

Daisy Gonzalez-Diego, Chief Communications Officer  
Office of Communications

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY AND THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR THE PLACEMENT OF FM TRANSLATOR STATIONS ON COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS TOWERS**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE & SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

WLRN has been providing public radio service to the Florida Keys since the early 1990s through a series of radio translators strategically located from Key West through the middle Keys. In 2015 WLRN expanded its emergency information services to the South Florida region from Key West to Palm Beach County by combining its resources with Florida's twelve (12) other public radio stations.

The Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN) provides pertinent information to ninety-nine percent (99%) of Florida's population during statewide emergencies. The FPREN network is equipped to remain on air during hurricanes and other natural disasters, and provides live coverage statewide of breaking news from the Governor's Emergency Operations Center headquarters in Tallahassee via broadcast and mobile applications. Located at the University of Florida in Gainesville, the new FPREN Storm Center provides localized hurricane, tropical storm, and other severe weather information. The network also delivers local and regional information during emergencies and is part of the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

The Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County is proposing a long term lease agreement with the District for tower space on four separate towers for the WLRN translators. The lease will ensure continued public radio service along with the distribution of vital FPREN information to the residents of the Florida Keys. In accordance with the proposed lease, WLRN will pay minimal lease payment during the term of the agreement. This Item is presented for the Board's consideration for the approval of an Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) that will, among other things, permit the School Board to enter into a lease agreement with the Board of County Commissioners.

of Monroe County, Florida for the placement of WLRN radio translators on Monroe County Communications Towers.

The essential provisions of the ILA are as follows:

- The term of the lease will be twenty (20) years; the provisions of the ILA may be amended from time to time to allow for such things as relocation of the translators to new towers, and to comply with any new rules or decisions of the Federal Communications Commission;
- The School Board is responsible for maintenance and repairs of the WLRN translators;
- Each party may terminate the agreement upon sixty (60) days prior written notice, at which point the communications towers must be restored to their condition prior to placement of the translators;
- The WLRN translators will be placed on communications towers located in Islamorada, Marathon, Scout Key (formerly West Summerland Key), and Key West; and
- WLRN shall pay Monroe County a \$1,600 monthly fee for the use of all the communications towers covered by the lease; said fee may be increased after the first ninety (90) days of the lease. WLRN currently has funds set aside for the installation and placement of the translators and the necessary lease payments; no funds from the District's general funds will be utilized.

The Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida approved the Inter-Local Agreement at its regularly scheduled meeting of April 20, 2016.

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to execute an Inter-Local Agreement with the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, providing for a twenty (20) year lease agreement for the placement of WLRN translators on Monroe County communications towers, and to execute all other necessary ancillary documents in support of the Inter-Local Agreement.