



The Abrams Agenda



Palm Beach County Commissioner Steven Abrams

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Hurricane Season: Preparation is Key

It's been over a decade since a hurricane has struck our area and this streak of luck tends to create complacency. Remember, it's everybody's responsibility to be prepared in case a storm hits. Government alone cannot begin to handle all of the adverse impacts. It's important to have an evacuation plan in place and make sure your homes are secure.

I strongly urge everyone to review the county's [Hurricane Preparedness Guide](#) so that you know what to do before, during and after a storm. Emergency officials advise that residents should be prepared to survive on their own for at least 72 hours. Supplies sell out fast once a storm has been forecasted, so it's important to do what you can now.

Some questions to consider:

- Do you depend on electric medical devices or oxygen to stay well? If you plan to go a [special needs shelter](#)s, you must preregister.

- Do you have enough canned goods and bottled water stocked? See [checklist](#) on all recommended supplies and other tips.
- Do you know the [location of your closest shelter, gas station with emergency transfer switches and/or grocery store with emergency generator](#)?
- Do you have a [plan for your pet](#)? The county operates a [pet shelter](#), but you are required to register in advance.
- Do you live in a [mandatory evacuation zone](#)?

Don't wait until a hurricane is bearing down to make these important decisions. Together we can make it a safer and less worrisome hurricane season for everyone. If you have questions, or need us to mail you information, please call my office at 561-355-2204 or Palm Beach County Emergency Management at 561-712-6400.

Connect with Emergency Officials Online PBC Dart, Facebook and Twitter

Emergency officials will be communicating with residents using [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). You can download the county's free emergency app, [PBC DART](#), which will provided you with vital information such as your storm surge evacuation areas, flood zones, shelter locations, grocery and building supply stores with emergency generators, and gas stations that remain open. The app also lets individuals and businesses send damage reports, in real time, to the Emergency Operations Center, which will enable emergency workers to access and respond to areas needing attention during and after a storm.



Hurricane trivia

A tropical storm is classified as a hurricane once its winds reach 74 miles per hour.

Every second, a large hurricane releases the energy of 10 atomic bombs.

The most violent winds and heaviest rains take place in the eye wall, the ring of clouds and thunderstorms closely surrounding the eye.



At the May 3, 2016, Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board took the following action:

Infrastructure surtax – approved on first reading and to advertise for public hearing on May 17 an ordinance authorizing a one-cent sales surtax referendum to fund infrastructure projects countywide. If approved by voters in November, the surtax would generate an estimated \$2.7 billion over 10 years to be distributed in the following amounts: Palm Beach County School District, 50%; Palm Beach County, 30%; municipalities, 20%. Because cultural projects and economic incentives were removed from the proposal, a new interlocal agreement must be executed between the county, the school district and municipalities comprising 50 percent plus one of the incorporated population.

Mounts Botanical Garden – accepted a donation of \$470,000 from Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden, Inc. and approved a budget transfer of \$40,000 from the capital outlay fund for construction of a tropical wetland garden at the Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach.

Avenir – approved a proportionate share agreement with Avenir Holdings, LLC in the approximate amount of \$105.4 million to satisfy countywide traffic concurrency for the Avenir residential development project located north of Northlake Blvd., east of Grapeview Blvd. and south of Beeline Highway in the city of Palm Beach Gardens.

Pal-Mar – approved the acquisition of an undeveloped 1.1-acre parcel north of Indiantown Road and northeast of Beeline Highway. The tract is located in Palm Beach Heights, which is part of the Pal-Mar Natural Area. The purchase price is \$1,850 plus approximately \$500 in closing costs, title insurance and recording fees.

Enclave – approved an interlocal agreement with the city of Lake Worth for the annexation of 14 parcels totaling 8.19 acres on the northwest and southeast corners of 10th Avenue North and Boutwell Road.

Artificial reef – approved the acquisition of the *M/V Ana Ceilia* from the U. S. Customs Service at no cost to the county and approved a budget transfer of \$125,000 from the vessel registration fee trust fund to cover the costs for towing, preparing and scuttling of the ship off the Lake Worth Inlet to become an artificial reef.

STD medical services – adopted a resolution amending the Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County's fee schedule reducing the rates to the self-pay uninsured population for treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and medical and laboratory services. Patients are currently charged \$159. The proposed new rates are \$58.02 for new patients and \$48.84 for existing patients.

Economic Sustainability – heard a presentation on the 2016-2017 Palm Beach County Action Plan.

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