



The Abrams Agenda



November 2015



Palm Beach County Commissioner

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Local Tidal Flooding Causes Concern

We recently experienced flooding up and down the 22 miles of my district due to the king tide—a combination of the supermoon, high tides, rising sea levels, and inclement weather. While king tide only occurs a few times per year, tides peak to a high and low water level twice a day in Southeast Florida.

Typically, the county experiences its highest tides during the months of August, September, October, and November. These high tides cause ocean and canal waters to rise, overtopping seawalls and travelling up storm drains into streets throughout the area, thus causing tidal (saltwater) flooding of those areas. If rainfall coincides with these predicted high tides, it can worsen coastal tidal flooding and cause stormwater (freshwater) flooding further inland. As the high tide moves into the stormwater pipes and catchbasins, the stormwater management system reaches capacity, which prevents stormwater from being discharged. This results in freshwater flooding of those neighborhoods upstream, since the stormwater cannot drain off the land until the tide recedes.

The county again anticipates more high tides October 24-31 and November 24-27. The next king tide is scheduled to occur Monday, October 26 (7:30 a.m.) and Tuesday, October 27 (8:19 a.m.).

This month, I will be attending a bipartisan conference of elected officials from coastal states around the country to raise awareness that coastal flooding demands more attention from our leaders. Coastal flooding poses a growing threat to businesses, residents, and tourism. As your county commissioner representing a coastal district, I will remain actively involved in addressing these important issues.



Por la Mar neighborhood, Boca Raton



Banana Boat Restaurant, Boynton Beach



Veterans Park, Delray Beach

New Shuttle to PBIA

On October 16th, a new shuttle began operating between the Tri-Rail station in West Palm Beach and Palm Beach International Airport. The shuttle will meet every train that stops at the station, with the ride taking about 10 minutes to and from the airport. A future goal of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority is to build another station that will be adjacent to the airport.



BCC Briefs for October 6, 2015 Meeting

Hunger relief – approved the Hunger Relief Strategic Plan for Palm Beach County. The comprehensive document contains specific goals, objectives, tactics, strategies, measurements and outcomes for addressing local hunger issues.

Marijuana – approved on preliminary reading and to advertise for public hearing on October 20 an ordinance establishing a civil citation for possession of small amounts of marijuana. The proposed ordinance allows law enforcement to issue a civil citation with a civil fine of \$100 for anyone 18 and older who is in possession of 20 grams or less of marijuana and/or marijuana drug paraphernalia.

Home caregivers – approved on preliminary reading and to advertise for public hearing on October 20 an ordinance requiring licensing and Level 2 background checks for home caregivers.

Juvenile justice – discussed with Christina K. Daly, secretary of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice recent incidents and management issues at the Palm Beach Juvenile Correctional Facility.

Convention Center – approved a five-year agreement through September 30, 2020, with Spectra Food Services and Hospitality for food and beverage services at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. The company will receive an annual management fee of \$50,000 plus 7 percent of net profits, and the opportunity to earn additional sales incentive fees.

Golf course concessions – approved a nine-month extension to the concessionaire service agreement with DH2, Inc. for the operation of mobile food and beverage carts at Osprey Point Golf Course in South County Regional Park in the amount of \$30,000 per year. A new full-service restaurant building is expected to be built and operational in August 2016, at which time a new RFP will be issued.

employee benefits – approved a one-year renewal of health insurance benefits with CIGNA Health and Life Insurance for employees of the Board of County Commissioners, the Supervisor of Elections and Palm Tran.

Administration – recognized the recent promotion of Jon Van Arnam to deputy county administrator.