **Insurance and Reinsurance matters** – BASF members want to participate with any such working group that is established.
- **Continuous Sea Level Rise Data Gathering** - need to continuously monitor recent historic data, to ensure that County and private developers are building structures at the appropriate height: not too low – or equally as expensive and incorrect – not too high.

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- **Also, BASF members raised some threshold questions relating to new definitions including how will the terms “resiliency” and “adaptive” be defined as they relate to one building, one development or to an entire community when so much of our environment is already built? How will this be applied to remaining proposed or new development?**

As with all other regulatory issues facing our community, **BASF considers itself a partner with the County in addressing these challenges and developing new regulations that will deal with them for the future.** Our members look forward to participating in all aspects of this important effort.

Thank you for considering the Association’s views.

Sincerely,



Ms. Trudy Burton, Executive Vice President & Government Affairs Director

cc: Mayor Carlos Gimenez
Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Chair, Sea Level Rise Task Force
Deputy Mayor Jack Osterholt



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