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Southern Christian Leadership Conference

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

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Kathy Mears, the Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Charlie Crist, spoke with me concerning the following issues of concerns with the AAHOA:

The Chief of Staff stated that the Governor is working closely with the Secretary of Transportation concerning all the issues that were shared in a meeting with her and General Counselor Rob Wheeler by the AAHOA. The DOT and the Governor's Office have come to the following solutions:

The Governor's office has confirmed that they are willing to work out a solution that can be beneficial to all of the AAHOA's concerns. Of particular concern was the increased cost for the DOT highway signs and the potential delay of such an action on this matter. The Chief of Staff assured me that their office heard your complaint very well and agreed that a plan of action should take place immediately. She indicated that the following two issues must be resolved, without getting into any legal matters;

1. Some people have already sent the money in to the DOT for the increases and have currently paid. The questions and concerns that the DOT must prepare to figure out regard how to deal with these payments in a legal sense.
2. The DOT must immediately set up and/or develop a formula to allow a payment projector for these signs that would be fair and equitable to all. They will be revisiting the current plan and will address some of the issues that AAHOA discussed during their visit with the Governor's office and the DOT office.

The Governor's office will have a communication ready by Friday Dec. 4, 2009 that would indicate a revised plan that would be designed based on the various discussions and input of AAHOA during their visit. We strongly believe there will be an amicable agreement between the parties.

In closing, the Deputy Chief of Staff took time to commend Nash Patel's team and each one of AAHOA members on their active participation with the march to the Capitol, meeting with DOT. Without them being proactive with the number of emails and participation of their members and affiliates this issue would not have surfaced to the Governor's office or elevated to this level. The Governor staff truly commends Mr. Patel's leadership team and the group as a whole and thanks them for their efforts and diligence.

Lastly, it was suggested by Nash Patel that we may reconvene to the Capitol on Monday Dec. 7. A press conference will be held with Governor Crist to indicate a working effort with his Office on the remediation and resolution of these impending issues of DOT's price hiking. Legislators would be in special session starting next week as well. Thank you and on Friday you will receive the changes based on your activism concerning this project and it was great working with each one of you. See you on Monday at the Press Conference. From Art Rocker.

The National SCLC was founded on Feb. 14, 1957 by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Rev. C.K. Steele, Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery and other clergy "to redeem the soul of America," is a nonprofit and interfaith, social advocacy organization committed to nonviolence to achieve social, economic and political justice.