

**PORT OF PALM BEACH DISTRICT  
REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION AND  
COMMISSION ACTION**

**DISTRICT REPORTS  
ITEM G-3**

---

**PREPARED BY:** Venice Howard Deputy Clerk April 9, 2018

---

**SUBJECT: GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT**

---

**BACKGROUND:** For your review and discussion, attached is a copy of the Governmental Affairs Report provided by Mr. Richard Pinsky.

---

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED:** No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes  X

---

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** N/A

---

**RECOMMENDATION:** None. Informational Item Only.

---

**Respectfully Submitted By:**



**Manuel Almira, Executive Director**

---

**DATE ACTION TAKEN:** \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

Deferred To: \_\_\_\_\_

Incorporated into Minutes: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

Unanimous: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_



## Port of Palm Beach Governmental Affairs Report

April 19, 2018

### **2018 Session**

Following the March 14<sup>th</sup> Port of Palm Beach Commission Meeting, Governor Rick Scott released his 2018 Line Item Veto List of projects, eliminating them from the budget adopted by the legislature.

The following items impacting Palm Beach County, were vetoed:

- \$150,000 for the City of Riviera Beach Summer Youth Employment Program.
- \$250,000 for Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society
- \$500,000 for the City of Palm Beach Gardens City Hall expansion

The following item impacting Florida's ports, was vetoed:

- \$300,000 for 10'x10' heat exhaustion break pods for port workers

At the same time, and escaping the veto pen, was the \$2 million dollars for the Port of Fernandina's Multipurpose Dock Crane and Warehouse, which was APPROVED.

### **Florida Senate**

State Representative Lori Berman was successfully elected to the State Senate on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, in the Special Election for District 31, filling the vacancy created when former State Senator Jeff Clemens resigned.

### **Governor's Job Growth Grant Fund**

The Governor recently announced nearly \$23 million in awards for eleven additional Florida Job Growth Grant Fund projects across the state. The project awards are from The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, established by Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature last year, which provides \$85 million for improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training in Florida.

The Port of Palm Beach has requested funding grant award to help the Port complete its on-port rail upgrades and expansion.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has received more than 235 proposals requesting more than \$825 million in funding. The recent \$23 million in awards reflects a total of more than \$57 million in funding awarded to 21 entities across the state.



In addition to the remaining \$28 million available out of the \$85 million fund for FY 2017-18, another \$85 million for the Fund was approved in the budget for FY 2018-19.

### **Federal Budget**

The high hopes that the total budget approval of \$1.5 trillion dollars set aside for infrastructure improvements for roads, rail, bridges, airports, ports, water plants, etc. would translate into one large infrastructure spending plan is officially dead. No one in congress wants to pay for it.

Instead the new congressional direction is for the creation of two smaller bills; reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Authority; and a water resources bill, and calling it the start of an infrastructure package.

As for the future of any TIGER funding, it is a waiting game to see if the Trump Administration really pushes ahead to eliminate the TIGER program altogether. It is doubtful the Administration will garner enough votes to eliminate TIGER, but it will delay getting the program rolled out anytime soon.