



The Abrams Agenda

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Palm Beach County
Commissioner
Steven Abrams

A Year In Review

In 2016, we continued to make progress on my top priorities—improving the economy, maintaining public safety, and enhancing our quality of life.

The County Clerk and Comptroller declared in her annual report that the county was on the “path from recovery to prosperity.” We became a paycheck, not a food stamp, economy, as wages experienced the sharpest increase in recent memory, while the number of adult food stamp recipients declined.

The voters had confidence to pass a penny increase in the sales tax after the Board limited the scope of the ballot question to infrastructure and level of service needs. I continued to make county-funded entities more accountable to taxpayers by pulling some of them from our consent agenda to put them under a spotlight—not to mention ditching entirely the intrusive Meatless Monday proclamation!

On the public safety front, the county was prepared to respond to Hurricane Matthew. For the first time, I manned the Palm Beach County Desk in the Boca Raton EOC when the storm was offshore. When the air cleared, the air cleared! A report was released this year that the county registered zero

days of unhealthy air over a three-year period (by contrast, LA had 85). We aim to keep it that way.

My colleagues on the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) gave me the task of putting together the deal to bring Tri-Rail into downtown Miami and take even more vehicles off the roads. We concluded agreements with multiple parties, and the station will be opening next year.

I also spent a lot of time off the dais as a Canvassing Board member, counting votes in the three elections held in 2016, the most ballot ever cast, in this momentous election year. Thankfully, we won't have to endure that in 2017, so to everyone, Happy New Year!

Boca Bowl Update

Boca Raton is proud to be hosting the 3rd Annual Boca Raton Bowl which will be played on Tuesday, December 20, at FAU Stadium in Boca Raton. As in the past, this game shines a national spotlight on Boca Raton and Palm Beach County when it is aired live on ESPN. This year's teams – Conference USA champion, Western Kentucky University and the University of Memphis from the American Athletic Conference – are ranked as two of the top teams in the nation in terms of total offense. Consequently, the game is predicated to be an exciting, high-scoring affair.



Even more exciting is the effect the Boca Bowl will have on our local economy. The Palm Beach County Sports Commission conducted an economic impact study on the 2015 Boca Raton Bowl and found the event totaled 7,680 room nights for out-of-town visitors, generated nearly \$400,000 in local taxes and had a total economic impact of \$10.4 million. Those are terrific numbers for a mid-December event.

For more information on the bowl week schedule, visit the Boca Raton Bowl web site at THEBocaRatonBowl.com.

BCC Briefs

At the December 6, 2016, Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board took the following action:

Ag Reserve – postponed issuing an invitation to bid for the sale of 571 acres in the Agricultural Reserve known as the McMurrain Farm property, which is jointly owned by the county and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Staff was directed to arrange a public meeting with SFWMD officials

and the BCC to discuss options for the property.

dune restoration – approved a work order with Eastman Aggregate Enterprises in the approximate amount of \$1.4 million and a temporary easement agreement for construction access to allow the company to haul sand to a dune restoration site on Singer Island.

Water Utilities – adopted a resolution revising the Water Utility Department’s uniform policies and procures manual addressing fees, standards, legal documents, and policies and procedures governing potable water, wastewater and reclaimed water services.

senior health care – adopted a resolution approving the issuance of up to \$25 million in Palm Beach County Health Facilities Authority revenue bonds to finance construction of new independent living facilities on the MorseLife West Palm Beach campus. No county funds, nor its taxing power, faith or credit are involved.

PBC Action Plan – approved the third amendment to the Palm Beach County Action Plan for FY2016-2017, reducing Community Development Block Grant funding for the Lewis Center activity by \$140,000 and adding a new activity for the Program REACH/transitional housing facility in the amount of \$140,000. These are federal funds that require no local match.

roads – approved on preliminary reading and to advertise for public hearing on December 20 a series of amendments to the county’s five-year road program. This is the annual update of the program.

mosquitoes – approved a contract with Application Dynamics LLC of Fort Myers in the amount of \$660,000 for aerial mosquito spraying with up to four renewal options.

Youth Services – approved an interagency agreement with the Florida Department of Children and Families through Sept. 30, 2017, with automatic renewals each October 1, and a contract for community-based agencies with the Children’s Home Society in the amount of \$50,000 to provide adoption assistance services to eligible Title IV-E residents. The net fiscal impact will be funded by existing FY 2017 ad valorem revenue.

Community Services – ratified the promotion of James Green to director of the Community Services Department. Mr. Green previously was the director of Outreach and Community Programming for the Youth Services Department.



If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact my office at 561-355-2204 or email at sabrams@pbcgov.org.

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