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Eric Berkowitz

FINAL RECORD OF APPROVAL A.C.E. COMPLETES R.O.D.

The Army Corps of Engineers published its completed Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Broward County Shore Protection Project, Segments II and III, in the Federal Register on January 2, 2004. The 30-day statutory waiting period which affords the public an opportunity to offer comments on the FEIS ended on February 2nd. A compilation of the collected comments called the General Reevaluation Report (GRR) was generated and attached to the FEIS. Once these two documents were reviewed, the Corps issued a Record of Decision (ROD) that serves as the final verdict in judging the efficacy, viability and advisability of the target project.

On May 13th, we received notification from the Broward County Department of Environmental Protection that the Record of Decision had been arrived at in the form of a letter from Brigadier General Randal R. Castro, South Atlantic Division Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers. The ROD is divided into 6 sections. The actual "Decision" opens the document.

It reads as follows:

"We have reviewed the General Reevaluation Report (GRR) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on the Broward County Shore Protection Project, Segments II and III, Broward County, Florida. We have also reviewed all associated correspondence, including comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the FEIS. Based upon this review and the views of interested agencies and the concerned public, I find that the plan recommended in the GRR and FEIS by the District Engineer, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), is economically justified, technically feasible, in compliance with environmental statutes, and in the overall public interest."

The second section of the ROD is entitled, "Project Authority and the Need for Proposed Action".

Continued on page 7

Gretsas...Continued

After the City Commission pinned the budget disaster on the tail of Floyd Johnson, they awoke to the realization that they were next in line for ambient culpability. Installing a strong budgeter, such as Alan Silva, as Acting City Manager gave the appearance that the City Commission was staunchly dedicated to repairing the damage. While publicly supporting Mr. Silva's tough decisions, the Commissioners miss the "don't ask - don't tell" years of budgetary pliancy in the City Manager's office. The layoffs, cut-backs, threats to services and impending fee and/or tax increases have understandably upset the gastric stability of our City Commission for the past six months. Realizing that this discomfort will continue unabated for at least eighteen months more is extremely disconcerting. City Commissioners' currency derives of delivering improvements to the lifestyles of their constituents. If they are repeatedly told, "We can't afford it" when requesting these benefits, their campaign platforms will be limited to "we helped rescue Fort Lauderdale from the budget fiasco." While this is certainly a laudable achievement, making good on a few civic improvements would be just what the campaign doctor ordered. A City Manager whose credo is, "Ultimately I serve the elected officials," is political Prozac.

We do need a highly motivated City Manager with the courage to fend off the pressure to spend money we don't have and the ability to hold the City together during this painful realignment. The strengths necessary to accomplish this aren't easily revealed through test scores. While the new City Manager has little demon-

strated experience grounding his selection, the Mayor and the City Commissioners are rolling the dice that Mr. Gretsas possesses the internal fortitude to ride out this challenge. They are betting on his character, integrity and intensity, not on his resume. They are, however, betting our chips. Let's hope their right!

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Bogdanoff...Continued

Kottkamp that the most egregious provisions were "adequately modified." She then asked her legislative aide, Gerald O'Rourke, to review the final version and promised to get back to us.

Clearly distressed by the possibility of destructive legislation such as the Condo Killer bills even being considered, several Advisory Board members asked why the sponsors were given such latitude when pressing for their passage. Ms. Bogdanoff responded, "I am well aware of the different positions, but there was a commitment to make this bill work. I believe I owed it to the sponsor to give him that opportunity, as I would expect the same courtesy in return." She continued, "Many of the concerns I expressed have been corrected: criminal background checks, 2-way ombudsman, term limits and other problems were fixed." Her predisposition to allow the legislative process to transmogrify the bill into acceptability, as opposed to an overt adversarial confrontation with the sponsors, should leave Representative Bogdanoff with her legislative bridges reasonably intact. This should bear fruit in future sessions.

Ms. Bogdanoff explained that the vast majority of condo related legislation "gratefully died on the calendar". However, the central language of these ill-fated bills was invested into two surviving bills, Senator Jeffrey Atwater's SB 2984 (A Homeowners Association bill created to address the concerns raised by Governor Jeb Bush's Homeowners Association Task Force) and Senator Walter G. "Skip" Campbell Jr.'s SB 1184 (a Civil Liability bill that protects Associations that install defibrillators). Along with the few acceptable remaining provisions of the infamous Condo Killer HB 1223, the positive wording from Senator Steven Geller's SB 1938 (the well-supported easing of the housekeeping requirements adjunctive to an Association's decision to opt out of the expensive full sprinkler retrofit) was placed into both bills. These two bills (like engineers, legislators are great believers in redundancy) became voluminous repositories for the surviving remnants of dozens of bills that were "laid on the table" (crapped out) during the session's final days.

Representative Bogdanoff discussed an unfortunate side effect of the State's political and financial redistricting that hits Southeast Florida squarely in the educational wallet. The legislature is operating under a new "formula" with regard to the general distribution of funds throughout the State. Tremendous focus was concentrated on the budgetary impact for every piece of legislation. This new formula strongly disadvantages Southeast Florida - Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties in particular. It completely ignores the cost-of-living differences in the State's various regions, painting the more costly urban areas with the same fiscal brush as the less expensive areas of central and north Florida. For instance, the fact that it costs teachers more to live in Miami or Fort Lauderdale was eliminated as a factor when considering aspects of educational funding. This de facto transfer of funds from Southeast Florida cities to the north and central country areas will cripple efforts to retrench our underachieving educational system.

Bogdanoff...Continued

The only chance of addressing this inequity will be through the formation of a unified Southeast Florida coalition. The innate distrust between Miami and Broward legislators will have to be surmounted. As long as local squabbles occupy our legislators' attention, the region will continue to bleed money. Ms. Bogdanoff explained that Senator James E. "Jim" King Jr. of Jacksonville is stepping down as Senate President. Because Senator Alex Diaz de la Portilla of Miami, the Senate's current "President Pro Tempore", is in contention to replace King, he is sidestepping the struggle necessary to reclaim access to the lost revenues. Avoiding a confrontation with northern legislators at this time will inure to his benefit. However, if he is successful in his bid for the Senate Presidency, he could be an invaluable asset in recovering the appropriations lost due to the one-sided formula.

As the session wound down, Ms. Bogdanoff was intensely lobbied by the sponsors of, among others, the Condo Killer bills. While she attempted to assess the rapidly changing legislation, Representative Bogdanoff maintained contact with an assortment of constituents, updating them about the changes and requesting their input. She drew on the experience of fellow legislators for guidance on certain condo-related issues. "Representative J. Dudley Goodlette of Naples also represents a district that contains a substantial number of large condominiums. We discussed the impact of the condo bills on our respective constituencies." A comforting email that I received in response to queries about her intentions read, "I will keep you in the loop as this legislation transforms either into something we can accept or something we must reject. Either way, be assured that I will be well informed and ready to debate the issue of the floor if it is needed. I am on line during session, so if you are watching, feel free to email me your thoughts." She was...so I did. I subsequently received a series of thoughtful analyses of the various bills being contested along with requests for further input!

Representative Bogdanoff did not have the luxury of acclimating to the legislative battleground. After defeating Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Mayor Oliver Parker by a paper thin 12-vote margin in a January 6th special election for the vacated Statehouse seat, she found herself in the Tallahassee soup bowl by March. When it mattered, she delivered. As the Advisory Board meeting came to a close, Ms. Bogdanoff suggested that we organize our objectives now for the next legislative session. She offered to caucus with GMCA representatives to create a clear "unified agenda that will serve as a legislative wish list."

The concerns borne of unfamiliarity with a new representative melted away during the course of the meeting. While many of us knew from her recent Statehouse candidacy that she

Continued on page 17

"phishing" on the galt

Eric Berkowitz

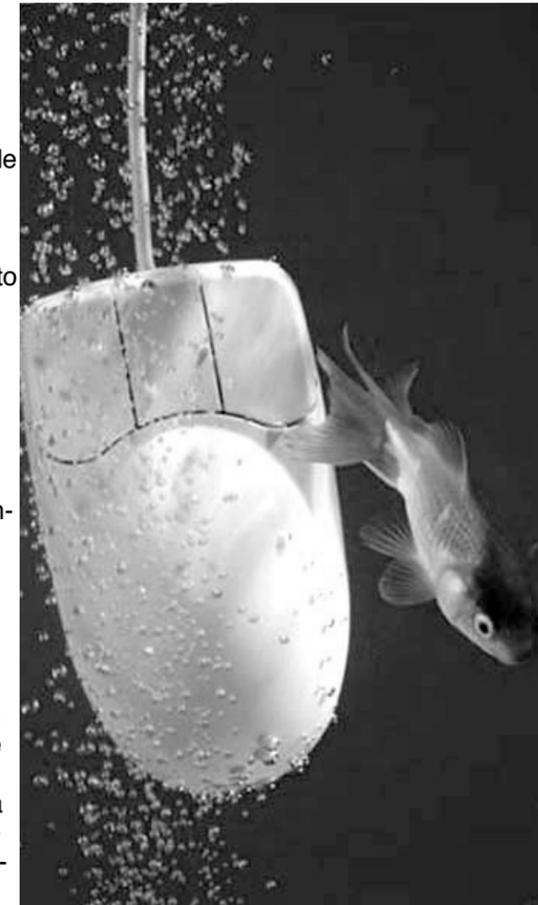
Internet scammers casting about for people's financial information have a new way to lure unsuspecting Galt Mile victims: They go "phishing." Phishing, also called "carding", is a high-tech scam that uses spam (unsolicited "junk" email) to deceive consumers into disclosing their credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security numbers, passwords, and other sensitive information.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the emails pretend to be from businesses the potential victims deal with - for example, their Internet service provider (ISP), online payment service or bank. The fraudsters tell recipients that they need to "update" or "validate" their billing information to keep their accounts active, and direct them to a "look-alike" Web site of the legitimate business, further tricking consumers into thinking they are responding to a bona fide request. Unknowingly, consumers submit their financial information - not to the businesses - but the scammers, who use it to order goods and services and obtain credit.

Banks and Internet Service Providers like America Online, MSN and Comcast will never ask you for password information via phone or E-Mail, as that information is private and only known by users. Additionally, ISPs will never ask for billing or payment information through E-Mail.

To avoid getting caught by one of these scams, the FTC, the nation's consumer protection agency, offers this guidance:

- If you get an email that warns you, with little or no notice, that an account of yours will be shut down unless you reconfirm your billing information, do not reply or click on the link in the email. Instead, contact the company cited in the email using a telephone number or Web site address you know to be genuine.
- Avoid emailing personal and financial information. Before submitting financial information through a Web site, look



for the "lock" icon on the browser's status bar. It signals that your information is secure during transmission. Always ensure that you're using a secure server when submitting credit card information. To make sure you're using a secure server, check the beginning of the web address in your browser's address bar - it should be https:// rather than just http:// (note the "s" after the "http").

- Review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them to determine whether there are any unauthorized charges. If your statement is late by more than a couple of days, call your credit card company or bank to confirm your billing address and account balances.
- Report suspicious activity to the FTC. Send the actual spam to uce@ftc.gov. If you believe you've been scammed, file your complaint at www.ftc.gov, and then visit the FTC's Identity Theft Web site (www.ftc.gov/idtheft) to learn how to minimize your risk of damage from identity theft.
- Visit www.ftc.gov/spam to learn other ways to avoid email scams and deal with deceptive spam.

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint or to get free information on consumer issues, visit www.ftc.gov or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The FTC enters Internet, telemarketing, identity theft, and other fraud-related complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

Get additional information about this and other scams that are currently proliferating in the Galt Mile area. Check the "Scam-of-the-Month" entry available through a link in the upper left section of the "Home Page" of the Galt Mile Community Association web site (www.galtmile.com). Get smart, not hooked!



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Gretsas...Continued

not Gretsas, made all the management decisions in New York. He never composed a municipal balance sheet or navigated the tenuous route from budgetary mayhem to fiscal health. His major focus centered on luring developers to participate in the renaissance of a dysfunctional downtown district.

His duties here will be the antithesis of those performed in White Plains. He will not be a part of a municipal machine, he will be the engine. He won't reflect someone else's plan for the future, he will be the architect. For the first time in his career, his success will depend on the consensus he creates, his untapped budgeting skills, intelligent hiring and firing, and the coherence of his as yet untested management decisions. His proven practical strength, enticing development, will be only marginally useful. The main campaign distinction separating winning and losing candidates during the last municipal election was their respective plans for reining in development, not encouraging its proliferation. As per Mayor Naugle, "I think there (White Plains) his skill was promoting development, and here he'll have to control expenses, because we have development coming out of our ears." In Fort Lauderdale, he'll need to beat off developers with a stick.

Prior to the past six years Gretsas spent as Mayor Delfino's Executive Officer, he served on the Park Ridge, N.J. School Board and operated the press office for the county legislative board. Gretsas has been characterized as a taskmaster, a tough boss, motivated by a desire to accomplish things quickly, goal-oriented and a workaholic. White Plains Officials and employees generally agree that while unpopular, he was effective. Intolerant of excuses and seemingly comfortable without the adoration of his peers, Gretsas takes solace in John F. Kennedy's famous epithet, "If a man has no enemies, he's no good." Gretsas elaborated, "I don't feel I'm in the building to win a popularity contest. Ultimately I serve the elected officials." Reflecting on his position in the municipal food chain, Gretsas said, "I don't believe the bureaucracy is in a position to set policy, and that includes me. It's way inappropriate."...Music to the Commissions ears!

Mr. Gretsas was never a City Manager...until now. Absent experience in this capacity, it behooves one to ask, "Why was he selected as our City Manager?" Gretsas' unflinching loyalty to his ex-boss may hold the answer. The City Commission is acutely aware that Gretsas believes that elected officials, not City employees, deserve the loyalty of the City Manager. Gretsas explained, "Some employees think they're smarter than the elected officials. But ultimately you have to respect their authority." The dogged allegiance that Gretsas displayed to his boss in White Plains offers a measure of comfort to City officials picking up the fiscal pieces of the former City Manager's administration. How Mr. Gretsas intends to distribute this previously singular loyalty to five masters is enigmatic.

Continued on page 18

Decision...Continued

This section explains the underlying authority that the Record of Decision and its supporting documentation is predicated on. It defines the problem as, "The coastline of Broward County is low-lying and vulnerable to storm event damages. Shoreline recession continues to be a problem along Broward County Beaches. The purpose of the GRR and FEIS was to evaluate alternatives to address these challenges and to recommend a comprehensive, cost-effective, and environmentally acceptable solution."

Part 3, the "Alternatives and Recommended Plan", outlines the aspects of the project. It describes the National Economic Development Plan (NED) that was recommended by the Corps' District Engineer and discusses several alternatives that were considered and declined. The NED covers 11.8 miles of the 24 miles of shoreline from Deerfield Beach through Hallandale and includes the following elements:

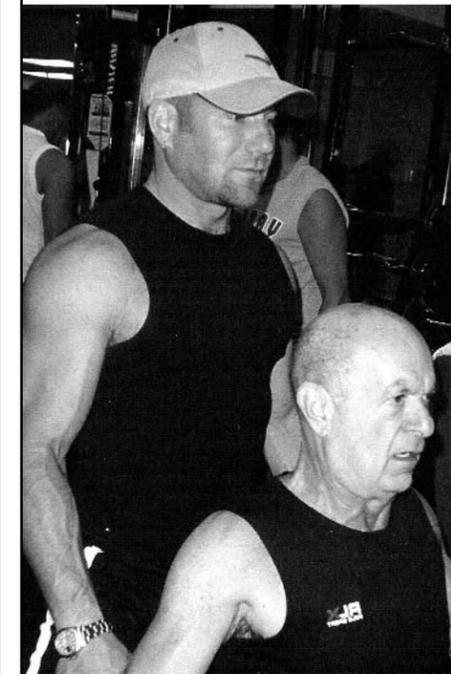
- Placement of 2.5 million cubic yards of material along 11.8 miles of Broward County's shoreline.
 - Segment II (Hillsboro Inlet to Port Everglades), fill will be placed along beaches in Pompano Beach, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea and Fort Lauderdale.
 - Segment III (Port Everglades to the south county line), fill will be placed along beaches in John U. Lloyd State Park, Dania Beach, Hollywood and Hallandale Beach.
 - Fill will be obtained from five discrete offshore borrow areas located in the central and northern portion of the county.
 - Development and implementation of an integrated pre- and post-construction monitoring plan was developed in close coordination with Federal and State resource agencies.
- * Approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of sand would be placed for the initial construction with a total of 5.4 million cubic yards of sand needed for the life of the project.

Three approaches were considered in the GRR and FEIS; "no action", structural alternatives and non-structural alternatives. "No action" achieved none of the planning objectives. The non-structural alternatives, in addition to not being economically feasible, do not address the loss of land (the existing beach) caused by long-term erosion. The structural alternative described in the NED is fiscally viable and achieves every planning objective.

The fourth part is "Public Coordination". The month long "comment" period from the publication of the "Notice of Availability" of the FEIS in the Federal Register on January 2nd elicited numerous responses from Federal, State and local government agencies, property owners, environmental organizations, and individual stakeholders. Because no new substantive issues were raised in the FEIS that weren't previously addressed in the DEIS, the

Continued on page 9

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18 Antique & Collector Faire War Memorial 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5380	19 Commissioner Christine Teel: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 7 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033	20 Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.	21	22	23 Bank of America Starlight Musicals Holiday Park 7 - 10 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5363	24 Computer Show & Sale War Memorial 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5380
25 Computer Show & Sale War Memorial 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5380	26 Marlins vs. PHI Pro Player 7:05 p.m. Tix.: ticketmaster.com	27 Marlins vs. PHI Pro Player 7:05 p.m. Tix.: ticketmaster.com	28 Marlins vs. PHI Pro Player 7:05 p.m. Tix.: ticketmaster.com	29 Marlins vs. PHI Pro Player 1:05 p.m. Tix.: ticketmaster.com	30 Bank of America Starlight Musicals Holiday Park 7 - 10 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5363	31 Hollywood West Summer Concert Series Montella Park 7:30 - 9 p.m. Info.: 954-921-3404
1 SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985	2	3	4	5	6 Spiny Lobster Season Begins	7 Hollywood West Summer Concert Series Montella Park 7:30 - 9 p.m. Info.: 954-921-3404
8 Music Under the Stars Apollo Park 5 - 7 p.m. Info.: 954-921-3404	9	10	11	12	13	14 Gun & Knife Show War Memorial 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5380

A LOOK AHEAD

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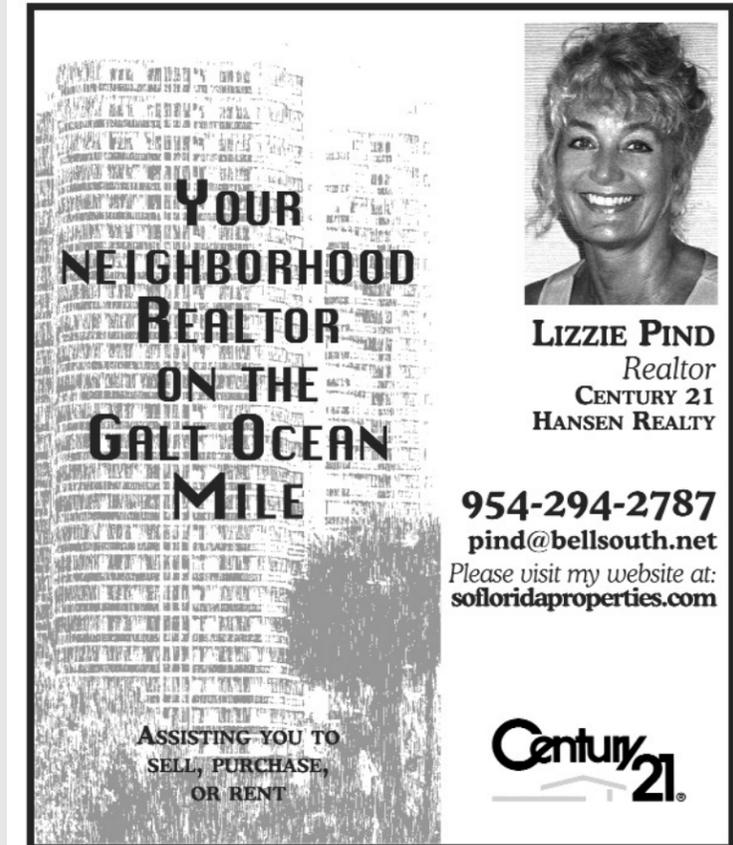
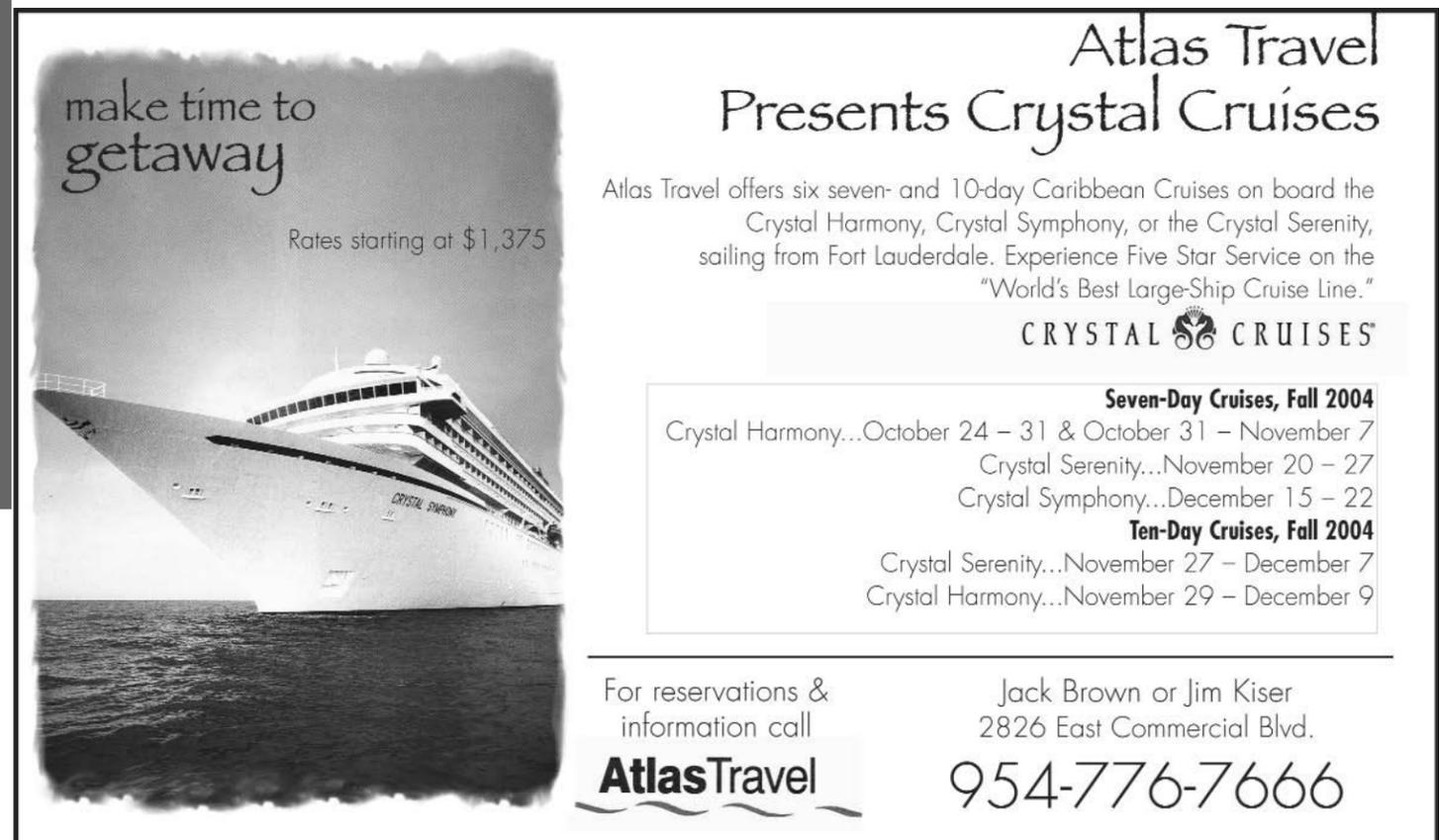
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Decision...Continued

coordination with agencies and interest groups relating to project impacts and adjunctive mitigation was already adequately provided for.

Part 5 of the Record of Decision addresses the "Factors Considered to Minimize Adverse Impacts" that may or may not surface. The most significant area of concern identified during project formulation focuses on the specific measures to offset impacts to near shore reefs and hard bottom communities. The Corps incorporated the recommendations of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), other mainstream environmental agencies, various interest groups and members of the public into the plan. The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection has determined the project to be consistent with the existing Florida Coastal Management Program and, as such, issued a Joint Coastal Permit to Broward County on May 12, 2003 for both Segments II and III. To address Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) expressed a Biological Opinion designed to protect Turtles and Manatees. It produced measures that were incorporated into the plan and approved by USFWS on October 10, 2002, in the Final Coordination Act Report (CAR). Those species under the purview of the National Marine Fisheries Service were provided for previously in a March 10, 2000 correspondence with the NMFS.

Continued on page 10

Decision...Continued

The 6th and final section of the ROD is a "Summary" that reads, "In view of the above, I find that the adverse impacts of the proposed action have been minimized, to the extent practicable, and the proposed action is consonant with national policy, statutes, and administrative directives. In consideration of all pertinent factors, the overall public interest will best be served by providing the improvements as described in the General Reevaluation Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Broward County Shore Protection Project." The document is dated 11 May, 2004 and signed by "Randall R. Castro, Brigadier General, US Army, Commanding."

That's it - its official - the plan has the blessing of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, all of the environmental watchdogs with authoritative standing and the people that live on the beach. Broward County now carries the ball. They will implement the southern segment of the project first, monitor the effects for 18 months, and complete the northern portion when the southern portion receives a clean bill of health.

The remaining obstacles to the project's ultimate implementation are two-fold. The vested interest lobby that has supported the disappearance of the beach is still working to bring this strange aspiration to fruition. The second, more ominous, threat emanates from the United States Congress. There is a movement afoot to withdraw support for environmental programs because of fiscal constraints. The Broward County Commission has sent a letter to the relevant legislators

requesting that they reject any attempt to withdraw support for salvaging the nation's beaches. That aside, the legal underpinning for the fight to rescue our beach is in place and its renourishment is simply a matter of time!

For additional information about the threat to our beach and the Broward County Shore Protection Project (including a timetable), go to the Galt Mile Community Association web site (www.galt-mile.com) and click on the Issues section. Scroll down to Shore Preservation and click. The entire history of the issue and the struggle is organized in chronological order. Additional information, such as the actual Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and General Reevaluation Report (GRR), is available through the links on the Shore Preservation page.



Randall R. Castro, Brigadier General, US Army, Commanding



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Gretsas...Continued

Thomas Hoover, former City Manager of Worcester, Massachusetts, scratched out an average 59.3%. Our new City Manager scored a weak 33.5%. Apparently, either Gretsas doesn't test well or, as he asserted, the tests were based on old management theories. He might be right...after all, high scorer George Kolb's city is facing a deficit and he recently dodged receiving a pink slip from Augusta...the vicissitudes of life.

Commissioner Cindi Hutchinson, Gretsas' prime supporter, minimized the disappointing test results, exhorting that "we already know the way we've done business in the past ain't working". She says that Gretsas' research into the position impressed her. For instance, to sample the frustrating permitting logjam in the Building Department suffered by city dwellers, he pulled a permit to build a deck. Justifying his support for Gretsas' goal-oriented intensity, Mayor Naugle imparted, "I feel he has the greatest ability to change the organization". Trantalis, while staunchly supporting one of his "top picks", echoed Moore's reservations owing to Gretsas' poor test results. The Commission downplayed the importance of standard evaluation techniques, expressing that the City needs qualities that aren't easily demonstrable in the usual formats, traits that the tests don't measure. Reservations notwithstanding, Commissioners agreed that they weren't seeking the typical bureaucrat. Test results were out, vibes were in.

While intuition is a universally recognized and generally accepted component of any evaluation process, it has produced mixed results in our City's fiscal history. There is certainly

enough blame to go around when investigating the reasons for the City's financial woes. While the former City Manager made the decisions about resource collection and management, the Mayor and the four Commissioners spent the money. They also were in a position to question the efficacy of the "funds in - funds out" imbalance during the annual budget realignments. At



a Galt Mile Community Association Advisory Board meeting, Commissioner Teel disclosed that suspicions proliferated around City Hall that something was amiss during the end of Floyd Johnson's reign. That the five City Fathers and Mothers suspected impropriety inures to their credit, that they didn't investigate these feelings of foreboding until the budget bomb exploded covers them with a cloud of doubt. They relied entirely on their "vibes". Some serious research into the City's books, even one year earlier,

would have lightened or averted the ultimate disaster. These same Commissioners are relying on these same "vibes" to select our City Manager.

There are real causes for concern. Mr. Gretsas has never before worked in a City Manager-run municipality. He was the executive officer to the mayor in White Plains, N.Y., a city one third the size of Fort Lauderdale, when he read Fort Lauderdale's ad for a City Manager in the New York Times. Gretsas served as the competent right arm of Mayor Joseph Delfino, actualizing the strong Mayor's vision while avoiding the spotlight. Surprisingly, Gretsas has negligible experience with budgeting and did no hiring or firing in White Plains. The Mayor,

Continued on page 14

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- | | |
|---|--|
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(1/1.5)
\$272,000 - closed 4/29/04 |
| Galleon #1602
(1/1.5)
\$359,000 - closed 4/15/04 | Coral Ridge Towers S. #510
(2/2)
\$120,000 - closed 4/27/04 |
| Galleon #1203
(1/1.5)
\$278,000 - closed 4/23/04 | Continental Condo #203
(2/2)
\$260,000 - closed 4/30/04 |
| Plaza East #18J
(2/2)
\$321,500 - closed 4/30/04 | Southpoint #1903
(2/2)
\$410,000 - closed 4/15/04 |
| Playa Del Mar #2404
(1/1.5)
\$289,000 - closed 4/23/04 | Playa Del Sol #1814
(1/1.5)
\$237,000 - closed 4/8/04 |
| Royal Ambassador
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\$279,000 - closed 4/30/04 | Galt Ocean Club #108
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\$215,000 - closed 4/20/04 |



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Eric Berkowitz

"Listen, money comes and goes. Jobs come and go. Your integrity is all you have. And if it's eroded, you never get it back."

– George Demetrios Gretsas.

He's from New York. He's young. He achieved the lowest score of all the competing candidates on the City's leadership test. He's a goal oriented workaholic. He's all ours. George Demetrios Gretsas was offered the City Manager position in the City of Fort Lauderdale on Wednesday, June 1st, by the City Commission. He accepted. In about a month or two, this 36 year old whiz kid from just north of the Big Apple will fill the \$250,885 shoes of discredited former City Manager Floyd Johnson and Acting City Manager Alan Silva. Mr. Gretsas has his work cut out for him.

George Gretsas was on the plus end of a 4 to 1 City Commission vote to put him in the City's driver's seat. Commissioner Carlton Moore, the lone dissenter, thought it was a bad idea. Referring to the final four (out of the original 215) losing applicants that targeted Fort Lauderdale's City Manager position, Moore declared Gretsas to be the "weakest candidate". The other Commissioners and the Mayor are delighted. At the May 17th City Commission meeting, Commissioner Cindi Hutchinson moved to select Gretsas for the point position in the war to reestablish Fort Lauderdale's fiscal credibility. Characterizing Gretsas as "a person who has fire in his belly", Commissioner Christine Teel seconded Hutchinson's motion. At the outset of the "search process" for a new City Manager, the City Commissioners individually compiled "wish lists", identifying their preferred candidates. Hutchinson and Trantalis both included Gretsas in their "top five". Mayor Naugle also claims Gretsas as one of his top picks. While uncomfortable with the decision of the majority, Moore ultimately granted Gretsas a unanimous vote of support.

While the City instituted a professional search process for Fort Lauderdale's top spot, the reasons that motivated the Commissioners' selection of Gretsas were far from scientific. As part of an evaluation devised by Management & Personnel Systems Inc. of Walnut Creek, California, the final cast of candidates took several tests that matched their leadership, oral communications and problem analysis/decision making skills with a nationwide sample of private and public managers. George Kolb, the City/County Manager of Augusta, Georgia, and a Harvard graduate, scored a stellar 90%. Michael West, the Johnson City, Tennessee City Manager and a legacy from Fort Lauderdale's budget office, scored a healthy 77.7%.

Continued on page 8

Bogdanoff...Continued

a mandate to protect the interests of her constituency, she also must keep a clear "world view", taking into consideration what is best for the State as a whole. In addition, her effectiveness as a legislator will depend upon the relationships she develops with her peers, therefore requiring that she step on as few toes as possible while navigating the session. This political "high-wire" act is a challenge for veteran Statehouse denizens. Ms. Bogdanoff, a rookie, acquitted herself creditably, graduating her trial by fire with flying colors.

She depicted the environment in Tallahassee, particularly toward the "hard knuckle" final days of the session, as "like working in a high-pressure cocoon". Bills are evolving at lightning speed as their sponsors try to align the support required for their passage. Provisions are scratched out or penciled in on a minute by minute basis. During the last few days, entire bills were killed and their language was spliced into other surviving legislation as their desperate sponsors tried to keep their season's work product alive. Ms. Bogdanoff stated that she "remains online all day during this period to maintain contact with her constituency". She said that she "often gets better, more current input from constituents who are closely following the legislation than through the usual networking that is available on the floor." Ms. Bogdanoff said that "many legislators rely on 'the folks back home' to keep them up to speed by email and electronic messages during the final days of the session."

Representative Bogdanoff was asked by GMCA Presidents Council Chairman Pio Ieraci about her response to Representative Julio Robaino's HB 1223, the controversial "Condo Killer" bill. She characterized Mr. Robaino as "an honorable man who is trying to address a problem that some of his constituents are facing." Ralph Hamaker, President of Coral Ridge Towers South, pointed out that Mr. Robaino's original bill suffered from being unbalanced, "hurting far more people than it helped." Ms. Bogdanoff agreed, explaining that "the provisions injurious to the vast majority of Associations were either removed from the bill or compromised upon until they were acceptable." By way of example, she described the Ombudsman, a controversial office that was originally envisioned as a feudal-style bounty hunter of sorts, as having been transformed into a true "two-way street". The final "compromise" version would be a mediator, not a prosecutor, who is equally available to unit owners, board members and Associations when called upon. Ms. Bogdanoff exhorted that, "the provisions of the bill that threatened to confiscate owners' rights or interfere with an Association's daily operations were removed." When asked about the final version of SB 3046 – HB 1899, a "Construction Defects" bill that would cripple condo owners' ability to seek redress for improperly performed construction; she said that she received assurances from House Judiciary Committee Chair Jeffrey

Continued on page 16

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Update: Representative Ellyn Setnor Bogdanoff

Eric Berkowitz

District 91 Statehouse Representative Ellyn Setnor Bogdanoff addressed the May 20th Galt Mile Community Association Advisory Board meeting at Nick's Italian Restaurant. She improved everyone's digestion considerably when summarizing the recently completed legislative session in Tallahassee. At its outset, the session appeared to portend disastrous consequences for condominium owners. A veritable whirlwind of legislation impacting Associations, positive and negative, permeated the House and Senate calendars throughout the session. Representative Bogdanoff diplomatically referred to the "open season on Associations" as a collection of good intentions gone awry. A potpourri of carelessly constructed bills that were publicized by their sponsors as "empowering" to condo owners were floated through the legislative chambers. Once the actual content of the legislation was revealed as a formula to dismantle the condominium system in Florida, a myriad of protest hit the Capitol like a tidal wave. Legislators responded to the flood of objections from thousands of condo owners throughout the State by disemboweling the offending legislation. By the end of the session, the voices raised against the "Condo Killer" bills grew so deafening that they were unceremoniously scrapped.

The winner of a closely contested January 6th race for Connie Mack IV's vacated District 91 Statehouse seat, Representative Ellyn Setnor Bogdanoff (R - Fort Lauderdale) just experienced her first legislative session. On January 30th, a few days after her successful Statehouse bid (official "elected date" was January 27th), House Speaker Johnnie Byrd appointed Ms. Bogdanoff to the House Committee on Appropriations, the Subcommittee on Commerce & Local Affairs Appropriations, the House Committee on Commerce, the Subcommittee on Workforce & Economic Development, the House Judiciary Committee, the House Committee on Insurance, the Subcommittee on Insurance Regulation, the House Committee on Procedures and the Subcommittee on Ethics & Elections - more than a full plate. She described the legislative process from the unique perspective of a neophyte insider. She characterized legislating in Tallahassee as a "balancing act" between conflicting interests. While she carries a

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Bogdanoff...Continued

is a remarkably well credentialed attorney with experiential insight into the political process, we are now additionally aware that she has the political "moxie", brains and skill required to thrive in Tallahassee - the real deal. More importantly, she is there for us. The accuracy of our assessment, like all things political, will come out in the Tallahassee wash during the next legislative session's laundry day. In the interim...we'd better get cracking on that wish list!

The contact data for District 91's Statehouse Representative Ellyn Setnor Bogdanoff is as follows:

Tallahassee

The Capitol (Room 1102), 402 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300. Her telephone number in the Capitol is 850-488-0635. Her Email address is bogdanoff.ellyn@myfloridahouse.com

Local

2601 East Oakland Park Blvd (Suite 204), Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306-1612. Her local telephone number is 954-958-5569.

Legislative Aide

Gerald O'Rourke, Ms. Bogdanoff's District Aide, can be emailed at orourke.g@myfloridahouse.com

Report Card

In the Report Card section of the Galt Mile Community Association web site (www.galtmile.com), the contact information is posted for Representative Bogdanoff as well as every other political representative of Galt Mile residents.

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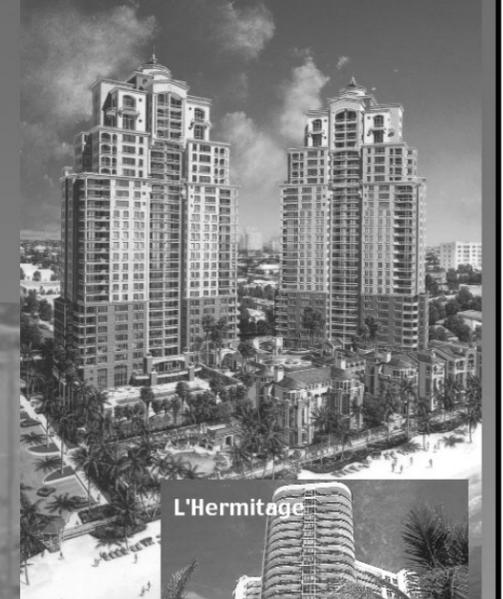
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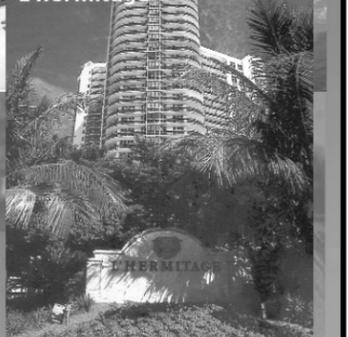
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