



Spring/Summer 2019

Palm Beach County District Six



## Housing Crisis



Building affordable housing should not be such a struggle. In 1992, the Florida Legislature passed the Sadowski Act, creating a dedicated revenue source to fund our state's affordable housing programs. However, the Legislature continues to raid the Sadowski Trust Fund, using the dollars for other purposes. I am greatly disappointed and frustrated that the Legislature swept \$125 million in Sadowski funds this year. In the past decade, approximately \$2 billion has been taken from the fund for non-housing items. Meanwhile, Florida's housing and homelessness problems continue to worsen.

Much of the housing dollars this year were appropriated to help rebuild the Panhandle. This was important, much-needed funding. However, the over \$100 million that was swept out of the fund could have helped other areas in Florida where people are struggling to find affordable places to live. As home prices continue to rise without an increase in affordable housing options, more people will find themselves homeless. A shocking statistic: the Palm Beach County School District reports that at the end of the 2018-2019 school year, there were over 4,300 homeless students throughout the County! We cannot allow this to continue.

It is not enough to just have housing. We must also ensure that our housing stock is suitable for habitation, free of mold, roaches, and rats. A safe, clean home is essential for child development. Sadly, there are too many children and families in America, many in my own district, who are living in squalid housing conditions because their landlords do not take care of the properties.

Immediate action is needed. Palm Beach County is working hard to increase the affordable and workforce housing stock and reduce homelessness. We have allocated \$25 million from the infrastructure surtax to develop housing and are implementing those plans now. Additionally, the County Commission recently approved the second homeless resource center, which will be built adjacent to the Mid-County Senior Center in unincorporated Lake Worth. This 74-bed facility will continue our success with the Lewis Center to help homeless individuals find housing and employment.

I will continue doing all I can locally to ensure our community's families have access to safe, affordable housing. And I will continue to push the Legislature to stop the sweeps and live up to the promise of the Sadowski Act!

## Lake Okeechobee County Meeting

On May 7, the Palm Beach County Commission joined commissioners from Martin, Okeechobee, Glades, and Hendry Counties for a discussion on Lake Okeechobee water issues. Over 300 residents attended the meeting. This historic multi-county discussion allowed the commissioners to find areas of mutual agreement in order to forge a path forward for improving the quality of the Lake. The five counties agreed to send a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District outlining their mutual interests and to the Congressional Everglades Caucus inviting the Caucus to hold a meeting in the region to discuss water issues related to Lake Okeechobee. *(The significance of these five counties? They each contain a piece of Lake Okeechobee in their boundaries.)*



June 5, 2019

Colonel Andrew Kelly  
District Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
701 San Marco Boulevard  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Drew Bartlett  
Executive Director  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear Colonel Kelly and Mr. Bartlett,

**Subject: Lake Okeechobee**

On Tuesday, May 7, 2019, commissioners from Martin, Palm Beach, Glades, Hendry and Okeechobee Counties (the Counties) held a public meeting to discuss local government interests as stakeholders in the management of Lake Okeechobee (the Lake). Although our Counties may not agree on every concern or every solution to water resource matters in South Florida, the Counties agree on the following foundational principles for future management of Lake Okeechobee.

Among the Counties' highest collective interest is the completion of all projects identified in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). All of the Counties are vested in completing CERP as its projects will bring about significant improvements in water quality, quantity and timing that will result in substantial progress towards resolving the current challenges in water management.

It is further commonly agreed that the Lake is the heart of the Central and South Florida system; and therefore, its ecology is of significant importance. Improving water quality through reduction of pollutants and restoration of natural systems is a priority. More specifically, management that occasionally allows for aquatic vegetation growth which contributes the highest value water quality treatment in the Lake at frequencies supported by science must be a high consideration. This year, for example, the climate, Lake levels and forecast conditions provided a unique opportunity for recovery of critical aquatic vegetation that is expected to benefit water quality and habitat. Improved water quality in the Lake is a high priority to all stakeholders.

It is agreed that a continued focus on increasing water storage in the Okeechobee watershed is critical. We also agree that restrictions and impediments to southern flow should be removed to allow flow to mimic natural systems, such as removing flow restrictions along the Tamiami Trail. Other actions include storing and treating stormwater in the watershed of origin and minimizing operational restrictions at Stormwater Treatment Areas due to protected species, while protecting the sensitive ecology within Everglades National Park and other critical ecosystems. The Counties are supportive of the development of the new Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). The Counties agree that LOSOM should take into account the concerns from both coastal communities as well as the concerns from the communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

Furthermore, the Counties stress the importance of the economic dependency of the surrounding communities on Lake operations which include, but are not limited to, agriculture, tourism, water supply, fisheries and other direct and indirect water dependent businesses. Similarly, the Counties recognize the importance of the quality of life we all strive to enhance in our communities, which includes sustainability of clean water for drinking, agriculture, recreation, and propagation of healthy fish and wildlife in the natural systems.

It is a landmark occasion that the Counties embraced the opportunity to identify issues of solidarity concerning Lake management. While the Counties maintain their autonomy to prioritize individual interests, these are points of agreement that the Counties share in common. It is the intent of this letter to emphatically convey these collective interests as the Counties work to resolve water management challenges for a better future for all the residents of this distinct and special region of Florida.

Kindest Regards,

*[Signature]*  
Tim Stanley, Chairman  
Glades County

*[Signature]*  
Mitchell Wills, Chairperson  
Hendry County

*[Signature]*  
Edward V. Ciampi, Chairman  
Martin County

*[Signature]*  
Terry W. Burroughs, Chairman  
Okeechobee County

*[Signature]*  
Mack Bernard, Mayor  
Palm Beach County

Cc: Verdenia C. Baker, County Administrator, Palm Beach County  
Robbie Chartier, County Administrator, Okeechobee County  
Jennifer Davis, County Administrator, Hendry County  
Taryn Kryzda, County Administrator, Martin County  
Martin Murphy, County Administrator, Glades County  
Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Noah Valenstein, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

June 5, 2019

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
404 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings  
2353 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Subject: An Invitation to Discuss Lake Okeechobee**

Dear Congressman Diaz-Balart and Congressman Hastings:

The Counties surrounding Lake Okeechobee truly appreciate your active engagement in promoting South Florida's environment and economy as Co-Chairmen of the Congressional Everglades Caucus. Under your collective leadership, the Everglades Caucus has effectively educated Congress about the Everglades, and fostered support for essential projects that are protective of long-term sustainability of the Everglades ecosystem, associated regional water resources, and the communities and economies that depend on them.

On May 7, 2019, a meeting of historic significance was held in Okeechobee, Florida with County Commissioners from Glades, Hendry, Okeechobee, Martin, and Palm Beach Counties. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss areas of agreement on Lake Okeechobee water levels, the need for regional cooperation to improve the water quality of the Lake, the desire for healthy estuaries and a long-term water resources strategy that is protective of all communities and industries. Encouraging aspects of the discussion included the recognition that participants have a responsibility to address local issues and a desire to change the collective narrative from one of "shared adversity" to "mutually beneficial."

The conversation on water issues related to Lake Okeechobee and Everglades Restoration is evolving, and we invite you to engage with us in this discussion. We respectfully invite you and the other Everglades Caucus members to our region to meet with County Commissioners, visit the communities and economies that are affected by Lake Okeechobee operations, and share items of mutual concern.

We are hopeful that you will accept our offer to host this meeting for the Everglades Caucus, and capitalize on a multi-county effort to best coordinate and agree on a path forward that will be beneficial to all.

Kindest Regards,

*[Signature]*  
Tim Stanley, Chairman  
Glades County

*[Signature]*  
Mitchell Wills, Chairperson  
Hendry County

*[Signature]*  
Edward V. Ciampi, Chairman  
Martin County

*[Signature]*  
Terry W. Burroughs, Chairman  
Okeechobee County

*[Signature]*  
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Taryn Kryzda, County Administrator, Martin County  
Martin Murphy, County Administrator, Glades County  
Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Noah Valenstein, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

## Syringe Exchange Program

I am excited that Palm Beach County is moving forward to establish a syringe exchange program! This makes Palm Beach County only the 2nd county in Florida to have such a program, after Miami-Dade. Thank you to Senator Oscar Braynon and Representatives Shevrin Jones and Rene Plasencia for successfully fighting to expand this program statewide, and to Justin Kunzelman for his tireless advocacy!



## Firefighter Cancer Presumption Bill

I am proud to stand with the heroes from our own Firefighters & Paramedics of Palm Beach County, former CFO Jeff Atwater, and current CFO Jimmy Patronis to celebrate the passage of State Representative Matt Willhite, State Representative Chris Latvala, and Senator Anitere Flores' legislation on cancer presumption. I am grateful for their leadership and the leadership of my colleagues on the Palm Beach County Commission for showing by example that it could be done!



## Exciting News!

Last month I was elected as the President-Elect of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC). It is an honor to have the trust of county officials throughout the state, and I look forward to continuing my efforts to help protect home rule authority in this new role. It's an honor to serve on the Executive Committee with President Nick Maddox, 1st Vice President Ralph Thomas, 2nd Vice President Lee Constantine, and Immediate Past President Karson Turner.



Additionally, my colleagues at FAC reappointed me to serve on the National Association of Counties Board of Directors. Only two Commissioners in Florida get this honor to serve. I am proud to be one, alongside Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman.



**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LTON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEASIDE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER" DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 20, 2019

**Via Email Only**

Matt Chase, Executive Director  
National Association of Counties  
660 North Capitol Street NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20001  
[mchase@naco.org](mailto:mchase@naco.org)

Re: Florida Appointees for 2019-2020 NACo Board of Directors

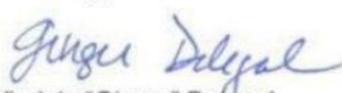
Mr. Chase:

The Florida Association of Counties' Board of Directors voted, at its regularly scheduled meeting of June 12, 2019, to re-appoint the following to serve on the 2019-2020 NACo Board of Directors:

Commissioner Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade County  
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, Palm Beach County

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 850-294-9295 or [gdelegal@flcounties.com](mailto:gdelegal@flcounties.com).

Sincerely,



Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
Executive Director

cc: FAC Executive Committee (via email only)  
Commissioner Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade (via email only)  
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay (via email only)

## Legislative Session Overview

On June 21, Florida's \$91 billion budget was signed into law, but not before Governor DeSantis issued \$131 million in vetoes. Unfortunately, two local projects that were approved by the Legislature were denied by the Governor: \$3.25 million to build a Belle Glade Community Center and \$46,000 for the Town of Loxahatchee Groves' equestrian trails project. I'm also disappointed that the Legislature did not appropriate new funds to the Everglades Restoration

Agricultural Community Training Program this year after providing \$1.5 million last year. One of the promises made by the Legislature during the negotiations over SB 10 was that there would be a dedicated effort to fund job training and economic development efforts in the Glades, so I will be fighting hard alongside our Palm Beach County legislators to ensure that promise is kept in the 2020 session.

In positive news, there were several important appropriations for District 6, including:

- Small County Outreach Program: \$9 million (statewide)
- West Tech Adult Vocational Training: \$250,000
- RESTORE Re-Entry Program: \$250,000
- Royal Palm Beach Canal System Rehabilitation: \$500,000

I am also very thankful that Governor DeSantis signed the following bills into law:

- Firefighter Cancer Presumption Bill (SB 426)
- Syringe Exchange Bill (SB 366)
- Texting While Driving Bill (HB 107)
- Human Trafficking Bill (HB 851)
- Sober Homes Task Force Bill (SB 369)

Each legislative session is a hard-fought effort, and I want to thank our Legislative Delegation, our PBC legislative team, and our many local partners for their tireless work on behalf of Palm Beach County!

## Legislative Wrap-Up Roundtable

On June 24, Commissioner McKinlay held a joint legislative wrap-up roundtable with State Representative Tina Polsky at West Tech in Belle Glade. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the outcome of the legislative session, particularly how it affected our Glades residents.



## Royal Palm Beach's 60th Anniversary

On June 30, I was honored to attend the Village of Royal Palm Beach's 60th Anniversary celebration. I presented Mayor Fred Pinto with a proclamation commemorating this special milestone. The Village has done an incredible job of building a sense of local pride through its family-friendly festivals and has served as a model for other municipalities for how to attract new residents that are looking for the perfect place to raise their families.



## Glades Food Giveaway

On Saturday, May 18, I partnered with Senator Kevin Rader and State Representative Tina Polsky to host a food giveaway at Hands Park in Belle Glade. Thank you to all the volunteers, including Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, PBC Fire Rescue Cadets, PBC Sheriff's Explorers, and Farm Share for giving back to the Glades Community!



## Honda Classic Cares Foundation Grants

On June 3, the Honda Classic Cares Foundation announced five Glades area charity grant awards and their decision to "hyper" focus on the Glades region in the coming years! Congratulations to [ACES](#), [Glades Initiative](#), [Young Singers of the Palm Beaches](#), [Literacy Coalition of Beach County](#), and [Hope Symphony Camp](#) on receiving the grants!



## Back to School Fairs

**2019 Western County Back to School Bash Health and Wellness Day**  
 Saturday, July 20, 10:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 Loading Ramp, 524 SW Ave C, Belle Glade, FL 33430.  
 Contact: Jessica Valby at [Jessica@friendsoffosterchildren.com](mailto:Jessica@friendsoffosterchildren.com)

**2019 Palm Beach County Back to School Bash**  
 Saturday, July 27, 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 West Technical Education Center, 2625 NW 16th St., Belle Glade, FL 33430  
 Contact: Vernell Williams-Desrosier, 561-829-4632

**Village of Wellington Back to School Bash 2019**  
 Saturday, July 27, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Wellington Community Center Lawn, 12150 Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington, FL 33414.

**South Bay Back to School Bash 2019**  
 Saturday, August 3, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Tanner Park, 105 Palm Beach Road, South Bay, FL 33493.  
 Contact: 561-996-6751

**Boost Mobile Back to School Bash 2019**  
 Saturday, August 3, 2019, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 Boost Mobile of Belle Glade, 551 SW 16th St, Belle Glade, FL 33430  
 Contact: Amin Mohamad at 561-449-1039

**Pahokee Back to School Bash 2019**  
 Saturday, August 10, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
 Pahokee High School Gymnasium, 900 Larrimore Rd, Pahokee, FL 33476  
 Contact: 561-924-5534

## Upcoming Dates

- BCC Workshop. Tuesday, July 23, 9:30 am. 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401.

- BCC Zoning Meeting. Thursday, July 25, 9:30 am. 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401.
- BCC Meeting. Tuesday, Aug. 20, 9:30 am. 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401.
- BCC Zoning Meeting. Thursday, Aug. 22, 9:30 am. 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401.
- BCC Workshop. Tuesday, Aug. 27, 9:30 am. 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401.

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**Commissioner Melissa McKinlay**

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