



LAUDERDALE • BY • THE • SEA

Agenda Item Memorandum

Mayor

Department

Roseann Minnet

Department Director

COMMISSION MEETING DATE - 7:00 PM	Deadline to Town Clerk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> October 9, 2012	

***Subject to Change**

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation | <input type="checkbox"/> Reports | <input type="checkbox"/> Consent | <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Quasi-Judicial | <input type="checkbox"/> Old Business | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Business |

SUBJECT TITLE: Letter Requested Presidential Candidates to Address Their policies for Addressing Sea Level Rise issues in Florida

EXPLANATION: I received a request to sign a letter asking the two presidential campaigns to answer several questions regarding their policies regarding sea level rise while campaigning in Florida. I generally do not sign letters of this nature as the Mayor unless I have the Commission's approval to do so.

EXPECTED OUTCOME: Commission take a position on the requested letter.

**EXHIBITS: Draft Letter to Presidential Candidates
Email from Linda Young, Union of Concerned Scientists**

Reviewed by Town Attorney
 Yes No


Town Manager Initials CM



Town of
LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA

4501 Ocean Drive, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Florida 33308-3610
Telephone: (954) 776-0576 / Fax (954)776-1857

Dear Presidential Candidates,

We look forward to your visit to Florida for the third and final presidential debate at Lynn University in October.

Florida is already feeling the effects of sea level rise and, increasingly, it jeopardizes the health, safety, and economic well-being of our communities. Our local tidal gauges show sea levels rose by about eight inches in the twentieth century. This rise in sea level is now resulting in the flooding of city streets and parking areas at seasonal high tides, the abandonment of drinking water wells in coastal communities due to salt water intrusion, and the failure of flood control structures to operate during high tides.

As citizens and scientists concerned about the impacts and costs of sea level rise on our nation, we urge you to address this issue when you will be in Boca Raton, Florida.

Scientists project increased coastal and inland flooding and inundation, an increased likelihood of significant damage to key aspects of our urban infrastructure, and compromised drinking water sources in more and more communities. The porous limestone underlying much of Florida resembles Swiss cheese, making sea walls ineffective and the state particularly vulnerable to sea level rise by allowing subsurface water to penetrate far inland. Because Florida is so densely populated, it is estimated 40 percent of the population and housing units at risk from sea level rise in the nation are here, in the state of Florida.

Local communities and agencies are keenly aware of the impact of rising seas and are working together to address preventive and adaptive action. These include the efforts of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, city and regional plans on both coasts (such as the Punta Gorda Adaptation Plan), and interuniversity collaborations on major practical research needs.

Unfortunately, global sea level rise is a danger that must be considered by the next president of the United States. The issue threatens the future of Florida, the nation, and communities around the world. Providing effective solutions will challenge all levels of government.

During your time in Florida we urge you to address several questions, which will be important to resolve while in office:

- * What will be the federal government's planning and policy priorities in order to reduce the risks of future sea level rise?
- * What will be the polices for adaptive measures to respond to current and future impacts of sea level rise?



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* How would you work with the rest of the world to address rising sea levels and other effects of climate change?

Thank you for your attention to this issue, and we look forward to hearing how each of your plans to address this critical challenge.

Sincerely,

Roseann Minnet, Mayor

The Town of Lauderdale By The Sea

Connie Hoffmann

From: Linda Young <llyoung2@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2012 4:21 PM
To: Connie Hoffmann
Subject: sea-level rise

Dear Ms. Hoffman:

Thank you for returning my call and for your assistance.

As I explained on the phone, I'm working on a climate change project with the Union of Concerned Scientists and Florida Atlantic University. We are talking to scientists and local governments in Florida about helping us to encourage the two presidential candidates to discuss at their upcoming debates (especially the one in Boca Raton), their thoughts on the issue of climate change and what their planning and policy priorities will be to address the risks of future sea level rise. The Union of Concerned Scientists, a 501(c)3 organization that was formed in 1969, is the leading science-based nonprofit working for a healthy environment and a safer world. All of our efforts are non-partisan and this work that I am writing about does not favor either presidential candidate. Our goal is to elevate public awareness of this issue and to encourage the candidates to engage in a discussion about the issue during one or more of their debates.

There are several components to this campaign. One is the sign-on letter which can be viewed at:

<https://secure3.convio.net/ucs/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=3425>

We are asking Florida scientists and local government officials (elected as well as staff that are working on the issue) to sign this letter. The letter and signatures will be presented to debate organizers for both campaigns in advance of the debates. We are also in the process of placing a question with the debate sponsors. So there are several different avenues being pursued to get this issue before the candidates.

Also scheduled around the sign-on letter will be editorial board meetings and op-eds on the subject of SLR and what Florida's local governments are doing to address its impacts.

These are the main components of the first stage of the UCS' efforts to help elevate this issue and to also use some of the excellent work that has been underway in south Florida for the past several years as a model on a national level. While we recognize that it may be challenging to get sea-level rise/climate change into a question for the candidates or as a point that one or both of them choose to raise voluntarily, we believe that our plan that I have briefly outlined above will greatly increase the likelihood of success. There are some other major events happening in South Florida on this issue during October and before the debate in Boca Raton on the 22nd of October that will create even more momentum for greater public awareness and interest.

We hope that you will want to be a part of this effort by signing on to our letter. Any suggestions of other leaders who you think will want to help will also be appreciated. I will call you this week to discuss any questions that you may have or please call me at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance for any assistance.

Linda Young