



# The Abrams Agenda

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Palm Beach County  
Commissioner  
Steven Abrams

## Boca Helping Hands How we can help too!

With the holidays upon us, it's always nice to acknowledge local organizations that are committed to helping our community all year round. Since 1998, Boca Helping Hands (BHH) has served the South Florida community by providing food, financial assistance and job training. Their programs are designed to meet the needs of individuals, children and families with the goal of creating self-sufficiency through employment.

Some of the key programs include:

- food service that includes lunch 6 days a week and dinner on Thursday nights
- pantry program distributes over 5,000 bags a month to qualified individuals reaching over 1,200 elementary students in 12 schools through the BHH
- backpack program with 6 meals and 2 snacks for 33 weekends during the school year
- job mentoring program offers computer classes, resume building and online job searches
- job training program include hospitality, home health care, truck driving (CDL license), call center representatives and IT help desk technicians
- resource center provides aid to residents in crisis situations with limited financial help, budget planning and referrals to other agencies
- children's assistance program helps working parents with fees for summer camp and after-school care.

In addition, they also have medical and dental clinics in partnership with Genesis Community Health.

BHH is always in need of volunteers, donations and food for their pantry. For more information, please call 561-317-0913 or visit [www.bocahelinghands.org](http://www.bocahelinghands.org) for additional details or a current list of items that are needed.

## The Tale of Three Amigos



I was very proud to lead the fight for the Three Amigos convenience store on a 4-3 vote. It may not be a place that the residents of the nearby gated communities patronize, but the farmworkers and others do.

The hard-working Three Amigos' proprietors have served the Agriculture Reserve well since the sixties and have taken their share of recent hits. They deserved the same approval to which other similarly situated property owners have been entitled under county land use policy. I can also tell you firsthand, they serve delicious food.

## 7 yr-old Tri-Rail Aficionado

As a Tri-Rail commuter and chair of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, I was thrilled to hear that 7 year-old Taylor Loucks asked for a Tri Rail birthday cake and I just had to tell him in person how cool it was!

Consequently, I set up a meeting with Taylor and his family at the Boca Raton train station where Tyler takes a ride almost every weekend. We presented him with a Tri-Rail prize pack and a photo op with the conductor as a belated birthday gift.



## BCC Briefs

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

**Project Cane** – approved a cash incentive in the amount of \$64,800 over eight years for Project Cane. The provider of information technology consulting services is considering expanding its corporate headquarters in Palm Beach County or moving to Georgia, Tennessee or North Carolina. The company will invest \$200,000 to equip a 7,500-square-foot facility and create 108 new jobs over a five-year period at an average annual wage of approximately \$76,000; 16 existing jobs will be retained. The estimated five-year local economic impact is \$79.5 million.

**Protected status** – adopted a resolution urging the extension of the temporary protected status (TPS) designation of more than 50,000 Haitians granted earlier this year by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). On May 22, DHS extended its designation for six months and informed the recipients of their impending return to Haiti, effective January 22, 2018. This resolution urges extension of the TPS designation for no less than 18 months beyond January 22, 2018.

**Fire station** – approved the purchase of a vacant parcel of approximately five acres in unincorporated western Delray Beach for \$1.05 million for a new Palm Beach County Fire Rescue station to serve the Ag Reserve.

**BDB** – approved an amendment to the county’s agreement with the Business Development Board (BDB) revising the scope of services by lowering job creation and retention requirements due to elimination of the state’s Quick Action Closing Fund incentive program, and placing additional emphasis on Glades-focused business recruitment, expansion, and retention.

**Criminal Justice Commission** – accepted a grant award agreement with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s Safety and Justice Challenge in the amount of \$2 million for two years to fund five strategies aimed at reducing Palm Beach County’s jail population by 16.7 percent by April 30, 2019, and addressing racial and ethnic disparities in the jail population. No county matching funds are required.

**SHIP** – approved an additional \$69,105 in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund 2016-2017 budget due to a funding increase from the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program. These are state dollars that require no local match.

**Blueway Trail** – agreed to hold a workshop on permitting, partnering agencies and funding options associated with development of the Blueway Trail connecting the Chain of Lakes, Lake Worth Lagoon and Intracoastal Waterway.

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**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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