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JULY 2008

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## CALYPSO BAIT & SWITCH



Senator Jeffrey Atwater and LBTS Mayor Roseann Minnet join Galt Mile residents at Dania SUEZ presentation

## THE DANIA MEETING

By Eric Berkowitz

Two days after the Ft. Lauderdale City Commission issued a May 20th resolution opposing the Calypso Project, GMCA President Pio Ieraci contacted lobbyist Tom Allen from SUEZ North America to confirm a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 28th, at Plaza South prior to notifying Galt Mile Associations that concerned residents would have the opportunity to hear a Coast Guard Security plan for Calypso. Despite assuring the City Commission that they intended to allay the fears of Galt Mile residents at this Plaza South meeting, SUEZ decided to "bait and switch" the venue to the IGFA (International Game Fishing Association) building in Dania, halfway across the county. When Commissioner Teel checked her emails on Friday morning, May 23rd, she found an announcement from the RBB Public Relations firm entitled "Public Notice to the Broward County Community" welcoming the public to an "Informational Open House."

Since Monday was Memorial Day, Calypso set a new standard for intentionally dissuading public access, cancelling the Galt Mile meeting and announcing the replacement public event with one business day's notice. Ieraci asked why SUEZ was moving the location of the meeting after pledging to address the concerns of those frightened Galt Mile residents living closest to the LNG facility. Tom Allen said "We decided that we would need a much larger space." Given their history of poorly attended Calypso meet-

ings due to nearly invisible notice, it was not inconceivable that their 8 Tallahassee lobbyist (5 for the Calypso Deepwater Port, 2 for the Calypso Pipeline, 1 for SUEZ Energy North America) and the three Broward county lobbyist Judy Stern, Bill Rubin, and Heather Tunbull) planned to pack the hall with supporters - not unlike the paid scientists who testified at the City Commission meeting.

The meeting was rescheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the International Game Fish Association Headquarters auditorium at 300 Gulf Stream Way in Dania Beach. The notice stated, "An outside moderator will introduce speakers from the U.S. Coast Guard and SUEZ Energy North America, and then facilitate a question and answer session for attendees so any and all issues and concerns can be addressed. We look forward to your attendance."

### GMCA Engages State Representatives

GMCA President Pio Ieraci contacted our Tallahassee representatives, Senator Jeffrey Atwater and Representative Elynn Bogdanoff, to apprise them of the machinations SUEZ resorted to after asking the Galt Mile Community Association to arrange a meeting in Plaza South with concerned Galt Mile residents. Senator Atwater immediately agreed to alter his plans and meet with the group of residents that initially fueled the opposition to Calypso.

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Calypso..Continued

The next day, Saturday morning at 8 A.M., the Senator met with GMCA officials Pio Ieraci and Eric Berkowitz, GMCA Advisory Board member Fred Nesbitt, Plaza South residents Bill and Terry Claire, Dr. Dave and Barbara Marshall, Ivan Itkin from L'Hermitage, City Commissioner Christine Teel, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Mayor Roseann Minnet and journalist Mark Brown.

Upon learning about the "bait and switch" tactic deployed by Calypso lobbyist Tom Allen and SUEZ V.P. Dan McGinnis, Senator Atwater surmised, "It sounds like these people (SUEZ N.A.) hope to create the appearance of holding a public meeting – only without the public. By moving the venue across the county to Dania on such short notice, it is fair to assume that they mean to discourage participation by the folks most affected by their project." The residents explained to the Senator that although SUEZ has been actively pursuing a license for this deepwater port for several years, three out of Fort Lauderdale's five City Commissioners knew nothing about Calypso. When Commissioner Teel learned about the project's potential for disaster, she informed constituents that she intended to recommend that Governor Crist VETO the project. While Mayor Nangle was admittedly aware of the project, he said that he knew little about its dangers and drawbacks. Two weeks later, the City Commission voted to issue a resolution opposing Calypso. Senator Atwater recommended that we attend the Dania meeting. "I don't think we should give SUEZ the opportunity to mislead the public – and the Governor – by packing the hall with supporters and then announcing that attendees were satisfied that the project was safe and sound," said Senator Atwater. "It's important that our voices are heard at this orchestrated event. It's also important to engage the neighboring communities and their public officials such as Mayor Minnet, as they are all affected by this threat. The Governor needs to understand that this is an apolitical neighborhood issue."

Stymied by the short notice and the Memorial Day holiday weekend, GMCA officials asked Commissioner Teel to help arrange a bus for transporting concerned Galt Mile residents to Dania for the May 28th meeting. On Wednesday evening, about 50 Galt Mile residents joined Senator Atwater and Commis-

sioner Teel at the bus, despite having been given only one business day's notice. Another 100 residents from the Galt Mile and Lauderdale-by-the-Sea arranged private car pools to the meeting. District 91 Statehouse Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff and District 4 Broward Commissioner Ken Keechl were already at the IGFA building when the bus arrived.

## Act I: Dania Theater of the Absurd

As the Dania meeting convened, the SUEZ panel was comprised of Project Manager Dan McGinnis, SUEZ Energy North America Representatives Fred Staible, Brad Cooley, and Tony Galt, three Coast Guard officials and Bill Cooper, introduced as an independent expert on liquefied natural gas (LNG). The Coast Guard was represented by Captain Karl Schultz (Commander, Coast Guard Sector Miami), Mark Prescott (chief of deep-water ports standard division for the U.S. Coast Guard) and Commander Brian Gove. The meeting was also attended by groups with which SUEZ had financial dealings, such as several contracted scientists from Nova Oceanographic Institute. Citing deference to the attending local politicians, the SUEZ-appointed moderator called on Broward Commissioner Ken Keechl. After asserting that SUEZ' decision to locate this facility across from a heavily populated area was insupportable, Commissioner Keechl exclaimed, "I have a personal problem with you. I resent your statements in the press that my constituents who are alarmed by this dangerous project are 'acting irrationally'. Other than the expansion at the South Runway at the Airport, I've never seen an issue create such dissention so quickly," referring to the controversy surrounding the Fort Lauderdale - Hollywood International Airport expansion. "From what I've learned recently, their concerns are very real," said Keechl. Commissioner Keechl subsequently sent a May 30th letter to Governor Charlie Crist vehemently opposing the Calypso Deepwater Port.

Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Christine Teel echoed Commissioner Keechl's objections, contending that the City agrees that "the public concern is justified." She proceeded to read an official resolution opposing the project passed at the May 20th City Commission meeting. Speaking next, Senator

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# The Galt Mile News

The Galt Mile News is the official newsletter of the Galt Mile Community. Published 12 times a year, this publication is designed to educate the Galt residents of neighborhood-oriented current events and issues, and to offer residents Galt-specific discounts from various local merchants.



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Calypso...Continued

Jeffrey Atwater said "It would have served everyone's best interests if SUEZ had addressed the threats posed by their project directly with those most affected by those threats in a calm environment. While I appreciate your efforts in securing attendance by the Coast Guard, many of those residents who harbor the greatest concerns are elderly and were unable to travel to Dania on such short notice. While it is important that SUEZ be accorded the opportunity to explain their project, it is equally important that they address the legitimate concerns of Galt Mile residents and other communities along the shore." Addressing SUEZ N.A. Vice President Dan McGinnis, Atwater said, "I urge you to arrange another meeting at the Galt Mile right away," since SUEZ' questionable decision to switch the meeting at the last minute spoke to their credibility as an organization.

The day before, on May 27th, Senator Atwater sent a letter to Dan McGinnis expressing his disappointment with SUEZ' actions, explaining that McGinnis' decision to move the venue functionally prohibited participation by many concerned residents. Atwater wrote, "It is imperative that the residents of Galt Ocean Mile have the opportunity to have their voices heard! Their concerns and questions are valid, as this project has the potential of seriously impacting their community." Insisting that the meeting scheduled to take place on the Galt Mile should have been important to SUEZ, Atwater closed with, "I do look forward to hearing from you shortly as to the time and location of a meeting that is convenient to the residents of the Galt Ocean Mile and surrounding communities."

District 91 Statehouse Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff also served notice on the SUEZ panel that she had already started familiarizing herself with the project and its impact on her constituents, having recently been made aware of the strong neighborhood aversion to Calypso. Doubtless aware of her position as Majority Whip in the Florida Statehouse, Bogdanoff sent a discernible chill through the SUEZ panel when she announced that she had already contacted the Governor about this issue. Digressing momentarily, she intimated the wisdom of SUEZ reconsidering their project and/or its location given the explosive opposition stridently expressed by a sizable and rapidly growing community plurality. Her tone hardened when she described the Governor's reliable sensitivity to community concerns when weighing an issue's adverse impacts. After the meeting, she exclaimed "The Governor is already looking into what's happening here. He should discover that this is not a political issue, but a grassroots demand for peace of mind." Other government officials from Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Coral Springs and Dania Beach registered opposition to the project as well.

After extending the floor to every identifiable politician, the "Independent Moderator" assigned by SUEZ to control the meeting spent the next 1.5 hours "moderating" a discussion between panel members. As they asked one another a seemingly scripted set of irrelevant questions, a Galt Mile resident interrupted, stating, "We've been here for almost 2 hours and you still haven't taken any questions from the Galt Mile residents for whom you supposedly arranged this meeting." Receiving a nod from Dan McGinnis, the flustered moderator called on GMCA Advisory Board member Fred Nesbitt.

### Galt Mile Residents Target Panel

Quoting from a December 2007 Government Accountability Office (GAO) Maritime Security report, Playa del Mar resident Fred Nesbitt said that liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers face "suicide attacks from explosive-laden boats, 'standoff' attacks with weapons launched from a distance and armed assaults" resulting in a "severe threat to public safety, environmental consequences, and disruption of the energy supply chain." Nesbitt pointed out that the GAO report admonishes that "the Coast Guard - the lead federal agency for Maritime Security - has insufficient resources to meet its own self-imposed security standards." Responding to a newspaper article in which Dan McGinnis claimed that local opponents to Calypso were overreacting to "myths more than anything," Nesbitt asked the Coast Guard representatives if they consider GAO reports to be myths. When they failed to answer, Fred asked the officers if they considered terrorism a threat. As the Coast Guard's Officers cast a seemingly perplexed daze at the SUEZ panel, a SUEZ representative intervened, stating "If the Coast Guard thought that this project was dangerous, they would say so."

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GMCA official Eric Berkowitz answered, "Dozens of counter-terrorism authorities have warned against the establishment of LNG facilities in densely populated areas. In a January 9, 2007 Congressional Research Service Report for Congress entitled 'Maritime Security: Potential Terrorist Attacks and Protection Priorities', Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, stated that 'there is a significant threat by vessel-borne improvised explosive devices' and that 'vulnerability to small-boat attacks stood out during a 2006 threat assessment.'"

Berkowitz continued, "Former White House counter-terrorism chief Richard Clarke wrote a report entitled 'LNG Facilities in Urban Areas' in May of 2005 warning that 'As LNG imports become a more important sector of our economy, terrorist organizations like al Qaeda will become more interested in attacking them. In addition, LNG tankers, which often travel in close proximity to metropolitan seaports, are undoubtedly attractive high casualty targets for al Qaeda planners. In a recently released document known simply as the National Planning Scenarios, DHS (Department of Homeland Security) indicated that a potential terrorist attack on a chemical or gas tanker is the number six ranked doomsday scenario for the United States government. As a result, DHS is expected to spend at least an additional one billion dollars to secure against this form of terrorist attack. However even those within DHS believe that the United States is a long way away from true preparedness.'" Berkowitz informed the panel that Richard Clarke served 11 years as White House National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism for Presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George H. Bush.

As his three-minute opportunity to address the panel expired, Berkowitz said "You have made mention several times at this meeting that irresponsible residents have spread an inflammatory rumor that an ignitable vapor cloud resulting from a catastrophic full discharge of a LNG tanker has the energy equivalent of 55 Hiroshima bombs. After investigating the source of this admittedly frightening analogy, I discovered that it wasn't, as you infer, some anti-LNG 'spin' manufactured to elicit unwarranted opposition to LNG facilities, but a direct quote from a 1982 Lovins & Lovins Pentagon study entitled 'Brittle Power: Energy Strategy for National Security'. On page 88 of this report, Lovins contends that "An LNG fireball can blow through a city, creating a very large number of ignitions and explosions across a wide area. No present or foreseeable equipment can put out a very large [LNG]... fire. The energy content of a single standard LNG tanker (one hundred twenty-five thousand cubic meters) is equivalent to seven-tenths of a megaton of TNT, or about fifty-five Hiroshima bombs." If I'm wrong in assuming that you are already familiar with this study, links on the Galt Mile web site to the original documentation will provide you with confirmation. Now that you are aware that this is not some dramatic metaphor meant to scare up opposition, but reliable information originally solicited by FEMA's predecessor and Armed Forces energy directors in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, perhaps you will better understand the depth of our concerns."

Plaza South resident Bill Claire referred to a statement by Lord Peter Levene, Chairman of Lloyds, the world's second largest commercial insurer, who told Houston business leaders that a terrorist attack on a LNG tanker "would have the force of a small nuclear explosion." Claire also reviewed Congressional Research Service concerns about the prospect of a tanker being commandeered by terrorists. Claire asked what the Coast Guard could do if a hijacked LNG vessel were guided into Port Everglades or beached on the Galt Mile shore and ignited. The SUEZ representative again interjected, dismissing Claire's query as (a scenario that was too remote to address.) When Claire pressed for a response by the Coast Guard officers, Captain Schultz admitted that "any such terrorist threat should certainly be taken seriously." Schultz added a disclaimer of sorts, explaining apologetically, "we have nothing to do with the location of this or any other facility. Our participation is limited to reviewing their application for its compliance with Federal regulations-nothing more."

Responding to Dan McGinnis' claims that SUEZ has been publicizing the Calypso project for ten years, Oakland Park resident Chris Chiari clarified that the Calypso Pipeline was originally designed to transport natural gas from a Regasification facility in the Bahamas to Port Everglades.

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# SENATOR JEFFREY ATWATER

## REVIEWS 2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

*\*Jeffrey Atwater's Senate career has been exemplary. As a rule, when legislators successfully network their way through the political minefield to leadership positions, their constituents suffer neglect. Meetings with homeowners, business owners, neighborhood groups and other constituents become limited to invitational fundraisers or media events. As those political commitments required for continued advancement grow, the folks back home must settle for sound bytes. District 25 residents don't have this problem. While annually grinding out record amounts of productive legislation and performing a demanding host of leadership functions, Atwater manages to remain a phone call away from anyone in his district.*

*Exhibiting the enthusiasm of a rookie Senator, instead of simply inviting input, he aggressively demands constituents' thoughts and opinions. His aides aren't constrained to answering letters and returning emails and phone calls, they patrol the District, aggressively seeking local issues that would benefit from his participation. During the legislative session, the Senator worked with the Galt Mile Community Association on Beach Renourishment, windstorm insurance and property taxes. Legislative Aide Melissa Francisco acted as a conduit to Atwater while in Tallahassee, attending Advisory Board meetings and Presidents Council events. Enigmatically, Atwater simultaneously devotes this level of attention to every neighborhood in District 25.*

*His post-session update reviews some of this year's major legislative accomplishments. A highly publicized series of Senate hearings revealed that insurance carriers were illegally engineering artificial substantiation for undeserved rate hikes. Turmoil in the State insurance market fostered a policy of pandering to carriers, breeding an arrogant refusal to comply with regulations their own representatives helped negotiate. Atwater teamed with State Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty to stiffen penalties for rate rape. Using the Senate Select Committee on Property Insurance Accountability to locate policy loopholes exploited by carriers, Atwater filed Senate Bill 2860 to discourage future abuse. Senator Atwater's Homeowner's Bill of Rights permanently bans the industry practice of charging higher rates before the state approves them. It does away with an arbitration panel currently used by insurers to plead for higher rates and prohibits the use of unauthorized risk models to rationalize rate increases. Violation fines are increased and the Citizens Insurance rate freeze is extended for 1.3 million policyholders.*

*A staunch proponent of "life means life" sentencing guidelines, "10-20-life" for criminals using firearms and "three strikes" for violent recidivists, Atwater drafted new anti-gang legislation. Senator Jeff Atwater's Senate Bill 76 and Representative William Snyder's complimentary House Bill 43 enact recommendations made by the 18th Statewide Grand Jury, giving prosecutors RICO-style flexibility and a Kingpin Statute, making it a first-degree felony punishable by life imprisonment for directing criminal gang-related activity. It encourages maintenance of a statewide gang database for coordinating enforcement strategy, allows civil injunctions to be issued against gangs and gang members, mandates a registration requirement for gang members and*

*creates a Coordinating Council on Criminal Gang Reduction Strategies, chaired by the Attorney General, which will marshal state and local agency resources under a statewide strategy to reduce gangs. Applauded by Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum, it flew through the legislature without a single dissenting vote.*

*Committed to Everglades Restoration and Beach Renourishment, Atwater helped pave the way for Florida's opportunistic acquisition of land threatened by pollution or inappropriate development, guaranteeing its preservation in a natural state. This year, he co-sponsored Senate Bill 1672 with Senators Dennis Jones and Don Gaetz, addressing Beach Management and issues surrounding Beach Renourishment like sand quality and availability. Its Statehouse sister bill, House Bill 1427, passed both houses without a single Nay vote after being substituted for its Senate counterpart.*

*Equipped with sterling academic and experiential fiscal credentials, Atwater diagnosed Florida's crippled economy as a victim of runaway taxes and a dysfunctional insurance market before the condition deteriorated into a transparent recession. His fiscal expertise tagged Atwater with negotiating responsibilities for virtually every budget controversy faced by the Governor and the legislative leadership. His fingerprints cover almost every major fiscal bill considered during the past few years, including the insurance rescue package, rescinding the intangibles retirement tax and declaring statewide Sales Tax Holidays for hurricane preparedness equipment and school supplies. Already named as the next Senate President, if Senator Atwater continues on his present course, he has an excellent chance of following Great Grandfather Napoleon Bonaparte Broward into the Governor's mansion. Read on: - [Editor]\**

### Post-Session Update

Dear Neighbors,

We recently wrapped-up a challenging 2008 Legislative Session in Tallahassee. We worked very diligently in creating meaningful reform on homeowner's insurance. We also addressed a number of issues of importance to the people of Florida, including public safety and the protection of our environment particularly our precious Everglades and beautiful beaches. I am pleased to report we balanced the budget without raising taxes. A few of our successes are as follows...

#### Homeowner's Insurance Reform

My central focus for the 2008 legislative session was fundamental reform of the insurance industry. I am pleased to say we were successful in passing the Homeowner's Bill of Rights. The Homeowner's Bill of Rights, once signed by the Governor, will bring strong new consumer protections, accountability, fairer practices and respect for Florida consumers from insurance companies.

#### Public Safety

In order to make Florida a safer place to live, work and visit, we must get tougher on crime particularly with the rising number of violent gangs calling Florida home. This session we passed tough anti-gang legislation, which gives law enforcement new tools to prosecute gang leaders. Gangs are an increasing - and increasingly violent - threat to our communities. This new bill gives law enforcement and prosecutors the ability to put gang leaders where they belong: behind bars.

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Calypso...Continued

Explaining that his familiarity with the Calypso Pipeline and the subsequent Deepwater Port license applications derives from his participation on the Broward County Marine Advisory Board, Chiari asked "What happened to the Bahamas gas plant?" SUEZ' Brad Cooley answered, "For some reason, they still haven't approved the license." Chiari retorted, "When the Bahamians rejected this dangerous facility, you moved it to our beach. The project you claim was in the works for ten years was a different project. The current Deepwater Port license application is two years old and nearly no one is aware that it exists, much less the danger it poses to adjacent neighborhoods."

### Deus Ex Machina - Orchestrating the Desired Result

A Coral Ridge resident asked if an ignitable vapor cloud could travel from the Calypso facility to the heavily populated Galt Mile beach. A SUEZ representative contended that their Independent Risk Assessment (IRA) determined that the cloud could only travel 4 miles, 3 miles short of the beach. He said that Sandia National Laboratories participated in the Calypso IRA. Residents pointed out that another Sandia report commissioned by the Coast Guard in January of 2006 stated that the ignitable vapor cloud could travel 7.3 miles, extending a potential holocaust passed the Intracoastal Waterway into Coral Ridge. The same Sandia study refers to the minimum distance from the fire required to survive the attendant 2000 BTU heat flux, a conflagration beyond the suppression capabilities of most municipal fire-rescue units. An additional cushion of 2640 meters, or 1.64 miles, will expose residents to 5 kilowatts per square meter, the maximum survivable heat flux, extending the mortality perimeter well passed Federal Highway. Additional authoritative reports have been issued claiming the deadly cloud can travel up to 30 miles. Ivan Itkin, a Galt Mile resident whose field is nuclear physics, accounts for these statistical variances among risk models by considering the assumptions that the risk assessors were given by the company.

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For example, the Calypso independent risk assessment considers 5 cases of accidental breach. In each case, a LNG tanker is aligned on a North-South axis and a colliding vessel is positioned perpendicular to the tanker. The size of a breach is determined and the amount of LNG that will pour through the breach is calculated. In each of the 5 cases, only one tenth of the amount of spilled LNG is considered when the ignitable effect is measured. Why? Because the experiment assumes that the colliding vessel will plug the hole it creates in the tanker, reducing spillage by 90%. In alternative studies by the same risk assessor, cases were considered wherein the breaches were 90% plugged, 50% plugged or not plugged at all. Of course, the resulting ignitable vapor cloud traveled a lot farther given the additional gas counted toward the pool size. Itkin said, "By controlling the assumptions, the operator can elicit almost any desired result."

### Looking Under the Covers

During the course of the meeting, SUEZ representatives repeatedly referred questions to a gentleman named Bill Cooper, introduced as an independent expert on liquefied natural gas. When suspicious residents asked Mr. Cooper if he was a lobbyist, he responded by saying he was the President of the Center for Liquefied Natural Gas (CLNG). When pressed, he admitted that he was a registered lobbyist. A quick trip to the CLNG web site revealed that "The Center for Liquefied Natural Gas (CLNG) is a trade association of LNG producers, shippers, terminal operators and developers and energy trade associations."

SUEZ attempt to misrepresent Cooper's objectivity backfired. He was on the payroll – albeit indirectly.

Following the meeting, the Galt Mile activists again boarded the bus and returned home. When GMCA President Pio Ieraci opened his email later that night, he found a message from SUEZ lobbyist Tom Allen asking to arrange another meeting with the Galt Mile residents who expressed concern about his project. Mr. McGinnis had apparently just received the correspondence from Senate President-elect Atwater that reinforced his constituents' concerns and disparaged SUEZ attempt to engineer public perception of its project by manipulating the meeting venue. Ieraci informed Mr. Allen that he would contact the GMCA Board and the activists to convey the SUEZ proposal. Leery of Allen's motives in view of SUEZ recent actions, Ieraci inquired "How can we know whether you will even show up?"

FYI: The doubt expressed by Playa del Mar's Fred Nesbitt upon quoting from a GAO report that "the Coast Guard - the lead federal agency for Maritime Security - has insufficient resources to meet its own self-imposed security standards," was vindicated the next day. After stonewalling Nesbitt's concern about the GAO report, chief of the deep-water ports standard division Mark Prescott stated in a Miami Herald interview that if the deep-water ports are approved, it is unknown to what degree the site would be guarded. "It may be full time, random, or on an escort basis. Frankly, we may not have the resources to protect it." Prescott added dogmatically, "But we may be given the resources to protect it," referring to Calypso's regulatory right to include local resources in their security plan – funded by local taxpayers – YOU! •



(Left to right) Lobbyist Bill Cooper, SUEZ Energy N. A. Reps Fred Staible, Brad Cooley, Tony Galt, and project manager Dan McGinnis

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THIS MONTH AT-A-GLANCE

# JULY/AUG 2008

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<p><b>6</b> <b>Sunday Jazz Brunch</b> Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market Las Olas Blvd. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>					<p><b>11</b> 2008 NPC Body Building Championship War Memorial Info.: 954-828-5380</p> <p>Sushi &amp; Stroll The Morikami Museum 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info.: 561-495-0233</p>	<p><b>12</b> International Mango Festival Mangos of Africa (Through 7/13) Fairchild Tropical Gardens 9:30 to 4:30 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market Las Olas Blvd. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Vice Mayor Teel Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center 6 p.m. Info: 954-828-5033</p>	<p><b>15</b> Ft. Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 6 p.m.</p> <p>Michael Bolton Hard Rock Live Tix.: 954-523-3309</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Sea Turtle Walk Museum Discovery &amp; Science 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Info.: 954.713.0930</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Rapunzel (Through 7/12) Broward Center Tix.: 954-462-0222</p>	<p><b>18</b> Starlight Musicals (Blues) 7 to 10 p.m. Holiday Park</p> <p>Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. &amp; A1A 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Pizza Fusion Kids Organics Class 10 a.m. Info.: 954-427-5353</p> <p>Batty Bats of Florida Museum Discovery &amp; Science 12:30 p.m. &amp; 2 p.m.</p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market Las Olas Blvd. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Poison Sound Advice Amphitheater 7 p.m. Info: 1-800-279-4444</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> Starlight Musicals (Rock &amp; Roll) 7 to 10 p.m. Holiday Park</p> <p>Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. &amp; A1A 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Minerals Rock! Museum of Discovery &amp; Science Info.: 954-713-0930</p> <p>Butterfly Days Fairchild Tropical Gardens (Through 7/27) Info.: 305-667-1651 X 3344</p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Urban Gourmet Market Las Olas Blvd. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>David Deal Playday Kids Day Joseph C. Carter Park 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Journey Sound Advice Amphitheater 7:30 p.m. Info: 1-800-279-4444</p>	<p><b>1</b> Starlight Musicals (Classic Rock) 7 to 10 p.m. Holiday Park</p> <p>Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. &amp; A1A 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p> SUNDAY JAZZ BRUNCH On Riverwalk</p> <p><b>Sunday Jazz Brunch</b> Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Jobing.com Career Expo Broward Convention Center 6 p.m. Tix: 954-765-5900</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> Starlight Musicals (Nine-Piece Show Band) 7 to 10 p.m. Holiday Park</p> <p>Jazz on the Square The Village Grille Commercial Blvd. &amp; A1A 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>

## A look ahead

August 5 U.S. Hot Rod Monster Jam Summer Heat BankAtlantic Center, Tix.: 954-835-SHOW

August 15 Sushi and Stroll Morikami Museum, Info.: 561-495-0233

August 31 John Mayer Sound Advice Amphitheater, Info.: 1-800-279-4444

September 1- 30 Lauderdale Spa Chic Greater Fort Lauderdale, Info.: 954-765-4466

September 20 - 21 Aroid Show and Sale Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Info.: 305-667-1651 ext. 3344



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Atwater...Continued

**Environmental Preservation**

We upheld our long-term commitment to environmental protection with the passage of a ten-year extension of the Florida Forever Act. We also secured the continuation of funds for Everglades Restoration. I worked diligently to secure funding for projects that will improve water quality in Broward and Palm Beach counties. As always local beach nourishment is a top priority for our local communities. I am pleased to announce that we secured the much needed funds to further these efforts.

**Fiscal Responsibility**

Florida families face the reality of challenging economic times and the need to tighten their belts. We made sure that Tallahassee lived by the same rules and cut spending in a targeted, strategic way. In fact, we legislators cut our own salaries. Yet I am proud to say that we were able to preserve crucial programs that benefit our local community.

Please visit my website [www.senatorjeff.com](http://www.senatorjeff.com) for more information. While you're there, feel free to email me your thoughts by clicking Email Jeff on my website. As always, I stand ready to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

All the best,  
Senator Jeffrey Atwater  
District 25

*To contact Senator Atwater, call his office in Broward County at (954) 847-3518 or in Palm Beach at (561) 625-5101. You can also contact him using his Senate email address at [atwater.jeff.s25@flsenate.gov](mailto:atwater.jeff.s25@flsenate.gov) or the [jeff@senatorjeff.com](mailto:jeff@senatorjeff.com) email address posted on his web site. Access all of Senator Jeff Atwater's contact info on the GMCA Report Card page on the Galt Mile Community Association web site ([www.galtmile.com](http://www.galtmile.com)). Our Senator has two informative web pages. Access his Florida Senate web page from the Report Card page or peruse his strategy for overcoming Florida's problems on his web site at [www.senatorjeff.com](http://www.senatorjeff.com).*

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# COMMISSIONER KEN KEECHL'S CORNER

## SPRING 2008 NEWSLETTER

*\*In our County Commissioner's Spring Newsletter, Ken Keechl reminds us that beneath his mild-mannered public persona is a two-fisted budget hawk. Understandably proud of having delivered on virtually every campaign promise he made prior to his surprise upset of District 4 commission predecessor Jim Scott, Commissioner Keechl illustrates last year's forward progress and exhorts that we prepare for the likely service trade-offs of a lower tax bill. The Broward Board of County Commissioners sifted through their appropriations laundry list last year, weeding out questionable programs, unnecessary projects that were seemingly funded annually by force of habit and expenses*

*that can only be accurately described as embarrassingly overt political pork. With Round Two of Keechl's crusade against irresponsible County spending around the corner, ascertaining which of the remaining county appropriations targets can stand a haircut will be much more difficult. Trimming the second \$100 million from the budget will entail an intimidating stroll through a political mine field by Keechl and his peers on the County Commission.*

*Downward pressure on available county revenues is anticipated from two sources. As a consequence of the Legislature's imbalanced tax reform package and softening taxable real estate values, Broward County Commissioners will have to fund required services with substantially diminished budget resources. Services and programs that aren't perceived as critical could suffer cutbacks or disappear. While investigating what appeared to be county mishandling of renovations to the Galt Mile Reading Room, Commissioner Keechl learned that County Library facilities housed in leased spaces may not survive the 2009 budget exigencies. Keechl admonishes that cutbacks in the hours of operation for parks and libraries are being classified as "acceptable losses" in what is shaping up as a survival struggle for county services. Community bus routes victimized by low ridership are also on the block. Last year, Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Christine Teel reported that unless the local Sun Trolley experienced a substantial increase in passenger traffic, its days were numbered. Undiscouraged by this year's heightened challenge, Commissioner Keechl identified an alternative or incremental source of savings.*

Continued on page 13



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Keechl...Continued

*To protect certain governmental agencies from direct exposure to unhealthy political influence, Constitutional officers are afforded virtual independence from Commission fiscal control. The Supervisor of Elections, the Property Appraiser, the Sheriff's Office, the Clerk of the Courts, etc. are Constitutionally immunized to the County Commission's fiscal machinations. Given the reasonable assumption that the Sheriff is more preoccupied with operational effectiveness than budgetary efficiency, Commissioner Keechl is exploring previously taboo territory. Half of the County's collected tax revenues feed the Sheriff's coffers. When Al Lamberti filled Ken Jenne's size twelve's, Commissioner Keechl proclaimed at a GMCA Advisory Board meeting that he was impressed with Lamberti's commitment to Broward County. If Keechl can help Lamberti identify areas (such as overtime and public relations) wherein strategic adjustments could deflate the Sheriff's resource requirements, the fiscal runoff from Lamberti's \$500 million war chest could go a long way to achieving the additional \$100 million in savings that Commissioner Keechl set as a target benchmark. With the supply of "easy fixes" already exhausted in last year's \$100 million savings drive, every dollar spared by the Sheriff will rescue jobs and enable continuation of threatened important programs. - [editor]\**

## Broward County's FY '09 Budget Process

By Broward County Commissioner Ken Keechl, District 4

As I promised each of you during my campaign to be your Broward County Commissioner, I will never vote to raise your property taxes. My philosophy is simple. I recognize that this is your money, not mine. So when faced with a proposed expenditure, I ask myself the following question: Is this item truly necessary? If not, I have voted against the expenditure and I will continue to do so.

Since taking office in November 2006, and in furtherance of my campaign promise, I have led the charge on the County Commission to lower your property taxes. Last year, we were successful in reducing the County's FY '08 budget by almost \$100,000,000.00. It wasn't easy, but we instituted a hiring freeze; agreed to eliminate unnecessary expenditures; and re-evaluated the need for each and every program offered by the County.

Continued on page 14

## Elaine M Norton, PA Certified Public Accountant

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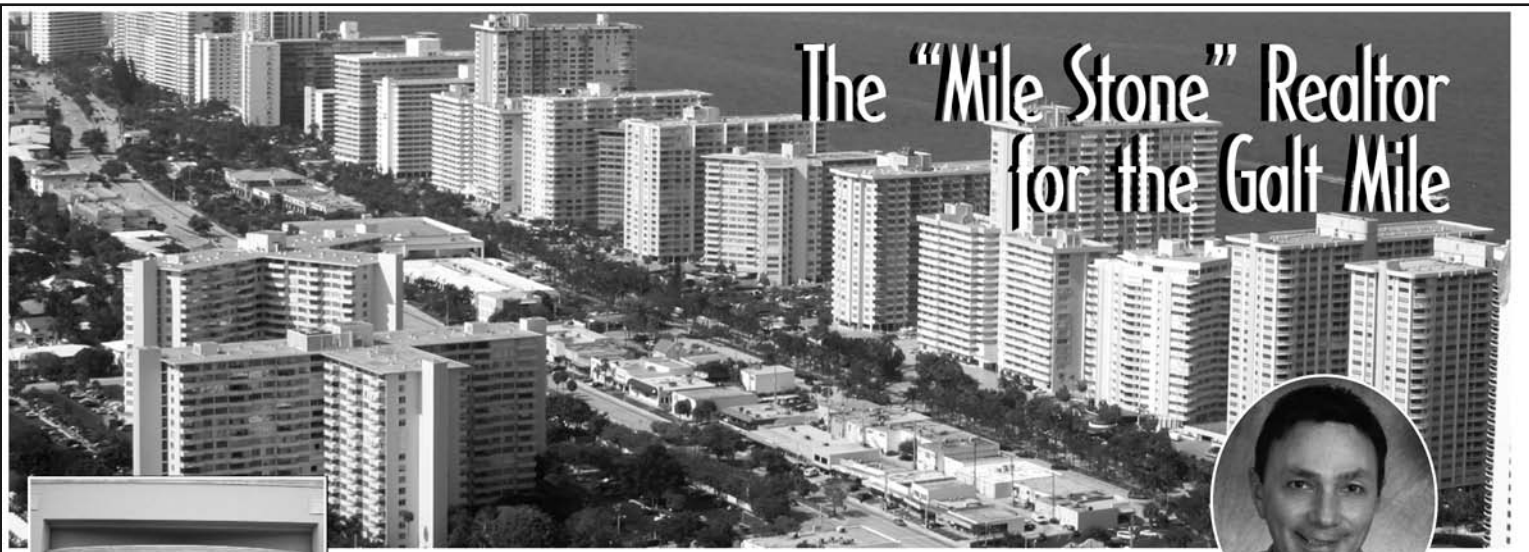
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Keechl...Continued

This year I again intend to keep my promise to each of you.

The Broward County Commission has recently begun the FY '09 budget process. The tax rolls have not yet been certified by our Property Appraiser, Lori Parrish, but based on a significant decrease in property values, and after reviewing some preliminary data; I believe that the Broward County Commission will need to eliminate at least another \$100,000,000.00 from our FY '09 budget.

Make no mistake. This year will be harder than last year. Instead of last year's hiring freeze, this year some County employees will have to be laid off; others will have to work harder and more efficiently. Already we have approved County Administration's plans to consolidate certain departments, divisions and sections within the Broward County government's vast bureaucracy. We will undoubtedly see a slight decrease in the number of hours that our parks and libraries will remain open. Unproductive bus routes will be consolidated or eliminated.

I am again asking Broward County Administration to review all previously approved capital expenditures. I am convinced that many of the projects currently within Broward's Capital budget are unnecessary and should be postponed, if not eliminated.

Lastly, in furtherance of our goal to lower property taxes in FY'09, the County Commission has also requested that BSO reduce its budget by approximately 10 percent or \$50,000,000.00. Since BSO spends approximately 50 cents of every \$1.00 that Broward County collects in property taxes,

this request is proportionate and reasonable. Yet, because I am not unmindful that the economy is in a possible recession, I recognize that crime may increase in the near term. As a result, I will not advocate, nor vote for, any reduction of police officers or fire fighters from BSO's FY '09 budget.

Nevertheless, there are plenty of expenditures in BSO's FY '09 budget that should be reduced. BSO's overtime and public relations expenditures are just two simple examples of areas that I have asked BSO to review. I am confident that Sheriff Lamberti will work with the Commission over the summer to reduce his budget, while simultaneously insuring that Broward's residents continue to be safe and protected.

In closing, I would like to once again thank you for the honor of being your County Commissioner. It is a job that I do not take lightly. Together we can, and will, make Broward County a better place for our families and loved ones. As usual, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [kkeechl@broward.org](mailto:kkeechl@broward.org) or 954 357-7004. Remember, I work for you. •

## CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS-GENERAL FUND COMPARISONS

### Elected Officials

GENERAL FUND	FY 06 Actual	FY 07 Budget	FY 08 Budget	Percent Change 2007-08	Positions	
					FY 07 Budget	FY 08 Budget
Clerk of Courts	\$213,018	\$334,650	\$228,110	(32)%	—	—
Legislative Delegation	\$250,920	\$280,330	\$261,580	(7)%	3	2
Property Appraiser	\$15,157,794	\$17,940,394	\$18,497,500	3%	258	259
Sheriff Regional Services	\$415,574,837	\$450,799,600	\$468,081,610	4%	3,996	3,906
Sheriff Contract Services	\$160,488,242	\$166,243,920	\$174,952,680	5%	1,511	1,530
Supervisor of Elections	\$13,142,092	\$12,164,560	\$17,379,070	43%	81	80
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$604,826,903</b>	<b>\$647,763,454</b>	<b>\$679,400,550</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5,849</b>	<b>5,777</b>

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