Share of local business tax targeted to FIU for small business advisors

At least $300,000 of Miami-Dade’s share of the Local Business Tax would go to Florida International University small business initiative under a proposal before a county commission. The measure by Chairman Jean Monestine would require Mayor Carlos Gimenez to sign an agreement with the university before the county budget committee’s effective 1 p.m. The money would go to the Small Business Development Center at FIU. Mr. Monestine’s legislation would set a county policy that “at least $300,000” from the annual Local Business Tax “or other locally available revenue” would go to the center. The agreement would also let the FIU center use county offices and facilities. The county this year budgeted $2.8 million for Local Business Tax revenues; the county’s budget is $3.8 million. Mr. Monestine’s legislation, which goes before the commission’s Economic Prosperity Committee today (6:16) and if it passes would go for a vote next Monday, says the county collects over $15 million a year from the tax. But the county doesn’t get to keep all its collect. A large slice of the tax goes to municipalities, the county’s share rising from businesses in unincorporated areas.

In addition, since June 1987 county code has required that one-third of the annual tax collection must go to the Beacon Council, the county’s economic development organization. That tax is the bulk of the Beacon Council’s revenue. Mr. Monestine’s legislation specifies that payments to FIU would not come from the council’s monthly Contributions to the city’s budget. The Local Business Tax, formally the Occupational License Fee, is a hedgehog of charges levied each year on every business. The county lists 98 main types of businesses, each with its own scale of charges and in many cases with premium fees for more businesses. A number of those categories also are subsidized by the state and federal governments who work as paid professional consultants.}

For every employee over 10. The list is long and detailed. The city designated an official host institution for the Florida Small Business Development Network. Mr. Monestine’s legislation says the center serves the needs of small businesses through every stage of growth through no-cost professional business consulting, value-added training, and access to business development services.

The legislation says the center has “a team of more than a dozen business experts who work as paid professional consultants.”

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