



# The Abrams Agenda

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Palm Beach County  
Commissioner  
Steven Abrams

## What to expect when the President is in town

I was recently briefed by airport officials who have been meeting with various federal agencies including the Department of Defense and the Secret Service to implement certain procedures and restrictions at Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) when the President of the United States (POTUS) is in town.

As you may know, President Trump's winter home, Mar-a-Lago, is located in Palm Beach about 2 miles from PBI. Regular flight paths will be altered while the President is in town so that planes do not fly within one mile of Mar-a-Lago. Here is what to expect when the President is here:



- No flights will be permitted to land or takeoff while POTUS is on airport property
- General aviation flights, flight training, sightseeing planes, glider seaplanes, parachute operations, and hang gliding/balloon operations are not allowed within 30 nautical miles of Mar-a-lago. Model aircraft or unmanned aircraft systems (i.e. drones) are also banned
- Corporate and other private aircraft traveling to PBI are required to first land and be screened by the Transportation Security Administration at designated "gateway airports," such as Orlando International Airport and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Officials have also established a number of "gateway airports" in the northeast such as Teterboro in New Jersey since a large number of private

planes originate from this area. Consequently, establishing an airport of origin as a gateway airport will eliminate the need for a plane to make a special stop prior to arriving at PBIA

- Lantana Airport will be closed to aircraft departures, however, arrivals are permitted from gateway airports

In addition, other restrictions will be in place on the ocean and Intracoastal Waterway surrounding Mar-a-Lago. Boaters and fishermen will be required to stay farther from shore when the President is in town and the area will be monitored by highly visible law enforcement on the waters.

On a positive note, every time the President comes to Palm Beach County, he brings an entourage and the Washington press corps, all of whom stay, eat and shop locally generating additional tax revenue while helping local businesses. Moreover, with the media stationed along the intracoastal across from Mar-a-Lago, the free press for the county is immeasurable – especially with a back drop of sparkling blue water, sunshine and palm trees!

## New plaza & cell phone waiting lot open at airport

A new plaza has opened up at the airport and it is another terrific feature that makes travelling through the county's airport such a pleasurable experience! Located on the southwest corner of Florida Mango and Belvedere Road, the plaza features a 7-Eleven convenience store, Dunkin Donuts, car wash and a Mobil gas station.



The plaza also features a new cell phone waiting lot with 85 dedicated parking spaces. Cars no longer have to wait by the side of the road to pick up passengers, endangering themselves and others. Some additional amenities include free wireless internet service, free electric vehicle charging stations and a flight information display screen located inside the 7-Eleven.

While the property is owned by the county, the tenant, West Palm Beach Plaza, LLC, has invested over \$3 million on the design and construction of the travel plaza with an initial ground rental is \$88,209. In addition, the county will share in the revenues starting in the third lease year. Specifically, the county will receive 2.5% of annual gross revenues from the convenience stores, restaurant and car wash that exceed \$1 million and 3% of annual gross revenues that exceed \$2.5 million. The county will also receive one-half cent from each gallon of fuel sold.

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## BCC Briefs

At the February 7, 2017, Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board took the following action:

Legislative Affairs – reviewed and approved the proposed 2017 federal legislative agenda, including priority appropriations and local issues to be lobbied during the upcoming congressional session in Washington, D.C.

Surtax – ratified the selection of Jacobs Project Management Company as the highest ranked consultant by the selection committee to provide program management services for the general government capital program, which includes the one-cent infrastructure sales

tax program. The consultant will assign a senior project manager to act as liaison to the county's Infrastructure Surtax Independent Citizens Oversight Committee and monitor overall budgets, schedules, compliance with the surtax program, and provide financial and project managers as needed.

**Fire Rescue** –approved an amendment to the interlocal agreement with the town of Jupiter for fire protection and emergency medical services, increasing personnel by four firefighter/paramedic positions at a cost of \$329,571, of which \$224,405 (68 percent) will be recovered from the Jupiter MSTU.

**Pet tags** –adopted a resolution outlining the responsibilities of veterinarians who issue rabies license tags and adding new language allowing animal agencies to issue dog and cat rabies license tags at the time of adoption and providing for automatic renewal.

**Affordable housing** –adopted a resolution conveying four, separate, county-owned residential properties to the Community Land Trust (CLT) of Palm Beach County, Inc. The foreclosed properties in Lake Worth (2), West Palm Beach and Greenacres have appraised values of \$115,000, \$235,000, \$63,500, and \$165,000, respectively. The homes will be offered for sale or lease/purchase whereby the buyer enters into a 99-year land lease and purchases the improvements to the property while CLT holds title to the land in perpetuity for the purposes of facilitating affordable housing.

**Homelessness** –directed staff to prepare a report for presentation at a budget workshop on Feb. 21 regarding funding and resources to assist homeless persons at the Sen. Philip D. Lewis Center.

**Plastic bags** –agreed to draft a resolution asking the state Legislature to reconsider a measure that would allow local governments near public waters to ban the use of plastic bags by stores and other commercial entities.



**If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact my office at 561-355-2204 or email at [sabrams@pbcgov.org](mailto:sabrams@pbcgov.org).**

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