



## Town of Miami Lakes Memorandum

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**To:** Honorable Mayor & Councilmembers

**From:** Honorable Councilmember Carlos Alvarez

**Subject:** New Lobbying Services

**Date:** September 10, 2019

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### **Recommendation:**

It is my understanding that our current agreement with Southern Strategies will end this fiscal year. I believe Southern Strategies has provided inadequate services to our Town by failing to assist us with necessary information regarding new legislation, failing to advocate our Town's legislative priorities to Representatives and Senators alike, by failing to provide adequate communication to our governing body about the status of pending legislation. For instance, this past year many meetings were cancelled, scheduling of meetings with legislative officials and with our lobbyist was difficult, feedback on pending legislation was often "cookie-cutter" and not relevant to the Town's concerns. Instead they were general Miami-Dade County matter. Issues that were of concern, such as the "Tree Cutting Statute" were not brought to the Town's attention. Worse of all, a necessary infrastructure project was surprisingly vetoed by the Governor.

For all these reasons, I would like my colleagues to support my motion to direct staff to begin development of a scope for lobbying services that will adequately ensure that our Town receives the proper and necessary representation and advocacy in Tallahassee, and to begin the procurement of a new lobbyist for our Town.

Fiscal Impact: \$25,000 (remainder of Fiscal year 2020) – approximately \$50,000/yr, after Fiscal year 2020

Guiding Principles: 2,3,4,14

Objectives: 1,2,3,4,5,6