



PBC 7

District 7 Newsletter Commissioner Mack Bernard

FEBRUARY | 2017



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County Committees

- CareerSource PBC
- Homeless Advisory Board
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (Alternate)
- Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (Alternate)
- Florida Association of Counties

Dear District 7 Residents,

I am truly honored to be blessed with the opportunity to serve you and advocate on your behalf. Public service is a passion of mine. It is important for the residents of District 7 to be kept abreast of all the exciting things that are taking place in the county. Therefore, I present to you this quarterly newsletter during Black History Month to keep you informed and engaged.

We recently celebrated what would have been Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's 88th birthday. Therefore, 49 years after his death, our commitment to his legacy requires that we remain vigilant. In the immortal words of St. Augustine, we must continue to pray as though everything depended on God and work as though everything depended on us. Today, more than ever the civil rights community must adapt and change to serve the needs of the community. As Dr. King often said, the time is always right to do what is right.

I look forward to working with the residents of District 7 and please contact my office at 561-355-2207 if I may be of assistance to you. As always, my doors are open.

Sincerely,
Commissioner Mack Bernard



Pictured here (l to r): District 7 Commissioner Mack Bernard, District 6 Vice Mayor Melissa Mcinlay, District 4 Commissioner Steven Abrams, District 2 Mayor Paulette Burdick, District 1 Commissioner Hal Valeche, District 5 Commissioner Mary Lou Berger, District 3 Commissioner Dave Kerner.

Commissioner Bernard Takes Oath of Office

Early on Nov. 22, 2016, newly elected District 7 County Commissioner Mack Bernard was sworn in to office. The ceremony took place in the Jane M. Thompson Memorial Chambers on the sixth floor of the Robert Weisman Palm Beach County Governmental Center. Commissioner Bernard was elected to replace former District 7 Commissioner Priscilla A. Taylor.

Commissioner Bernard is a tax attorney, has served on the Delray Beach City Commission and completed a term in the Florida House of Representatives. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice/political science from Florida State University, and a law degree from the University of Florida.



Ret. Judge Edward Rogers swears in newly elected District 7 Commissioner Mack Bernard.

Pictured here (left to right): Makenna Bernard, Legrand Parisien, Shawntoyia Bernard holding Kennedy, Macall Bernard, Commissioner Mack Bernard, Samuel Pierre, Lynne Olius, Ret. Judge Edward Rogers.



After the ceremony, Commissioner Bernard takes his seat on the dais and addresses his fellow commissioners and the audience.



Mack Bernard is sworn in as newly elected District 7 Palm Beach County Commissioner

FDOT Public Information Workshop

Commissioner Bernard attended a workshop hosted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on January 10. He was briefed on an upcoming \$12.5 million dollar construction project in Boynton Beach along Interstate 95 from Lake Ida Road to Gateway Boulevard. Proposed improvements include:

- Repaving and restriping I-95
- Repaving and restriping the on and off ramps at Boynton Beach Boulevard and Gateway Boulevard
- Repaving and restriping the off ramps at Woolbright Road
- Upgrading highway signs



FDOT Roadway Improvement Public Information Meeting

Commissioner Bernard Attends MPO

Approximately 35 people participated in this 3rd annual Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) retreat held in downtown West Palm Beach. Participants included 15 elected officials who serve as MPO Governing Board members and alternates, MPO staff members, transportation agency part-

ners, and others. The highlight was a hard hat tour of the Brightline passenger rail station construction site. Thirteen participants, including Commissioner Bernard, ended the retreat with a group bike ride through downtown to tour installations of the City's Art in Public Places program.



MPO Board - Brightline Station Tour



West Palm Beach Bike Share Program

The Annual Fair Housing Contest is Here Again!

April is Fair Housing Month. The Palm Beach County Office of Equal Opportunity in collaboration with the Realtors® Association of the Palm Beaches and the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc. are sponsoring the annual student fair housing poster, essay and video contest.

April 2017 marks the 49th anniversary of the enactment of the federal fair housing law. The theme for the contest for 2017 is: "Fair Housing: Making Dreams Come True."

We have asked 3rd through 12th graders (public, private or homeschool students) in Palm Beach County to participate in this contest to promote awareness of fair housing laws.



I have attached the contest flyer and the rules for your information. This information will also be submitted to all Palm Beach County schools. Entries may be submitted now through February 10, 2017. First place winners in elementary and middle school

will be awarded \$100 cash. High school first place winners will be awarded a Tablet PC. Second place winners will receive at least \$50 at each level, and third place winners will be awarded at least \$25 at each level.

2016 Proclamation World AIDS Day

At the Dec. 6, 2016 Board of County Commissioners meeting, Commissioner Bernard presented a proclamation declaring Dec. 1, 2016 as World AIDS Day.

Pictured here (l to r): Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation Founder Pierrette Cazeau, Commissioner Mack Bernard, Foundcare HIV Prevention Specialist Rodney Roberts, Foundcare HIV Coordinator Vickie Rossy.



Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Pierre Dorsainvil



At the Board of County Commissioners meeting on Jan. 10, 2017, Commissioner Bernard presented a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Pierre Dorsainvil.

Commissioner Bernard presents a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Pierre Dorsainvil for his dedication and service especially with infectious disease patients.

SuperCar Week

At the Board of County Commissioners meeting on January 10, Commissioner Bernard (left) presented a proclamation to Tim Byrd (right) declaring the second week of January 2017 as SuperCar Week in Palm Beach County.



Upcoming PBC Meetings:



February	07, 2017	9:30	BCC Regular Meeting
March	14, 2017	9:30	BCC Regular Meeting
March	28, 2017	9:30	BCC Workshop
April	04, 2017	9:30	BCC Regular Meeting
April	24, 2017	9:30	BCC Workshop

Haitian Earthquake Memorial Day



At the Board of County Commissioners meeting on January 10, Commissioner Bernard presented a proclamation declaring Jan. 12, 2017 as Haitian Earthquake Memorial Day in Palm Beach County.

Pictured here (l to r): Color of Hope member Salusa Basquin, Commissioner Mack Bernard, Color of Hope member Karl Gerdes.

Commissioner Mack Bernard Talks Jobs, Operations at CareerSource Palm Beach County

I had the opportunity to visit CareerSource Palm Beach County's Central Career Center to learn more about the organization's operations and challenges. CareerSource's senior leadership team presented a general overview of its role in the community, training and hiring needs in industries such as construction, youth programs, how job seekers and employers use the organization's services and more.

President and CEO Steve Craig gave a tour of the Central Career Center's facilities at the end of the meeting. During the tour, I expressed my interest in the youth program and how I would like to participate in the next class, taking a moment to discuss the Career Prep summer youth program with Eugene Spann, a career consultant in the youth services department.

I look forward to working with CareerSource in creating more programs and job opportunities for the residents of Palm Beach County.



Palm Beach County Commissioner Bernard and CareerSource Palm Beach County President/CEO Steve Craig

“More Than Pink” Bus Encourages Breast Cancer Awareness

Palm Tran, working with Susan G. Komen® South Florida and Lamar Transit Advertising, unveiled the 2017 breast cancer awareness bus at the Lake Pavilion in Downtown West Palm Beach on January 12. Speakers at the event included County Mayor Paulette Burdick, County Commissioner Mack Bernard, Executive Director Clinton B. Forbes, Palm Tran, and Executive Director Dayve Gabbard, Susan G. Komen® South Florida. The unveiling event coincided with the Royal Park Bridge “Perfect Pink Bridge Lighting.” The theme of the fifth annual bus

is “More Than Pink” and showcases Komen’s new brand platform that looks past just wearing the color pink for awareness and focuses on taking action to help save lives. One side of the bus encourages people to “act, donate and get involved” and the other side features the “bold goal” of reducing breast cancer deaths by 50% in the next decade.

The bus will be used primarily on Route 1, which travels via US1 from the Palm Beach Gardens Mall to Camino Real in Boca Raton until April in support of the fight against breast cancer. Route 1 is Palm Tran’s busiest route, pro-



Commissioner Mack Bernard



2017 Palm Tran Pink Bus Reveal

viding more than 7,000 average trips on a weekday.

In addition to the service on Palm Tran routes, the bus will also be staged at the Susan G. Komen South Florida Race for the Cure® in downtown West Palm Beach on Saturday, Jan. 28. The race is expected to draw close to 18,000 participants this year.

For this partnership, Palm Tran provided the space on the bus while the cost of the bus wrap was funded by Susan G. Komen® South Florida and Lamar Advertising.

GBDC Entrepreneurship Institute

Commissioner Bernard met with youth involved with the GBDC Entrepreneurship Institute. He shared with them what being a commissioner is all about and how the position impacts the community. GBDCEI is a 501(c) 3 organization specializing in services for Small Businesses, Entrepreneurs, Non Profits and the Public Sectors. Their mission is to develop social entrepreneurs through training, business coaching and technical assistance. Emphasis is placed on young entrepreneurs; to aid in the reduction of school dropout rates and the increase in employability skills and job creation.



Mentoring the youth with Annette Gray

"You cannot always build the future for the youth, but you can always build the youth for the future!"

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Priorities for District 7:



1. Affordable housing for families and senior citizens
2. Increase the minimum wage to \$15.00/hr
3. Quality education for our children
4. Diversity in county jobs
5. Public Safety

BCC Briefs for January 10, 2017



At the January 10, 2017, Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board took the following action:

Affirmative Action – approved the 2016-2017 Affirmative Action Plan. This is a voluntary effort to correct under-representation in the county workforce. Implementation focuses on methods and procedures for achieving targeted work unit goals, enhancing special recruitment efforts, and continuing to develop systems to correct under-representation. There is no fiscal impact to the county.

artificial reef – approved a contract in the amount of \$1 million with CRB Geological and Environmental Services for the sinking of the retired U.S. Navy submarine USS Clamagore to create an artificial reef offshore of Jupiter/Juno Beach. The funding, from the Vessel Registration Fee Trust Fund, represents 25 percent of the estimated \$4 million needed to purchase, prep and safely sink the 320-foot sub. The contract will be voided if the remaining \$3 million is not raised by private sources.

Hurricane Matthew – approved a federally funded public assistance state agreement to cover the cost of emergency preparations associated with Hurricane Matthew. Palm Beach is one of 15 Florida counties that qualified for FEMA aid under the president's major disaster declaration in October.

affordable housing – approved revised guidelines for the Impact Fee Affordable Housing Assistance Program (IFAHAP). Changes include raising the occupant household qualifying income level to 140 percent of area median income, instituting repayment requirements for developers and homeowners in cases of default or voluntary withdrawal from the program, requiring new affordability periods for successor homeowners, and removing the Commission on Affordable Housing from the funding recommendation process.

youth homelessness – authorized the Division of Human Services (DHS) to apply for federal funding to develop and execute a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness over a two-year period. Under Phase 1 of the application process, DHA is requesting \$300,000 for development of a Youth Needs Assessment Plan. Funding would include stipends for youths who assist in the collection of data. A \$75,000 local match is required. DHA will apply for Phase 2 funding only if Phase 1 funding is granted.

lifeguards – did not ratify (tie vote) a side agreement for ocean lifeguards and lieutenants, adjusting salaries and/or job classifications and approving special risk class membership in the FRS pension program. The side agreement was collectively bargained with the Communications Workers of America Local 3181 and ratified by the bargaining unit employees.

golf – approved an amendment to the contract with Robling Architecture Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$406,252 for the temporary golf learning center project at Osprey Point Golf Course in Boca Raton establishing a guaranteed maximum price. The amendment authorizes procurement of a modular building and installation of water, sewer, and electrical infrastructure for the public restroom.