

# McKinlay Memo - District 6 Update

Commissioner Melissa McKinlay <district6+pbcbgov.org@ccsend.com>

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To: Updates <updates@gladesinitiative.org>



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## Accomplishments As County Commissioner

As my final day in office--November 22nd--is quickly approaching, I started sharing last week some of the accomplishments I'm most proud of during my time as the District 6 County Commissioner. This week, I'm excited to share additional highlights.

**Supporting First Responders:** From day one, supporting first responders has been a top priority of mine. In each of my eight years, I joined with my colleagues to fully fund Fire Rescue and PBSO budgets. I also pushed to get Fire Rescue Station 22 expedited, and it was completed three years ahead of schedule! Additionally, I worked with the City of Westlake to push County staff to relocate the proposed location of a new PBSO substation so it's located in a central, visible location in the Acreage next to Station 22!

**Supporting State Road 7:** I am proud of my years of service on the Transportation Planning Agency. One of my priorities there has been to advocate for the State Road 7 connection to Northlake. However, not everything an elected official advocates for ends up a finished project, at least not right away. And dealing with frustration in a positive manner is sometimes worthy of being proud. An overwhelming majority of my district wants this SR7 connection. We have gotten close to putting shovels in the ground only to have last minute lawsuits filed which causes delays. But rather than give up, the County has worked with D6 municipalities and the Acreage to continue to keep this project a state priority. The funding is still in place. It is still the number one priority on the state's road plan for Palm Beach County. We have completed all due diligence and we're ready to do our part to move forward once the legal fights are resolved.

**Narcan and PBSO:** For several years, community advocates and I called for PBSO to carry Narcan, as many police departments throughout Florida do. While it took some time, I'm grateful that Sheriff Bradshaw heard our call. He recently announced that over 2000 sworn deputies have been trained to carry and use Narcan for opioid overdose emergencies. I'm proud to have helped make this happen because it will undoubtedly save lives and give people struggling with substance use disorder another chance to overcome this awful disease.

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## Appreciating Ron Katz

This week it was my pleasure to present a certificate of appreciation to Ron Katz. Ron is the owner of three Midas locations and has demonstrated outstanding humanitarian leadership by organizing numerous relief efforts to help others, most recently the victims of Hurricane Ian. I thank Ron for his compassion and generosity. He is inspiring and a wonderful example of the lasting impact one person can make.



## Annual Western Farm Bureau Dinner

On October 20th, I spoke at the Annual Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau Dinner for the final time as the District 6 County Commissioner. It has been the honor of my life to represent and support farmers. Farming is a tremendously difficult job, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to those who grow the food we put on the table for our families. Florida agriculture is facing a near \$2 billion loss due to Hurricane Ian, but one undisputed truth I've learned is that you *never* count a farmer out.



### **Advocates for Children Awards**

I was honored to attend the 2022 Florida's Children First Advocates for Children Awards. Congratulations to Vita Nova, Junior League of the Palm Beaches, Ted Babbitt, and Tee Legend Lamore for all of their amazing efforts to help our youth!



## Fire Station of the Year Award

On October 26, I attended the Chamber

of Commerce of the Palm Beaches Breakfast where Palm Beach County Fire Rescue was recognized for its outstanding efforts.

Battalion 7, led by Lt. Tony Wallace, received the Outstanding Community Service Award for volunteering to rebuild a Glades woman's dilapidated stairs to help her get in and out of her home.

Station 45 received the Station of the Year Award. When Kings Point in Delray Beach suffered an EF-2 tornado during Hurricane Ian, Station 45 jumped into action to ensure the residents' safety and well-being.

More great work from our awesome Fire Rescue!





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## SWA Beautification Grant

I am excited to share that the Solid Waste Authority awarded the School District of Palm Beach County a \$569,709 Clean-up and Beautification Grant for the Brick by Brick...Mind by Mind project. This funding is for the demolition of 18 portables, a storage shed, and a multi-purpose building located on four parcels which will be combined to form one parcel in Lake Worth Beach. This project is part of the partnership between the District and the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County. The Foundation will assume the use of the property for the demolition of the existing structures and the construction of a new 32,000 square foot facility.

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