



VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK
Village Commission Agenda Report

#Item 15.a.2

REGULAR MEETING

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Biscayne Park Village Commission

FROM: Sharon P. Ragoonan, Village Manager

DATE: January 10, 2017

TITLE: Village Manager's Report: Discussion Regarding FY Legislative
Priorities and Appropriation Requests

Recommendation

It is recommended the Mayor and Village Commission discuss and identify the legislative priorities for appropriation requests.

Background

The Village contracts with David T. Caserta Government Relations, Inc. to assist the Village with lobbying efforts at the County and State level. This firm advocates for the Biscayne Park's interests during the upcoming legislative session and throughout the year.

In order to prepare for the legislative session, the firm requests direction on the Village's position regarding issues, pending legislation, and funding requests that would affect the Village, such as indicating the legislation the Village will endorse or support, the legislation the Village will oppose, and the financial support the Village will request. The firm suggests identifying two (2) to three (3) priorities.

The Village Commission will need to formally adopt its priorities at the next Commission meeting.

Resource Impact

This is not fiscal impact associated with this action.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Correspondence from Lobbyist David Caserta

Prepared by: Sharon P. Ragoonan, Village Manager

From: flagovernment@aol.com [<mailto:flagovernment@aol.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 2:01 PM

To: Sharon Ragoonan <villagemanager@biscayneparkfl.gov>

Subject: overview of 2017 legislative session process

Ms. Ragoonan,

I hope all is well and that everyone had a healthy and safe new years break. Once again, congratulations to our newly elected officials. I enjoyed the opportunity to speak to all of you at our organizational workshop back in December and am looking forward to working with each of you to benefit the residents of the the Village.

The following shall briefly outline the process that we should expect this year in Tallahassee as it relates to our appropriations request:

The House of Representatives has issued new rules as it applies to both policy and budget issues over the next couple of years. As your government relations consultant I am required to file our yearly consulting agreements with the House public integrity & Ethics office, of which I have already done.

In addition, prior to discussions with legislators or staff, we are required to register each appropriations and policy issues that we will be working on behalf of each client. This registration is only required once per session. With regards to our appropriations request, we will be required to complete the new House Appropriations form for each request. Once completed, we will then forward the completed forms to our various House sponsors who will be required to submit the forms electronically on our behalf. Once the forms are submitted and reviewed by House staff, an appropriations bill for each of our projects will be generated and filed. Each appropriations bill will be assigned to various house committees for consideration. In order to be considered as part of the budget discussions it will be required to successfully pass out of one committee. It is our understanding that for an appropriations request to also be considered in conference discussions the bill must at least have been filled on time.

The new rules will require the manager and any other staff of the Village to occasionally come to Tallahassee, when our bill or bills are being considered, to meet with legislative staff and to address any questions by various committee members. We will do our best to give ample notice.

The process in the Senate will remain as it has always been and will allow us to discuss issues with staff and legislators based on meeting our general statutory requirements to register for each client, of which has already been satisfied. We still are required to submit an approved senate appropriations form for each of our projects as well.

Please note. both the House and Senate appropriations forms must be completed and sent to me by January 13th so that I am able to get them to our legislative sponsors in time for them to file within the required due dates set by each respective chamber.

I would however like to request that you immediately send me a list of appropriation projects that you are considering (even if we decide not to pursue some of them) so that I am able to register those issues to begin discussions, next week, with legislators who may be interested in becoming our sponsors. This way, once you give me the final list of agreed upon requests determined at your Jan 10th meeting, we will be ready to complete the forms and file our official projects within the due dates. I will review the final list with the manager and also recommend which of the projects are realistically achievable.

I look forward to working with all of you.

Thanks

David Caserta

David T. Caserta Government Relations, Inc.
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Doral, Florida 33126