

The Abrams Agenda



September 2016

Palm Beach County Commissioner Steven Abrams

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Meet Ocean Rescue

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 and boat rescues and fishing or snorkeling incidents. They also respond to nuisance complaints such as noise issues and disorderly conduct.

Our office recently met with Captain Robert Wagner at Ocean Rescue Headquarters located at Ocean Inlet Park on A1A in Ocean Ridge. His advice to all beachgoers was “read the signs,” which are located at all county beach entrances.

The signage at the entrance to the beach provides important information to help keep beachgoers and swimmers safe. The information, such as tide and water conditions, is updated throughout the day. 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.

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. Their daily regimen includes three miles of running and one mile of swimming/paddle boarding exercises.

In South Palm Beach County, there are three county beach locations, which 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)*



Lt. Brian McManus, Ed Noon and Ryan Keith



Animal Care and Control

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.

On a recent visit, there were approximately 400 cats and dogs available for adoption. All adopted animals will be spayed/neutered, current on vaccinations, protected against fleas and ticks, micro-chipped, and much more!

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 provide their 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 and all types of pet supplies such as cat beds and scratchers.

BCC Briefs for August 16, 2016

Airports – authorized the issuance of the Palm Beach International Airport Series 2016 revenue refunding bond through a competitive negotiated bid process awarded to Raymond James. The refunding resulted in net present value savings of \$15.63 million in debt service over the life of the bonds.

Herbert Hoover Dike – adopted a resolution urging Congress to provide the necessary funding to complete rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike and urging the US Army Corps of Engineers to expedite its repairs to ensure the public health, safety and welfare of cities surrounding Lake Okeechobee and the Army Corps' ability to manage lake water levels so as to significantly reduce impacts to coastal estuaries.

Homeless services – approved a budget transfer of \$950,000 from the general fund contingency and authorized the county administrator to serve as the Adopt-A-Family nominee and to execute a contract for the purchase of four properties, including 19 apartment units, owned by the Center for Family Services to continue operations of an emergency homeless shelter. The purchase is contingent upon satisfactory completion of appraisals and standard due diligence.

Financially Assisted Agencies – approved FY-2017 allocations for the Financially Assisted Agencies (FAA) program totaling \$12.13 million. Program services include domestic abuse/sheltering, homelessness, behavioral health, special needs/developmental disability, economic stability/poverty and senior services.

Roads – approved mid-year amendments to the five-year road program with one change from the preliminary approval in July: delaying the Jog Road intersection project for a year. The board also adopted a resolution abandoning of a portion of the unimproved right of way of S. Edgewater Drive located east of Prosperity Farms Road and north of PGA Blvd.

Public Safety – approved issuance of a special secondary service certificate of public convenience and necessity (COPCN) with Universal Protection Services, LLC to provide advanced life support (ALS) first response, non-transport services to the Polo Club of Boca Raton.

Body cameras – directed staff to meet with the sheriff and his staff on the possibility of equipping sheriff deputies with body cameras and develop a plan for implementation.