



TOWN OF SURFSIDE
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LETTER TO COMMISSION

No.: 108-2025

To: Mayor Charles W. Burkett, Vice Mayor Tina Paul, and
Members of the Town Commission

From: Mark Blumstein, Town Manager *MB*

Date: March 19, 2025

Subject: **Trip To Tallahassee – March 12, 2025**

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to inform you of my recent trip to Tallahassee during the Regular Session of the State Legislature. I departed for Tallahassee from Fort Lauderdale Airport at approximately 6:30am on March 12, and returned the same day after 10:00pm. The total cost for my trip was **\$409**, inclusive of airfare, ground transportation and meals.

The purpose of my trip was to meet with our legislators in both the State House of Representatives and State Senate to advocate for the Town's appropriations requests with the State. The Town submitted three (3) such requests: (1) \$1,000,000 to support the Town's Undergrounding Project; (2) \$600,000 to support the Town's Stormwater Improvement Project; and (3) \$1,000,000 to support the Town's Collins Avenue Water Main Upgrade Project.

With the help of our Town Lobbyist, I set up meetings with the Offices of Representative Basabe, who represents the Town in the State House; Senator Jones, who represents the Town in the State Senate; Representative McClure, Budget Committee Chair; Senator Truenow, Agriculture Chair; Senator DiCeglie, Chair of Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development; and Senator Hooper, Chair of Appropriations. These legislators control the purse strings for appropriation requests in the State Legislature.

I shared with these legislators the significance of these infrastructure projects for the Town, which I felt were well received. However, I must also let you know that the Town's ongoing conflict with Indian Creek Village as it pertains to its desire for a Utility Permit with the Town came up in several of my meetings. I provided legislators with an alternative to the proposed Utility Permit that would not be impactful on the Town and its residents. Representative Basabe welcomed this proposal and promised to work with the Town and Indian Creek Village to resolve our conflict.

If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact me.