



# The Abrams Agenda

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Palm Beach County  
Commissioner  
Steven Abrams

## Train Safety and Awareness

Unfortunately, over the past few months, there have been several incidents involving the new Brightline trains, some with fatalities. While Brightline and TriRail run on separate corridors, they are launching a combined effort to raise train safety awareness in the South Florida community. In cooperation with Operation Lifesaver, they will be sponsoring presentations at schools and family centers to educate the public about the laws and procedures to follow at railroad crossings.



Additionally, I am sad to report that in the past year, the majority of train deaths involved suicide, and this year there was an upsurge in these statistics on all of the train corridors in South Florida. The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) is embarking on a suicide mitigation program designed to let people know that when they are in a personal crisis, they can get help. Signs posting the 221 help line will be posted along the corridor. Drones will be used to patrol different sections of the corridor to spot trespassers, and a public service campaign using videos produced by the Florida Department of Transportation will bring attention to the issue.

*As chairman of SFRTA, I cannot stress enough the importance of safety at railroad crossings. Whether you are driving, walking or biking, please do not try to beat the train once the gates and flashing lights are activated!*

Staying Safe at the Beach

With season in full swing, our beaches are bustling. Please pay attention to the signs at the entrance to the beaches that provide information that will keep you safe, such as tide and water conditions. So as you enter the beach, read the signs that have been posted for your safety—and don't be afraid to stop and talk to your lifeguard. What they know might just save your life! For example, if you get caught in a rip current, they advise that you stay calm, don't fight the current and swim parallel to the shore.

Each year, Palm Beach County Ocean Rescue lifeguards perform an average of 140 rescues, 16,000 first aids, 85,000 preventative actions, and 30 reunions of lost children with their parents. They are well-trained first responders on the front lines of our beaches seven days a week! Some of the life-threatening emergencies include swift-water rescue (inlets), rip currents, boat rescues and fishing or snorkeling incidents. They also respond to nuisance complaints such as noise issues and disorderly conduct.

The county's Ocean Rescue lifeguards are required to be certified by American Red Cross and are also required to complete an additional 80-hour, in-house training program. In addition, there is ongoing vigorous recertification training annually. Their daily regimen includes three miles of running and one mile of swimming/paddle boarding exercises. Palm Beach County's Ocean Rescue lifeguards protect swimmers and beachgoers at oceanfront and inlet parks year-round, seven-days a week. In South Palm Beach County, there are three beach locations that are guarded daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:20 p.m.:

Gulfstream Park (Gulfstream)  
Ocean Inlet Park (Ocean Ridge)  
South Inlet Park (Boca Raton)

For more information on locations and safety tips, visit the [Ocean Rescue homepage](#).



**Palm Beach County  
Parks and Recreation  
Department**

Stay within 50 yards of shore.  
Swim only in protected area.  
Obey all lifeguard instructions.

**LIFEGUARD ON DUTY**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Water Temp: \_\_\_\_\_ High Tide: \_\_\_\_\_  
Water Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_ Low Tide: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hazards: \_\_\_\_\_

**Flag Symbols**

Water Closed To Public	High Hazard	Medium Hazard	Low Hazard	Dangerous Marine Life

For your safety the following are prohibited on the beach:  
Animals  
Weapons and Spear guns  
Dangerous Objects in Water  
Littering  
Alcoholic Beverages  
Glass Containers

Surfing, fishing and ball play permitted outside of guarded area only.  
**Palm Beach County Code, Chapter 21**  
Please Keep Your Parks Clean.

## Furry Friends in Need of Homes and Supplies

On an average day, anywhere from 30 to 40 animals—stray, rescued, or unwanted—are brought in to the county's Animal Care & Control Division (AC&C). Annually, more than 27,000 animals are rescued. There is a team of devoted staff members including veterinarians who provide the animals with the best treatment possible during their stay at the facility. All adopted animals will be spayed/neutered, current on vaccinations, protected against fleas and ticks, and micro-chipped.



The shelter has also partnered with local veterinarians to provide a free Health Care Certificate with every adoption. The certificate offers a free exam for your pet from your choice of participating veterinarians and has a value of up to \$500 in savings.

Additionally, AC&C relies heavily on volunteers who donate time to feed, exercise, comfort, and play with the animals. There is also an active Foster Care Program, and AC&C is always looking for supply donations such as blankets, towels, food, newspaper and all types of pet supplies such as cat beds and scratchers. Donations can be dropped off at the main shelter located at 7100 Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach during the following hours: Monday - Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## BCC Briefs

At the February 6, 2018, Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board took the following action:

**Work I.D.** – approved on preliminary reading and to advertise for public hearing on March 13 an amendment to the adult entertainment ordinance. Changes include requiring work I.D. cards to be renewed every two years to protect vulnerable children and young adults, increasing the fee for a new work I.D. from \$75 to \$100, and requiring adult entertainment establishments to retain a complete performer roster.

**Commission on Women** – adopted a resolution establishing a 15-member advisory panel to be known as the Palm Beach County Advisory Commission on Women to represent the special interests and concerns of local women of all races, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions and social circumstances and to review county policies and other important issues pertaining to women.

**Addiction stabilization** – authorized staff to continue working with the Health Care District of Palm Beach County and other community partners to establish an addiction stabilization facility and to negotiate contract(s) with the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network and/or directly with community providers to expand emergency substance abuse treatment capacity utilizing up to \$500,000 in funding from the Palm Beach County Opioid Crisis Response Plan.

**Project Cane** – conceptually approved an economic development cash incentive of \$54,000 over eight years for Project Cane. The information technology consulting services company is contemplating expanding its corporate headquarters in Palm Beach County or moving to Georgia, Tennessee or North Carolina. The project 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 \$58,257 and retain 16 existing jobs. Estimated five-year economic impact is \$79.5 million.

**Phil Foster Park** – approved an amendment to the concessionaire service agreement with Little Deeper Charters, Inc. for the continued management and operation of a multiservice concession at Phil Foster Park in Riviera Beach for a minimum guaranteed annual revenue of \$28,121.

**Wages** – directed the county administrator and staff to review Miami-Dade County's responsible wages and benefits ordinance which covers minimum wages for construction services, liability for unpaid wages, penalties for withholding wages, payroll, subcontracts, complaints and hearings, apprentices and trainees, and provides wage and benefit schedules for carpenters, bricklayers, drywall finishers and other trades.

**Legal Aid Society** – accepted the Inaugural Visionary Award from the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County and G.L. Homes.



**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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