

**EXHIBIT "A"**

# The City of Coconut Creek, Florida

## *2024 Proposed Federal Legislative Agenda*





**Prepared by Van Scoyoc Associates for the**

**Coconut Creek City Commission**

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## Issue Progress To-Date & Future Funding Goals

### Applied for Department of Justice Body Worn Camera Grant Program: \$963,000 Community Project Funding Request (Earmark)

- VSA worked with the City to submit an earmark request in the House of Representatives for funding to implement a comprehensive body-worn camera (BWC) program to include related equipment, technologies, and policies.
- The strategy included a review of Congressional guidance released in January 2023 that identified eligible programs and priorities for DOJ earmark accounts.
- VSA briefed Congressman Moskowitz's Legislative Director on the BWC program's direct benefits to the public in the form of increased accountability and transparency, reduced complaints, assistance with resolving officer-involved incidents, identifying and correcting agency issues, and providing increased evidence documentation.
- The request was approved by Rep Moskowitz and was included in the appropriations subcommittee bill markup at the \$963,000 level (80% of the full amount requested and the second-highest BWC award behind a County with a population ~37 times larger than Coconut Creek).
- VSA continues its support as the Commerce, Justice, Science (DOJ) bill continues its path towards full House approval and enactment.

### Tracked & Reported Grant Award for DOJ Bulletproof Vest Program: \$15,552

- VSA tracked and reported the City's grant award for the DOJ Bulletproof Vest Program in the amount of \$15,552.
- VSA shared this news with Rep Moskowitz's Legislative Director.

### Monitored Community Directed Funding – Federal Appropriations: \$3,900,000

- In 2022, VSA helped craft a "community directed" project request (aka earmark) with the City and Broward County MPO for \$3.9 million to fund a pedestrian lighting project on Lyons Road.
- The Omnibus was signed into law on December 29<sup>th</sup>.
- In 2023, VSA coordinated with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for registration and release of the funding. Administrative approval of the funding was recently achieved through this coordination.

### Continued to Monitor American Rescue Plan (ARPA) COVID State and Local Relief Funds – Senators Cornyn & Padilla Amendment

- During 2023, VSA also continued to provide Department of Treasury guidance on the spending of the American Rescue Plan and FEMA closing the incident period of COVID-related public assistance funding. This included the Padilla/Cornyn Amendment passed in March 2023 which allows 10% of funds to be used for local infrastructure.



- Based on the City's allocation of \$8,597,464, the amendment would allow up to \$860,000 to be spent on infrastructure projects as well as emergency relief from natural disasters.

### Assisted Developing Funding Capture Strategy for Department of Transportation EV Infrastructure Grant Program

- VSA worked with the City's Sustainability Director in shaping a grant application and determining scoring criteria and competitiveness for the City.
- Helped identify four locations for EV infrastructure within the DOT grant criteria.
- Offered guidance and analysis for applying the Administration's economic justice screening tools to the grant capture strategy.
- Identified funding targets for proposed project.

### Provided 2023 Grant Analysis and Grant Forecast Reports

- During 2023, VSA provided monthly insight and analysis into upcoming grant and programmatic funding opportunities that aligned with the priorities outlined in the City's 2023 Federal Agenda.
- VSA also kept the City apprised of newly announced tools and administrative priorities and how to make the City's applications more competitive (e.g., DOT EV Toolkit, Justice 40 Screening Tool, FEMA Risk Rating Map, Bureau of Justice Assistance and FEMA AFG Webinar takeaways, etc.).
- VSA also provided the City the following specific grant program capture strategies:
  - DOT EV Charging Infrastructure Grant
  - EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Program
  - EPA Recycling Education & Outreach Program
  - Main Street Initiative Grant Report
  - Q2 Grant Forecasting Report
  - Q3 Grant Forecasting Report

### Provided Support to Key Federal Legislation & Rule-Making

- VSA closely monitored the Bureau of Indian Affairs' proposed land acquisition rule and its potential unintended effects on municipalities. As part of this effort, VSA held four related strategy sessions with City staff, prepared briefing external materials, and facilitated meetings for the City to provide feedback on the proposed rule to staffers from the House Natural Resources Committee; Indian Insular Affairs Subcommittee, Office of Senator Scott, and Office of Jared Moskowitz.
  - Update: on December 12, the Department of Interior released the final rule in the Federal Register implementing the expanded regulatory policy for tribal land acquisition. This rule is under current review by the joint City and Federal team.
  - Discussed with staff on next steps. VSA will work with the City in ensuring the rule's implementation follows NEPA procedures and allows for adequate public involvement and notification.



- VSA also drafted the following letters of support for the City's consideration of active legislation before the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress:
  - Disaster Assistance Simplification Act (S.1528)
  - Disaster Relief Replenishment Act (H.R.4295)
  - EAGLES Act (H.R.1005)
  - Thin Blue Line Act (H.R.130)

#### FY24 Funding Targets

- Congressionally Directed Funding
  - Modernize and upgrade the Coconut Creek Police Department (*Potential*)
- Grant and/or Programmatic Funding
  - Support the development of eligible components of Lakeside Park
  - Administer and expand recycling programs
  - Enhance the City's cybersecurity
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (IIJA) Funding
  - Mitigate the impacts of climate change
  - Increase the resilience of surface transportation systems
  - Improve pedestrian and biker safety
  - Support the Complete Streets Improvement Project
- Inflation Reduction Act: Grants
- Inflation Reduction Act: Direct Tax Rebates (up to 30% project costs)
- Community Development Block Grants to support the City's housing and urban development goals



## 2024 Federal Legislative & Regulatory Agenda

### Energy & Environment

#### **FEDERAL ISSUE: Federal Landfill Emissions Regulations**

##### **BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK**

The North Broward County Resource Recovery and Central Disposal Sanitary Landfill, also known as Monarch Hill Renewable Energy Park, is a 225-foot-high landfill site owned by Waste Management located adjacent to the City of Coconut Creek. The landfill takes in an average of 3,500 tons of trash per day and has long emitted emission odors into the air. Odors from the facility have been reported as far as four miles away.

In 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a new emissions standard requiring a reduction in the threshold for municipal landfill emissions from 50 megagrams (Mg) per year to 34 Mg per year. Any landfill that exceeds those thresholds would be required to install and utilize a gas collection and control system to bring emissions below the threshold within 30 months of the violation. The City submitted additional comments in support of this rule. The final rule was finalized and became effective on October 28, 2016.

In 2018, the EPA issued a new proposed ruling to amend the 2016 final regulation by changing the timing requirements for states to submit their compliance plans, delaying the state's due dates from May 2017 to August 2019. VSA attended the public hearing on this proposed rule, and the City prepared a response to this proposed rulemaking highlighting the impacts of continued delays in implementing the original 2016 regulation. Copies of their response were provided to their Congressional delegation. In addition, on December 17, 2019, a federal judge rejected a Trump administration bid for more time to act on landfill methane emissions. The court concluded that the Trump Administration violated the Clean Air Act by not acting on harmful emissions from landfills.

During this uncertain time, VSA worked with the City staff and the City Commission to develop letters in support of implementing the original 2016 regulations that included working with Representative Deutch, Senators Rubio, and Scott, as well as directly with EPA through public hearings and coalition building.

In December 2020, the State of Florida submitted its proposed plan for meeting the new emission regulations. VSA continued its federal advocacy coordination with the City's Congressional delegation to support the implementation of the 2016 regulations and in consideration of legislative language that would encourage the implementation of the regulations.



In February 2022, EPA published the Final Rule for the new landfill emission standards. Hazardous pollutants covered by the rule include, but are not limited to, vinyl chloride, ethyl benzene, toluene, and benzene. The new emission standards are now in place and, for Florida, will be monitored by Florida Department of Environmental Quality.

## 2024 POSITION

**Support** federal regulations that create stricter environmental standards and testing for municipal solid waste landfills and waste transportation through communities. **Oppose** efforts to weaken landfill regulations. **Monitor** the EPA's oversight of the emission standards approved in early 2022 and Florida DEP emission monitoring of local landfill's compliance. **Monitor** the proposed plans to expand the Broward County landfill and how the EPA ruling affects its control of emissions.



## FEDERAL ISSUE: Waste Recycling Programs

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA) provides \$275,000,000 from Fiscal Year 2022 to Fiscal Year 2026 for waste recycling program grants authorized under the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act. Projects funded through the funding opportunity are intended to (1) implement the “building a circular economy for all strategy series,” (2) improve local post-consumer materials management programs, including municipal recycling, and (3) make improvements to local waste management systems.

The IIJA introduced the following related grant programs:

- 1. Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program:** Provides \$75 million from Fiscal Year 2022 to Fiscal Year 2026 for grants to fund a new Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program. Projects funded through the grant program will:
  - Inform the public about residential or community recycling or composting programs.
  - Provide information about the materials accepted as part of residential or community recycling or composting programs.
  - Increase collection rates and decrease contamination across the nation.
- 2. Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program:** This new program is designed to support improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs, and assist local waste management authorities in improving local waste management systems. This program is allocated \$55 million annually from Fiscal Years 2022 to 2026 to remain available until expended.

### 2024 POSITION

**Support** funding strategies that will assist local governments in administering and expanding recycling programs within their communities.





## FEDERAL ISSUE: Energy Exploration

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

*Offshore Energy Development:* Florida's western and eastern coasts are under a moratorium on oil and gas activities within 125 miles of the Florida coastline under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) of 2006. The original moratorium was set to expire in 2022 but was extended through 2032 by then-President Trump. The latest moratorium also expands the 10-year ban to Florida's Atlantic coast.

In September 2023, the U.S. Department of Interior announced its long-awaited 5-year Offshore Leasing Plan for oil exploration as required by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act – referred to as “the Plan” in that Act. The Plan calls for a maximum of three offshore oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico in 2025, 2027 and 2029, with no lease sales scheduled for the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, as well as Alaska.

The Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) stated that the Plan included the minimum number of offshore oil and gas lease sales to enable BOEM “to continue to expand its offshore wind leasing program through 2030.” The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) requires the Interior Department to hold at least one offshore oil and gas sale within the year of any offshore wind lease sale. The Interior Department has a 60-day waiting period before formal approval. In prior plans and historically, the Interior Department has offered approximately 11 lease sales in a five-year span.

*Fracking:* If fracking was introduced in Florida, residents in counties with a history of oil and gas extraction, such as Escambia, Santa Rosa, Collier, Lee, Hendry, and Lee, would likely be the primary targets. Counties neighboring these extraction-prone areas are likely to experience the impact of fracking as well given that the application of horizontal drilling techniques could facilitate exploration for miles in underground horizontal directions. Consequently, counties, including Broward, Miami-Dade, Glades, Okaloosa, and others, might be susceptible to impacts associated with fracking. Given these potential concerns, VSA will continue to closely monitor any initiatives by the Administration that would affect future oil and gas exploration on public lands and any efforts that could lead to fracking in Florida.

### 2024 POSITION

**Oppose** relaxation of the prohibition against leases on permits for drilling oil or gas wells within the boundaries of Florida's territorial seas. **Oppose** legislation that would prevent the Florida Department of Environmental Protection from blocking requests for offshore drilling in federal waters off Florida's coast. **Oppose** seismic surveying within the Everglades, surrounding critical areas, or other federal lands. **Oppose** efforts to ease restrictions on hydraulic fracturing and other oil and gas extraction activities.



## FEDERAL ISSUE: Water Quality Legislation and Rulemaking – PFAS

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a class of over 9,000 man-made chemicals manufactured and used in various industries around the globe, have made their way into communities around the country. This pollution is particularly common in communities near military installations, airports or industrial sites. Most directly affected are local governments' drinking water and wastewater with PFAS found in soil, landfills, waterways, and many other locations.

As communities across the country face challenges around addressing PFAS contamination, many are turning to legal suits for damages and to recover cleanup costs. Several large manufacturers of PFAS chemicals have reached settlements with local governments, and other legal cases are still pending in courts.

These suits come as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is undergoing several rulemaking processes regarding PFAS, and Congress is drafting legislation. The results of these actions may affect liabilities and future costs for the City.

In June 2023, Senators Tom Carper (D-DE) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, released [draft legislation](#) to provide additional resources around PFAS at the federal, state and local levels. While the draft legislation includes provisions to help prevent further pollution and contamination from PFAS and to remove PFAS chemicals from the environment, it does not include a key local government priority of municipal liability protection.

Local governments, including water utilities, municipal landfills, and solid waste facilities, are passive receivers of PFAS chemicals that do not cause or contribute to contamination. Additionally, local governments, including municipal airports and fire departments, were required by federal law to use firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals. As such, local governments should not be held liable for PFAS contamination or cleanup costs. Rather, polluters should pay for cleanup – not communities and taxpayers.

Separately, Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) introduced [legislation](#) to provide liability protections for municipal water utilities, landfills, airports, and fire suppression entities. This legislation or similar language could potentially be included in a revised draft for consideration by the Environment and Public Works Committee.

### 2024 POSITION

**Monitor** the development of PFAS chemical treatment legislation and rulemaking for water quality standards that may have cost impacts on the City.



## FEDERAL ISSUE: Waters of the United States and Regulatory Reform

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Congress enacted the Clean Water Act in 1972 with the statutory objective “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.” One of the Act’s principal tools in achieving that objective is prohibiting the discharge of pollutants from a point source to “navigable waters” unless otherwise authorized under the Act. “Navigable waters” are defined in the Act as “the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas.” Thus, “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) is a threshold term establishing the geographic scope of federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. The term “waters of the United States” is not defined by the Act but has been determined by the EPA and Army in regulations since the 1970s and jointly implemented in the agencies’ respective programmatic activities.

The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers announced a [final rule](#) amending the 2023 definition of “waters of the United States” to conform with the recent Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*. In announcing the new rule, the agencies say their actions provide the clarity needed to advance the goals of the Clean Water Act while moving forward with infrastructure projects, economic opportunities, and agricultural activities.

While the 2023 Waters of the United States proposed rule, issued by the agencies on January 18, was not directly before the Supreme Court, the agencies said the decision in *Sackett* made clear that certain aspects of the 2023 rule are invalid. The amendments issued today are intended to be limited and change only parts of the 2023 rule that are invalid under the *Sackett v. EPA* decision. For example, the final rule removes the significant nexus test from consideration when identifying tributaries and other waters as federally protected.

With this action, the Army Corps of Engineers will resume issuing all jurisdictional determinations. Because the sole purpose of this rule is to amend specific provisions of the 2023 Rule that are invalid under *Sackett*, the rule will take effect immediately.

The WOTUS Rule may affect which project actions within the City require Clean Water Act permitting and additional environmental analysis. This includes actions that the City takes as well as other public and private project sponsors.

### 2024 POSITION

**Monitor** the Administration’s efforts in implementing the new ruling defining waters of the United States and evaluate cost impacts to the City.



## FEDERAL ISSUE: Climate Change

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

President Biden addresses climate change in almost every piece of legislation he proposes. The most significant of these is the recently passed Infrastructure Bill (IIJA), which addresses climate change through grants and other programs that will take these effects into account.

By Executive Order, the President is directing agencies to consider the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases (SC-GHG) in environmental reviews conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as appropriate. This requirement must be met if the City receives any federal dollars via a grant or Congressionally directed funding.

In terms of competing for federal dollars, the agencies will prioritize grant applications and earmark requests that address climate change as appropriate in their project funding requests – as directed by the Administration.

### 2024 POSITION

**Monitor** any proposed climate change legislation that may impact the environment and ensure that any adverse environmental and health impacts are disclosed prior to approval. **Identify** opportunities for funding local and regional projects from the Infrastructure Bill and any additional legislation in 2023.



## Social Services & Economic Development

### FEDERAL ISSUE: Department of Housing and Urban Development Grant Programs

#### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

The number of affordable homes for the typical family in South Florida has plummeted to some of the lowest levels in almost a decade. Higher mortgage rates, low supply and intense demand combined have increasingly made affordability a challenge. According to the latest National Association Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index, a mere 12% of homes in the tri-county (Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Broward) area could be considered affordable to those making the median income, or \$68,300 a year. The need to expand affordable housing options, supported by federal funding opportunities, is clear.

While the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides various funding opportunities, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program stands out as a significant resource for Coconut Creek, FL. As a recipient of direct allocations through this program, Coconut Creek can strategically leverage CDBG funds to realize its long-term housing goals. The CDBG program empowers elected county officials to comprehensively plan, implement, and evaluate local community development and housing assistance initiatives. By committing CDBG funds to projects aligned with local priorities, Coconut Creek can make significant strides in addressing housing and the specific needs of low-income populations within its jurisdiction. The established objectives of the CDBG program align seamlessly with Coconut Creek's vision, aiming to promote affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and enhance community infrastructure in low to moderate-income areas. With the program currently funded at \$3.3 billion and a proposed increase to \$3.415 billion in FY24, Coconut Creek has a unique opportunity to secure the financial support needed to implement sustainable and impactful initiatives that will contribute to the city's long-term housing goals.

#### RELATED FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- HOME Investment Partnerships Program
- Continuum of Care, Homeless Assistance Program
- Community Development Block Grants Program
- Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program
- Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program

#### 2024 POSITION

**Support** adequate funding for the Community Development Block Grant program for future fiscal years because of its critical role in the City's efforts to support those that are least fortunate. **Monitor** current legislation reforming the CDBG emergency funding program and its potential impacts on the City.



## FEDERAL ISSUE: Healthcare Policy and Reform

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

The American Rescue Plan (ARP), the Administration’s COVID relief plan that passed in March 2021, contained multiple provisions intended to bolster the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and get more Americans health coverage. The ARP did this by increasing funding for Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, expanding COBRA subsidies, and enhancing subsidies for ACA marketplace coverage, including for people receiving unemployment benefits.

The extension of ACA premium subsidies, in particular, has significantly impacted healthcare coverage for low and middle-income residents in Florida, which leads the nation in ACA plan enrollment — in absolute numbers and as a percentage of its population. As of 2023, there are 3.2 million Floridians enrolled, nearly 15% of the state's population. The more people with access to affordable health insurance, the less the burden on city’s resources for addressing uncompensated care. This, in turn, has helped alleviate the financial strain on city-funded healthcare programs and facilities. These provisions, which were extended by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), are set to expire in 2025.

In addition to expanding ACA subsidies, the IRA will also begin capping the cost of out-of-pocket prescription drugs for individuals enrolled in Medicare at \$2,000/year starting in FY 2025. Beneficiaries will be able to distribute those drug costs through monthly payments throughout the year. Capping prescription drug costs will improve health outcomes for the most vulnerable and reduce the burden on locally funded hospitals and emergency rooms. The IRA also contained a provision to provide free CDC-recommended vaccines to individuals enrolled in Medicare.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid continue to be a perennial source of tension between Republicans and Democrats in both chambers of Congress. As lawmakers navigate potential policy and budgetary changes, VSA will closely monitor developments and advocate for policies that align with the needs of Coconut Creek’s residents.

### 2024 POSITION

**Monitor** changes to Medicare in relation to any healthcare reform legislation. **Monitor** implementation of provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act.



## **FEDERAL ISSUE: Affordable Senior Healthcare (NEW)**

### **BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK**

Many seniors are becoming increasingly concerned about escalating healthcare costs, including the price of prescription drugs, medical billing, and out-of-pocket expenses. According to a comprehensive survey conducted by West Health and Gallup, nearly two-thirds of adults aged 65 and above acknowledge that healthcare costs pose either a major (15%) or minor (51%) financial burden. This financial strain has forced a significant portion of this demographic to make difficult sacrifices with one in four seniors reporting that they reduced their spending on essential needs like food, utilities, clothing, or medication to cover healthcare costs. Moreover, 11% of seniors admitted to skipping prescribed medication to save money.

Initiatives at the federal level to improve the affordability of healthcare for seniors have included efforts to increase transparency in drug pricing, promote competition between pharmaceutical companies, and encourage the use of generic drugs. In addition, laws like the Medicare Modernization Act have tried to make it easier for seniors to access affordable medications. Policymakers have also looked into ways to import cheaper prescription drugs and negotiate drug prices for Medicare. Although some progress has been made, there is clearly much more work to be done in ongoing collaboration with the federal agencies, Congress, and the administration to make meaningful and sustainable improvements in healthcare affordability for seniors.

### **2024 POSITION**

**Monitor** legislative and regulatory initiatives impacting the affordability of healthcare of seniors. **Support** federal efforts to contain and reduce the price of prescription drugs.



## **FEDERAL ISSUE: Assistance to Small Businesses**

### **BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK**

Small businesses play a pivotal role in the economic landscape of Coconut Creek, Florida, contributing significantly to the city's vibrancy and overall prosperity. Recent estimates from the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development indicate that 89% of all businesses in the County have less than 20 employees. These enterprises, ranging from local boutiques and cafes to specialized professional services, collectively form the backbone of the community. Recognizing the importance of small businesses, Coconut Creek has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to fostering an environment where local entrepreneurs can thrive.

Van Scoyoc Associates will continue to assist Coconut Creek in securing federal funds to support the expansion and retention of small businesses to drive local job creation and economic development. The Small Business Administration (SBA) administers several such programs to help small businesses, including:

- direct disaster loan programs for businesses, homeowners, and renters to assist their recovery from natural disasters;
- loan guaranty and venture capital programs to enhance small business access to capital;
- small business management and technical assistance training programs to assist business formation and expansion, and
- programs to increase small business opportunities in federal contracting.

In tandem with agency initiatives, the Biden Administration's economic agenda, which includes legislation such as the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the CHIPS and Science Act (CHIPS), and the Inflation Reduction Act continues to provide direct and indirect support for small businesses. Illustrating a commitment to equitable growth, the Administration aims to allocate 15 percent of all Federal contracts to small-disadvantaged businesses by 2025, injecting an estimated additional \$100 billion into these companies and their respective communities. Notably, the President's FY24 budget request includes \$30 million for the Community Navigators Pilot Program to assist aspiring entrepreneurs in navigating the complexities of applying for small business loans.

### **2024 POSITION**

**Support** federal policies, legislation, and agency programs that provide direct assistance to support the expansion and retention of small businesses.





## Infrastructure

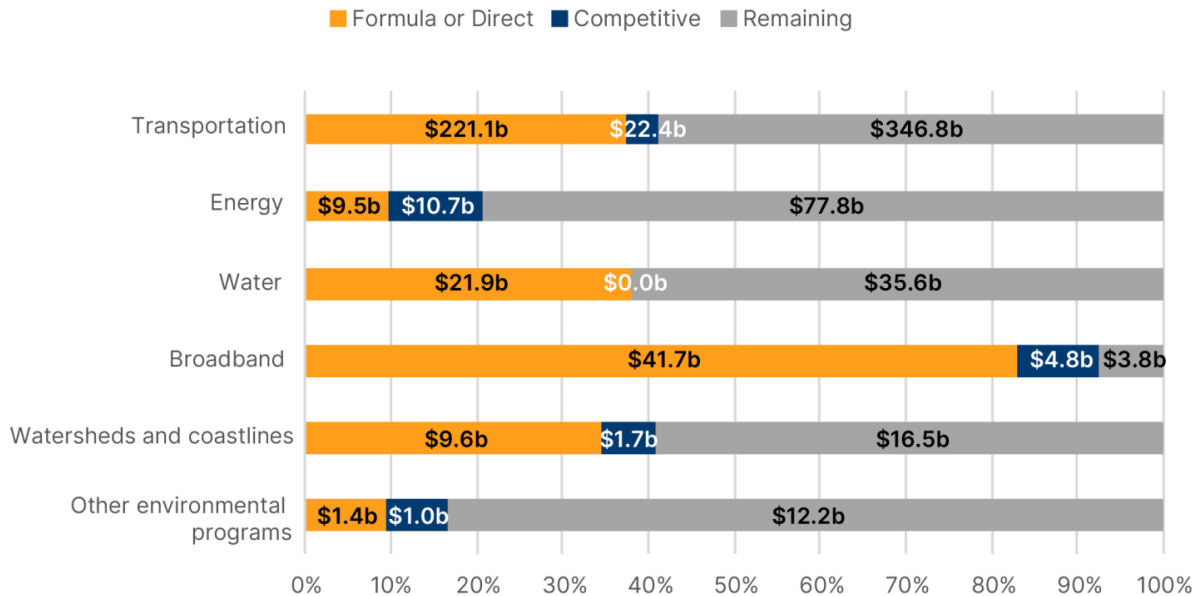
### FEDERAL ISSUE: Infrastructure Investment

#### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the President signed into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) – a broad infrastructure bill (H.R. 3684) that included reauthorization of the surface transportation bill, water infrastructure legislation, and the Energy Infrastructure Act. The bill includes \$550 billion in new funding and, when combined with the other pieces of passed legislation, reaches a funding total of approximately \$1 trillion.

A significant amount of funding will be spent through existing federal programs and competitive grants. Other smaller amounts will be sent to the States, including provisions for direct pass-throughs to local governments as well as through formula grant programs. The progress of IIJA-awarded funding, by infrastructure sector and funding type is illustrated in the figure below. Overall, 53% of the \$647 billion in formula or direct spending remains to be awarded through 2026. 80% of all competitive grant funding is left to be awarded.

**IIJA-Awarded Funding, By Infrastructure Sector & Funding Type**  
*(As Of November 15, 2023)*



Source: Brookings Metro



A summary of the bill's framework is as follows:

- Roads & Bridges: \$110 billion in new funding will be allocated toward roads, bridges and other major projects. That includes \$40 billion for bridge repair and replacement and \$17.5 billion for unspecified "major projects."
- Road Safety: \$11 billion toward reducing car crashes and fatalities, including through a "Safe Streets for All" program. It will also double the funding that is sent to other programs that improve road safety.
- Public Transit: \$39 billion to modernize public transit and improve access for people with disabilities. Funding will replace thousands of buses and other transit vehicles with zero-emission upgrades.
- Passenger & Freight Rail: \$66 billion to eliminate Amtrak's backlog, modernize trains and expand service.
- Electric Vehicles & Buses: \$15 billion in spending for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, electric buses and transit.
- One billion dollars would also be put toward a program to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure.
- Airports, Ports & Waterways: The bill dedicates \$17 billion toward port infrastructure and \$25 billion toward airports.
- Water Infrastructure: \$50 billion for investment in weatherization and protection against climate-change fueled disasters like droughts and floods.
- Clean Water: \$55 billion in funding for clean drinking water, which includes replacing all the country's lead pipes and service lines.
- Broadband: \$65 billion in spending for broadband internet infrastructure.
- Environmental Clean-Up: \$21 billion in funding for environmental remediation, including cleaning up superfund sites, reclaiming abandoned mine land and capping abandoned oil and gas wells.
- Power Infrastructure: \$73 billion to shift the country from fossil fuels to clean energy including power infrastructure. Funding also includes research in technology like nuclear, carbon capture and clean hydrogen.

VSA has already engaged in discussions with the City on already working with the City on include the following grants outlined in the bill:

- EV Charging and Fueling Infrastructure
- Promoting Resilient Transportation Projects
- Cybersecurity grants
- Recycling
- Septic to public treatment facilities connections



- Transportation Safety for Pedestrians

The Infrastructure Bill provides repetitive funding for these new programs through 2026.

## 2024 POSITION

**Support** implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. **Support** all opportunities to secure funding for Coconut Creek's infrastructure priorities with reauthorization of existing programs within the Act and funding for new programs. Consider a short-term and long-term strategy to take advantage of these funding opportunities. **Support** funding strategies and opportunities to support the Complete Streets Improvement Project.



## FEDERAL ISSUE: Inflation Reduction Act

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

On August 16, 2000, the President signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 with the aims of curbing inflation by reducing the deficit, lowering drug prices, and investing in domestic energy production. Notably, the IRA allows tax-exempt and governmental entities to receive elective payments for 12 clean energy tax credits, including the major Investment and Production Tax credits, as well as tax credits for electric vehicles and charging stations. Businesses can also choose elective pay for three of those credits: the credits for Advanced Manufacturing (45X), Carbon Oxide Sequestration (45Q), and Clean Hydrogen (45V).

In June 2023, the Treasury released the Department of the Treasury released its [“Elective Pay” proposed rule and guidance](#) for many renewable energy tax credits created in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Direct Pay will allow cities, counties, and other state and local government agencies to claim these tax credits that have previously only been available to those who pay taxes to the federal government. The proposed rule clarified which entities are eligible for credit monetization mechanisms and outlined the process to claim or transfer credits. The 60-day comment period closed in August 2023. The final rule has not yet been published in the Federal Register.

IRA AT A GLANCE	
Revenue	Investments
15% Corporate Minimum Tax (\$222 Billion)	Energy Security and Climate Change (\$369 Billion)
Prescription Drug Pricing Reform (\$265 Billion)	Affordable Care Extensions (\$64 Billion)
IRS Tax Enforcement (\$124 Billion)	Western Drought Resiliency (\$4 Billion)
1% Stock Buybacks Fee (\$74 Billion)	
Loss Limitation Extension (\$2 Billion)	

### Specific provisions of note in the bill include:

- **Carbon Capture Credit:** Extends the carbon capture (45Q) tax credit for carbon sequestrations projects that begin construction before January 1, 2032.
- **Clean Hydrogen Tax Credit:** Creates a new tax credit for the production of clean hydrogen at a qualifying facility for the first 10 years of production.
- **Commercial Clean Vehicle Tax Credit:** Establishes a new tax credit for eligible commercial clean vehicles, such as zero-emissions buses or garbage trucks. The credit is equal to 30 percent of the cost of the vehicle or the incremental cost of the vehicle, whichever is lower. This credit expires in 2033.



- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF):** In April 2023, the EPA released a framework for the implementation of the GGRF, a \$27 billion program created by the IRA. The new framework outlines the following competitive grant programs:
  - The **\$14 billion National Clean Investment Fund** competition will fund two to three national nonprofits that will partner with private capital providers to deliver financing at scale to businesses, communities, community lenders, and others, catalyzing tens of thousands of clean technology projects to accelerate our progress towards energy independence and a net-zero economic future.
  - The **\$6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator** competition will fund two to seven hub nonprofits with the plans and capabilities to rapidly build the clean financing capacity of specific networks of public, quasi-public and non-profit community lenders—including community development financial institutions, credit unions, green banks, housing finance agencies, and minority depository institutions—to ensure that households, small businesses, schools, and community institutions in low-income and disadvantaged communities have access to financing for cost-saving and pollution-reducing clean technology projects.
  - The **\$7 billion Solar for All** competition will provide up to 60 grants to States, Tribal governments, municipalities, and nonprofits to expand the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities that are primed for residential and community solar investment—enabling millions of families to access affordable, resilient, and clean solar energy.
- **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program:** Establishes a program for states, local governments, and other eligible entities for greenhouse gas air pollution planning and implementation activities.
  - Provides additional federal technical assistance.
  - Funded at \$5 billion in FY 2023.
- **School Air Pollution Reduction Grant Programs:** Provides \$37.5 million to the EPA to award grants to air pollution control agencies to monitor and reduce GHG emissions and other air pollution at schools in low-income and disadvantaged communities.
  - Provides an additional \$12.5 million for technical assistance to these schools to address environmental issues, develop school environmental quality plans, and identify and mitigate ongoing air pollution hazards.
  - Air pollution control agencies will be eligible to apply.
- **Low-Emissions Electricity Program:** Sets aside \$17 million for outreach and technical assistance to state and local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that result from domestic electricity generation.

## 2024 POSITION

**Support** the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act. **Support** all opportunities to secure funding for Coconut Creek’s infrastructure priorities with funding for new



programs. Consider a short-term and long-term strategy to take advantage of these funding opportunities; this includes not just grants but also rebates and new tax credits created by the law that can be accessed by local governments through the IRS’s new “Elective Pay” program. **Monitor** status of the proposed Elective Pay rule in the Federal Register and watch for finalization and implementation of rule.



## **FEDERAL ISSUE: Federal funding for deepening/widening C-14 West Basin (NEW)**

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

The Corps of Engineers and its non-federal sponsor partner, the [South Florida Water Management District](#) (SFWMD) began a flood risk management (FRM) [study](#) initiated under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 within the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Project.

The purpose of the study is to identify the need to provide continued flood risk management to reduce the most immediate risk to the C&SF Project due to changing conditions including climate change, sea level change, land development, and population growth in the lower east coast of Florida in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties. Potential measures to be evaluated may include a combination of structural, non-structural, natural, and nature-based features.

Current studies demonstrate that the most vulnerable locations to flood risk are within Broward County within the C14 West Basin, which includes Coconut Creek. Flood gates in this area are estimated to only provide protection from a 5-year flood event. Many factors have contributed to this over the years including higher sea levels and increased development.

The study will evaluate future sea level risk and other factors to determine future flood risk and then recommend alternatives to address and protect the basin.

### 2024 POSITION

**Support** the development of the Corps/SFWMD study. Participate as appropriate with input and data. Monitor potential recommendations that affect Coconut Creek.



## General Regulatory Issues

### **FEDERAL ISSUE: Tribal Legislation and Regulation**

#### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Van Scoyoc Associates continues to monitor tribal legislation and regulations to determine if they could impact the City of Coconut Creek. This focus includes any legislation or federal ruling that could affect the Class III Gaming Compact with the State of Florida in accordance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, as well as any federal rule-making efforts that may affect the long-standing relationship between the City and Seminole Tribe.

Moving into 2024, VSA will continue to actively monitor the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) proposed land acquisition rule and implementation process (Proposed Rule - 25 CFR Part 151 (Land Acquisition); Docket No. BIA-2022-0004). The BIA proposed rule (published December 12, 2023) represents a one-sided approach, streamlining the process for Tribes while limiting local government input. The National Association of Counties holds that the proposed rule does not adequately account for or include mechanisms to address the significant impacts on local governments and communities resulting from land taken into trust and major tribal development projects. VSA will continue to work with the City and public agency associations to highlight the limitations of this ruling and potential impacts on current agreements already established by local public agencies that mutually benefit tribal entities and local jurisdictions.

#### 2024 POSITION

**Monitor** tribal legislation and regulations that could impact the City of Coconut Creek.





## FEDERAL ISSUE: ADA Government Website Accessibility

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) governs accessibility for those with disabilities. Specifically, Title III of the ADA has been interpreted by the courts to include public websites and the process of making content and functions accessible to those with disabilities. The federal government’s goal of accessibility is to ensure that people with disabilities can enjoy the full use of online content provided by state and local governments. In short, websites must be “accessible” to be ADA-compliant.

U.S. Courts and the Department of Justice (DOJ) have frequently referenced the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, which was published in October 2023. The WCAG 2.2 has 13 guidelines. The guidelines are organized under the following [four principles](#): perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust. Each guideline has testable [success criteria](#) to determine conformance with WCAG. The success criteria are set at three levels: A, AA, and AAA. Additional details about WCAG conformance criteria can be found [here](#).

The DOJ, which administers the ADA, does not have a regulation setting out detailed standards, but the Department’s longstanding interpretation of the general nondiscrimination and effective communication provisions applies to web accessibility. They also reference the WCAG guidelines on their website. Finally, DOJ states in their guidance that even though businesses and state and local governments have flexibility in how they comply with the ADA’s general requirements of nondiscrimination and effective communication, they still must ensure that the programs, services, and goods that they provide to the public—including those provided online—are accessible to people with disabilities. Additional DOJ guidance can be found [here](#).

### 2024 POSITION

**Monitor** federal regulations and policies related to ADA accessibility, standards, and requirements for government websites.



## FEDERAL ISSUE: FCC Regulations Supporting the Deployment of Communications Facilities and Wireless Infrastructure

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

On September 26, 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Declaratory Ruling and Third Report and Order titled “Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment.” In the order, the FCC clarified when the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-104) preempts state and local requirements for deploying fifth-generation (5G) wireless infrastructure. It also sets time frames (or “shot clocks”) for localities to review 5G infrastructure applications. As described in a press release, the FCC issued the order to “remove regulatory barriers that inhibit the deployment of infrastructure necessary for 5G and other advanced wireless services.” Some cities, however, have criticized the order as federal overreach. For instance, the CEO and Executive Director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors stated that it “misapplies federal law to federalize local public property” and “needlessly introduce[s] increased risk of right-of-way and other public safety hazards.” **It is clear from the federal court opinions challenging that CFR, at least for the time being, localities retain some ability to regulate the aesthetics of the above-ground installations within their communities.**

**VSA has worked with Coconut Creek to oppose actions by the FCC (specifically under the former Administration) that reduced local oversight and control of broadband infrastructure.**

**In May 2023, the House introduced the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2023. The Act again specifies “shot clocks” for approval or denial of telecommunication service facilities within 90 days of a request to local jurisdictions. This may be useful to the City, as the State of Florida’s shot clock, under certain scenarios, is as little as 60 days. The bill also sets requirements for local jurisdictions to deny a request. The bill was approved out of Committee on October 2, 2023. As of November 2023, no companion bill has been introduced in the Senate. This bill, and any companion, is a very important piece of proposed legislation for the City to carefully monitor. Currently, the City is desirous of updating its code of ordinances as it relates to these issues, but is waiting until it is clear whether federal laws are forthcoming.**

### 2024 POSITION

**Monitor** the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2023; and generally **oppose** legislation that preempts or limits local government zoning ordinances and its review process for installing 5G “small cell” wireless towers and other broadband infrastructure.



## **FEDERAL ISSUE: Transparency**

### **BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK**

Government transparency is vital to providing accountability and improving citizens' trust in government institutions. Each year, over \$3.7 trillion is spent by the federal government. This number is expected to increase with many new programs introduced by the Administration and the continued roll-out of the Infrastructure Bill (IIJA) passed in 2022. It can be difficult to track that spending due to disparate and incomplete data sources. **In 2023, over 20 bills were introduced to address transparency requirements concerning particular federal programs.**

### **2024 POSITION**

**Support** efforts to increase government transparency and accessibility of public records.  
**Monitor** efforts that may require increased mandates or costs related to data reporting.



## FEDERAL ISSUE: National Flood Insurance Program

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Congress established the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 to address the nation's flood exposure. Private insurance companies at the time claimed that the flood peril was uninsurable and, therefore, could not be underwritten in the private insurance market. Until 2005, NFIP was self-supporting, as policy premiums and fees covered expenses and claim payments. Today, the program is roughly \$20,225,000,000 in debt due to several significant flood events that have occurred over the past 15 years. That debt was as high as \$30,425,000,000 in 2017. In the City of Coconut Creek, there are 1,562 NFIP policies for homes and commercial properties, with annual premiums totaling \$708,227.

One of the most important issues being tracked by VSA is FEMA's development of a new risk methodology called Risk Rating 2.0. Risk Rating 2.0 determines flood insurance rates based on a property-specific analysis, which differs from the previous approach of assessing risk across a broad group associated with flood zones and categories of properties.

During 2023, Congress was very concerned over the changes in premiums associated with FEMA's new methodology. To this end, they introduced several bills to address potential premium rate increases. The bills that have the most support are:

- **H.R. 4349; The National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization & Reform Act of 2023**- introduced by Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ-6) and,
- **S. 2142; (accompanying bill) The National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization & Reform Act of 2023**- introduced by Sen Menendez (D-NJ).

Both bills have bi-partisan support but have yet to be reported out of their respective Committees.

The NFIP program continues to be temporarily reauthorized through Continuing Resolutions related to passing the FY24 Appropriations Bills.

### 2024 POSITION

**Support** efforts to reform and improve the National Flood Insurance Program for the benefit of all participants during the ongoing 2021 reauthorization and reform process.  
**Oppose** recommendations that would raise rates to Coconut Creek ratepayers from FEMA's intent to implement Risk Rating 2.0.



## **FEDERAL ISSUE: Federal Marijuana Policy**

### **BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK**

As of November 2023, 24 states have legalized the recreational use of marijuana, including hemp and CBD products. Another 7 states have decriminalized its use. 38 states in total allow the medical use of cannabis products.

Under current law, financial institutions providing banking services to state-licensed cannabis businesses are subject to criminal prosecution under several federal statutes, such as "aiding and abetting" and money laundering. Therefore, businesses that legally grow, market or sell cannabis in states that have legalized its sale are generally locked out of the banking system.

In response, Congress has introduced legislation that provides a safe harbor for banks, credit unions, and other institutions providing financial services to state-sanctioned marijuana businesses. In September 2023, the SAFER Banking Act made significant progress in the Senate by being passed out of the Banking Committee. It now awaits approval for a full Senate vote. On the House side, they have passed the SAFE Banking Act on seven previous occasions. Given the additional support by the Senate and previous support by the House, the possible passage of a safe harbor bill for banks supporting cannabis businesses has increased in probability.

### **2024 POSITION**

**Monitor** federal legislation and agency policies related to marijuana and hemp and their potential impact on Florida's medical marijuana program and industry.



## **FEDERAL ISSUE: Federal Policy and Legislation Related to Employment and Labor Laws**

### **BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK**

The Biden presidency has been very committed to changing current labor laws and supporting unions. In 2023, he performed the following actions:

- Raised wages for construction workers in August, publishing a final rule updating the Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage standards for the first time in 40 years. The rule affects more than one million workers working on federally funded projects, including those performed by local agencies using federal funds.
- Initiated the Workforce Hubs Initiative with new initiatives for training and connecting workers to job opportunities.
- In August, The Biden administration proposed a new rule that would make 3.6 million more U.S. workers eligible for overtime pay, the most generous increase in decades. The proposed regulation, unveiled by the Department of Labor, would update the Fair Labor Standards Act by requiring employers to pay overtime to salaried workers who are in executive, administrative, and professional roles but make less than \$1,059 a week, or \$55,068 a year for full-time employees. That salary threshold is up from the \$35,568 level which has been in place since 2019. It is estimated that about 3.6 million additional workers would be entitled to overtime pay.
- As part of his Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for the Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, President Biden has revoked President Trump's Executive Order 13950, which prohibited contractors and recipients from including certain "divisive concepts" in their diversity and inclusion, harassment, and related equal employment opportunity training.

VSA expects continued activity regarding labor and employment laws by the Biden Administration as we enter into 2024. If they require legislation, they will be challenged by a Republican-led House; however, the Administration will continue to utilize Executive Orders when possible.

### **2024 POSITION**

**Monitor** employment and labor law legislation in 2024 and identify any impacts to the City's policies and requirements.



## Public Safety

### FEDERAL ISSUE: Federal Funding of Public Safety Programs

#### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Federal funding of public safety programs plays a pivotal role in ensuring that local agencies can invest in advanced technologies, training programs, and community engagement efforts to enhance the overall security and well-being of the community. Most federal grant funding for safety programs within the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are provided as block grants, with each state receiving a certain amount of funding, generally linked to population. That funding is then passed through to local jurisdictions to help support police, fire, emergency management, and homeland security functions. Examples of these formula programs include the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), and Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN).

In other instances, funding from Federal programs is made available to local governments via competitive grant solicitations. Competitive program funds can be used to hire police officers through Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) or firefighters through Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) and purchase equipment through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). The Infrastructure Bill (IIJA) increased funding for many of these programs.

While the City has benefited from several formula-based federal programs in the past, VSA will continue to assist the City in pursuing competitive grant opportunities during 2024. We will identify and provide a funding analysis of all DOJ and FEMA public safety grant programs in 2024 of interest to the City. We will also prepare strategies, reviews, and Congressional support for each individual grant application.

#### 2024 POSITION

**Support** continued adequate funding for the wide variety of DOJ and DHS grants, i.e., Community Oriented Policing Services, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, Emergency Management Preparedness Grants, Assistance to Firefighters Grants, Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants, Urban Areas Security Initiative grants, and other security-specific grants. **Support** the City of Coconut Creek's applications for these funds.



## FEDERAL ISSUE: Mental Health Care Initiatives to Reduce Gun and Other Violence

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

The City of Coconut Creek strongly supports legislation that would ban assault weapons, automatic weapons, and large external magazine weapons and ammunition. The City also supports the requirement that the purchase and ownership of a gun be registered and licensed and prohibits anyone other than law enforcement from carrying a weapon or firearms into a government facility or park.

In June 2022, Congress passed the "Bipartisan Safer Communities Act," marking the first federal legislation in 30 years to combat escalating gun violence. The Act encompasses evidence-based provisions focusing on community-oriented solutions, mental health system improvement, school safety programs, and gun safety laws. Key components include support for state crisis intervention orders, enhanced protection for domestic violence victims, clarification of the "Federally Licensed Firearms Dealer" definition, and the establishment of an under-21 enhanced review process. The legislation advocates for the national expansion of the community behavioral health center model, providing better access to mental health services for children and families through Medicaid, as well as increased access via telehealth. The act also allocates resources for school-based trauma support, establishes the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline/988, and increases funding for schools, embodying a holistic approach to addressing public safety and mental health challenges.

In 2023, the Biden administration took several steps to combat gun violence. In March, the President issued an Executive Order (EO) directing key departments to report on the implementation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, clarifying firearm dealing definitions, promoting safe storage, encouraging extreme risk protection orders, and addressing mental health needs. The EO requested a public report from the Federal Trade Commission on how gun manufacturers market firearms to minors. Notably, the Justice Department also proposed a rule to enhance background checks and prevent guns from reaching criminals.

### 2024 POSITION

**Support** legislation that bans high-capacity assault weapons. **Support** legislation that restricts the sale of firearms and requires thorough background checks and licensing. **Support** legislation that responsibly expands treatment options and mental health programs.





## FEDERAL ISSUE: Cybersecurity Legislation and Policy

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

In an increasingly interconnected world, cyber threats pose a significant risk to the operations of local governments, potentially compromising essential services and the privacy of residents. Federal cybersecurity policies often provide guidelines, resources, and funding opportunities that can help enhance the city's resilience against evolving cyber threats. By staying attuned to these policies, the city can tap into crucial resources and funding to ensure the City can effectively respond to and recover from cyber incidents, ultimately safeguarding the well-being of its residents and the integrity of its digital infrastructure.

The Biden Administration has made cybersecurity a priority, repeatedly emphasizing the importance of collaboration between federal agencies and local governments to strengthen digital defenses. The administration proposed significant investments in cybersecurity as part of Infrastructure Bill and FEMA continues to require that state and local governments that receive grants administered at least 7.5% of their awards on cybersecurity. These initiatives reflect a recognition of the increasing cyber threats faced by local governments and the necessity of federal support to fortify their digital resilience.

There were several key federal cybersecurity advancements in 2023. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA released several new resources for state and local governments to protect themselves and their communities from malicious cyber actors. This included a [State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Toolkit](#) and the [Planning Considerations for Cyber Incidents: Guidance for Emergency Managers](#). In August, the Department of Homeland Security announced the availability of \$374.9 million in grant funding for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP), a significant uptick from the FY22 allotment of \$185 million. In December, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a [report](#) on cyber resources for local governments. The agency found 27 programs across 8 federal agencies that can be used to fund cybersecurity programs at the state and local level. The main intent of each these grants spans a wide range, from addressing climate change to preventing terrorist attacks, but all can be used in some way to bolster a local government's cyber security.

### 2024 POSITION

**Monitor** the development of cybersecurity legislation and federal policy. **Support** federal funding and programs that support local governments in improving their cybersecurity strategic goals and preventing "ransomware" attacks.



## FEDERAL ISSUE: Thin Blue Line Legislation

### BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

The “Thin Blue Line” legislation (H.R.130 / S.459) was re-introduced in early 2023 and assigned to the Judiciary Committee for review. Van Scoyoc Associates drafted a letter of support on behalf of the city immediately following the legislations reintroduction. Unfortunately, the bill was not scheduled for a vote out of Committee and progressed no further.

There is a group of Congressional leaders who have introduced and supported this bill each year because of a significant increase in law enforcement fatalities nationally. This year’s version has 48 Republican cosponsors which is the strongest support to date. Seven members from the State of Florida support the bill.

Co-sponsors to date supporting this legislation have been exclusively Republicans who argue that this legislation is a necessary measure to address escalating threats to public safety. Opponents cite that this legislation is unnecessary and duplicative to improving law enforcement and community relations and add that all 50 states currently contain the provision on a state level.

Associated Legislation: Rep LaHood introduced the “David Dorn Thin Blue Line Retention Act” in May 2023. This bill augments the salaries of State and local law enforcement officers and promotes officer hiring and retention. This bill was also referred to the Judiciary Committee and is still under review.

### 2024 POSITION

**Monitor** the development of legislation that expands statutory aggravated determinations to include killing or targeting law enforcement.



## Notes

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