

Ms. Tabitha G. Fazzino, Chief Intergovernmental Affairs & Family and Community Engagement Officer, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs & Family and Community Engagement

SUBJECT: APPROVAL FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO AMEND THE EXISTING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY AND THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS TO SECURE A LOCATION FOR ONE FM TRANSLATOR FOR THE CONTINUED TRANSMISSION OF WLRN THROUGHOUT THE FLORIDA KEYS

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONAL PRACTICES

On July 20, 2016, the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida (School Board) entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida. This Interlocal Agreement allows communications equipment to be placed on four (4) communication towers located throughout Monroe County and owned and operated by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida. The communications equipment consists of FM translators which extend the broadcast reach of WLRN through the Florida Keys.

In March of 2023, the District became aware that the southernmost Key West tower, located at Sigsbee Navy Station, 800 Main Street, Key West, FL 33040, has fallen into significant disrepair and is being scheduled for major reconstruction. The District has been notified that, before the renovations begin, the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida will be conveying the tower to the State of Florida Department of Management Services for its long-term operation and subsequent repairs. Friends of WLRN, Inc., the School Board's contracted Media Manager for WLRN, has secured a nearby replacement site for the translator. The proposed site is located at 5450 MacDonald Avenue, Stock Island, Monroe County, Florida, and is owned and operated by Spottswood Partners II, Ltd.

In order to ensure the continued transmission of WLRN through the Florida Keys, the July 20, 2016, Interlocal Agreement with the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, will need to be amended to omit references and access to the Key West tower. Secondly, the School Board will need to negotiate, finalize, and execute a temporary agreement with the State of Florida Department of Management Services for the short-term operation of WLRN's translator equipment. Finally, the lease for the new translator site will be negotiated, finalized, and executed with Spottswood Partners II, Ltd. The lease will be paid by Friends of WLRN, presenting no cost to the District.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. negotiate and execute an amendment to the July 20, 2016, Interlocal Agreement between the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida and the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida to remove the utilization of the tower located at Sigsbee Navy Station, 800 Main Street, Key West, FL 33040; and
2. negotiate, finalize, and execute a temporary lease agreement with the State of Florida Department of Management Services for the short-term operation of the translator equipment located at Sigsbee Navy Station, 800 Main Street, Key West, FL 33040; and
3. negotiate, finalize, and execute a new lease for a translator site with Spottswood Partners II, Ltd., located at 5450 MacDonald Avenue, Stock Island, Monroe County, Florida, to be paid by Friends of WLRN.