



## The Abrams Agenda



Palm Beach County Commissioner  
Steven Abrams

### The Future of 911: Text and Video

The county's 911 system receives more than one million calls annually, and the majority of them are made from cell phones. Consequently, Palm Beach County (PBC) utilizes advanced technology that identifies the phone number and location of a caller, even when the call is from a mobile phone and is transferred from one cell tower to another. In addition, PBC 911 uses an advanced Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to accurately display the physical location of the caller providing quick and accurate information for emergency responders.



Moreover, the county is working on a number of initiatives to ensure our systems outpace technological advances in communications. The county is currently working to enable Text-to-9-1-1, which promises to bring even more functionality and versatility to those in need of emergency assistance. Also, in development is Video-to-9-1-1 which could be a significant tool for first responders prior to dispatching to the site of an incident.

### FAU 911 System Upgraded



I recently toured the new 911 command center at Florida Atlantic University's Police Department (FAUPD) in Boca Raton. FAUPD, in conjunction with the Palm Beach County Public Safety Department, recently designated the campus police department a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) with the county. Dispatchers will now be able to precisely pinpoint the location of on-campus 911 calls and monitor a live feed from more than 1,000 cameras throughout the 850-acre campus.

Prior to this new system, all 911 calls from the FAU campus would go to the Boca Raton Police Department, which would transfer the calls to the FAU Police Department. During this transfer, information such as caller ID or location was lost. The upgraded call center immediately gives dispatchers the exact location of the call and the phone number.

Staffed with two dispatchers, the call center was built into a room with several monitors that receive live video from more than 1,000 on-campus cameras, which were upgraded this past year. The monitors constantly provide real-time images throughout the campus, including hotspots such as the library and parking garages.

The county's Public Safety Department worked with the FAUPD to provide, install and activate the equipment, which was funded through a state grant and repurposed equipment. This major safety enhancement for the 31,000 students and 6,000 plus faculty – not to mention visitors and parents - represents Palm Beach County's ongoing commitment to improving public safety countywide.

## BCC Briefs

At the October 18, 2016, Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board took the following action:

**Homelessness** – received and filed a fully executed commercial contract with the Center for Family Services in the amount of \$950,000 for the purchase of a homeless shelter in West Palm Beach.

**PalmTran** – authorized filing a grant application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in the amount of \$820,000 to implement new fare collection technology for Palm Tran. This funding is in addition to an initial grant of \$500,000. The board also approved the filing of an FTA grant in the amount of

\$2.5 million for the deployment of transit signal priority along the Okeechobee Boulevard and LakeWorth corridors. No county funds are required to execute either award.

FireRescue – approved and ratified the collective bargaining agreement between Palm Beach County and the Professional Firefighters/Paramedics of PBC, Local 2928, IAFF, Inc. pertaining to district chiefs in the supervisory unit.

Drones – accepted on behalf of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office \$1 million from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to fund an unmanned aircraft system pilot program. The money will be used to pay for hardware, software and professional services. No local match is required.

Roads – adopted resolutions abandoning two sections of unimproved right of way within the Palm Beach Farms Company Plat 3. One was requested by the Solid Waste Authority to block public access to a site often used for illegal dumping. The other was requested by DiVosta Homes, LP to pursue redevelopment of the Gulfstream PUD located east of Polo Road and south of Lake Worth Road. The board also continued to the November 1 BCC meeting a revised alignment for a segment of Congress Avenue between Northlake Boulevard and Park Lane.

MSTU – adopted a resolution confirming a special assessment under the county's municipal services taxing unit program for canal maintenance in the unincorporated Sandalfoot Cove community near Boca Raton. Each of the 72 benefiting owners will be charged \$110 per lot.

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Palm Beach County | 301 North Olive Street , 12th Floor , West Palm Beach, FL 33401

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