

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 6/17/2008

Consent Regular
 Workshop Public Hearing

Department: Administration

Submitted By: Administration

Submitted For: Economic Development Office

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to adopt: A Resolution to the Florida Congressional Delegation regarding the national strategic importance of maintaining spaceflight expertise at the Kennedy Space Center and ensuring that future crew and cargo logistic missions to the International Space Station use domestic capabilities.

Summary: Palm Beach County's Aviation Cluster Industry is a key component of Palm Beach County's 21st Century Strategic Economic Plan. The County's Aviation Cluster Industry includes over 175 businesses employing over 10,851 people. Signature companies include Florida Turbine Technologies, Pratt Whitney Rocketdyne, Sikorsky Aircraft and Belcan. The total annual economic impact of this cluster industry is estimated at over \$363 million. In 2006-2007, aviation business recruitment was the leading cluster industry expansion in Palm Beach County. Until the replacement program for the Space Shuttle, the Constellation Program, reaches operational status, the United States currently plans to fill space research and delivery operations by purchasing logistic services from the Russian Federation. This will make the United States largely dependent on the Russian Federation for pricing, scheduling, and security of American research and development. On April 21, 2008 the Board of County Commissioners received a letter from the Chairman of the Brevard County Commission requesting passage of a Resolution regarding the upcoming retirement of the Space Shuttle Program and suspension of the United States Human Spaceflight Program. Approximately 6,400 positions will be eliminated at the Kennedy Space Center after the retirement of the Space Shuttle in 2010. A NASA economic study estimates an economic loss of \$879 million a year to Florida's Economy as a result of this action. Countywide (DW)

Background and Policy Issues: On April 21, 2008 the Board of County Commissioners received a letter from the Chairman of the Brevard County Commission requesting passage of a Resolution regarding the upcoming retirement of the Space Shuttle and suspension of the United States Human Spaceflight Program.

Attachments:

- 1. Resolution
- 2. Brevard County Board of County Commissioners April 21, 2008 letter

Recommended By: 
Economic Development Director

6-11-08
Date

Approved By: 
Assistant County Administrator

6-16-08
Date

I. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (PBC)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (PBC)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____

Budget Account No: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____ Object _____
 Program Code _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

C. Departmental Fiscal Review: _____

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Administration Comments:

No fiscal impact.

adwillhite 6-12-08
 OFMB *DM 6/12 CN 6/12/08* *In J. J. J. 6/13/08*
 Contract Administration

B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Signature] *6/16/08*
 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.

RESOLUTION NO. R- 2008-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA TO THE FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REGARDING THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING SPACEFLIGHT EXPERTISE AT THE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER AND ENSURING THAT FUTURE CREW AND CARGO LOGISTIC MISSIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION USE DOMESTIC CAPABILITIES.

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Aerospace Cluster includes over 175 businesses which employ approximately 10,851 people and generates an Annual Economic Impact of over \$363,000,000; and

WHEREAS, signature Palm Beach County aerospace companies include Florida Turbine Technologies, Pratt Whitney Rocketdyne, Sikorsky Aircraft and Belcan who provide professional services for the manned space program at NASA; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a strategic interest in maintaining the nation's preeminence in spaceflight expertise at the Kennedy Space Center which is a center of excellence that should be maintained after the discontinuance of Space Shuttle missions; and

WHEREAS, the United States has an obligation to provide crew and cargo logistic services to the International Space Station after the Shuttle is retired; and

WHEREAS, until the Space Shuttle replacement program, The Constellation Program, reaches operational status, the United States currently plans to substantially fulfill those obligations by purchasing logistic services from Russia which will make the United States largely dependent on Russia for a five (5) year period, or more; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the world's premier space faring nation because the American aerospace industry has consistently provided solutions to national needs including those of NASA; and

WHEREAS, these talents should be tasked to providing domestic solutions to America's crew and cargo logistics needs, and resources to be spent on procuring Russian logistic services would best be devoted to the development and procurement of domestic crew and cargo logistic capabilities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

The Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida urges the Delegation to encourage the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to fully utilize the demonstrated excellence of the Kennedy Space Center for the integration and launch of crew and cargo logistic operations to the International Space Station and to immediately explore all possible domestic options to reduce or eliminate the need to procure foreign logistic services to the International Space Station.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote was as follows:

Commissioner Addie L. Greene, Chairperson

Commissioner John F. Koons, Vice Chair

Commissioner Karen T. Marcus

Commissioner Robert J. Kanjian

Commissioner Mary McCarty

Commissioner Burt Aaronson

Commissioner Jess R. Santamaria

The Chairperson thereupon declared the Resolution passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2008.

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY
ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SHARON R. BOCK, Clerk & Comptroller

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY: 
County Attorney

MAY 02 2008



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST



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Titusville, FL 32780-7698
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Telephone: (321) 264-6750
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April 21, 2008

The Honorable Karen T. Marcus
District 1 Commissioner
Palm Beach County
301 N. Olive Avenue, 12th Floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

RE: Upcoming Retirement of Space Shuttle and Suspension of
U.S. Human Spaceflight Program

Dear Karen:

The Brevard County Commission requested that I contact you for Palm Beach County's assistance with the enclosed Resolution regarding our Nation's Space Program. The space program contributes an estimated annual \$4 Billion to Florida's economy. With the Kennedy Space Center, Floridians hold a special pride in our State's and Nation's dominant role in the exploration of the Universe. However, our concern reaches beyond national pride and Florida's economy. At stake is our national security and position as a global leader in research.

When the Space Shuttle is retired in 2010, the United States will not be able to launch astronauts into space for at least five years. During this 'Gap,' only China and Russia will launch humans into space. The Shuttle's replacement – the Constellation Program -- is projected to become operational in 2015. The General Accountability Office has already identified technical problems and budget overruns which will result in delays. 'Gaps' never get shorter.

During the 'Gap,' Americans will only be able to access the International Space Station by purchasing seats and cargo space aboard a Russian spacecraft. This occurs when the International Space Station, designated a 'National Laboratory' by the United States Congress, reaches its full potential as a platform for scientific research to produce new pharmaceuticals, materials, and energy sources. Today's crew of three astronauts is only able to perform a "housekeeping" function aboard the Station. Serious scientific research will only begin with a six person crew. Adding to the problem, the Russian Soyuz would be able to rescue only three astronauts of the six astronauts.

The International Space Station was developed at a direct cost of \$100 billion to the American taxpayer. When the Shuttle stops flying, America will have to pay the Russians at least \$2 billion to access our National Laboratory in space. These costs could increase dramatically when Russia has a monopoly on flights to the Space Station.

Starting in 2011 NASA will be prohibited by law from contracting with the Russians because of nuclear nonproliferation issues concerning Iran and Syria. If these legal restrictions are not

Commissioner Marcus
Palm Beach County County
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waived, Americans cannot access the International Space Station regardless of how much we pay the Russians.

This scenario can become much worse. On February 27, 2008, Florida Senator Bill Nelson conducted a Senate hearing where the full extent of the problem was explored. I have enclosed a transcript of the proceeding together with a copy of a Washington Post front page story summarizing these complex geopolitical issues. Russia will have the ability to seek concessions from the United States on a range of issues from our relations with former Soviet Block countries to Russia's assertion of mineral rights in the Arctic.

Fortunately, there are options that will allow Americans access to the International Space Station without being held hostage to Russia. Launches of course would occur from Florida's Space Coast and provide employment opportunities for the 6,400 members of the Shuttle workforce who will lose their jobs in just over two years.

Please join us in a united Florida effort by passing a resolution similar to Brevard County's and forwarding your resolution to:

Congressman Tim Mahoney
Congressman Robert Wexler
Congressman Ron Klein
Congressman Alcee Hastings

Before the Shuttle is retired, we want to extend a special invitation to you and your family to have a VIP viewing of a Shuttle launch. Please watch the paper for dates of future launches and give me a call. I would be pleased to take care of your arrangements at the Kennedy Space Center.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider Brevard County's request. If you need additional information, please let me know.

Very truly yours,



Truman G. Scarborough
Chairman
Brevard County Commission

enc:

Brevard County Resolution 08-053
Washington Post news article
Transcript of Bill Nelson's Senate Hearing