

April 2021

# FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS of Local Elected Officials, Inc.

## 2020-2021 Dues Invoices Reminder



**FBC-LEO 2021 dues payments must be paid by Friday, April 9, 2021.**

If you did not receive your invoice, be sure to check your spam/junk folder. If you need the invoice emailed to you again, contact Nykierama Cooper at [ncooper@flcities.com](mailto:ncooper@flcities.com).

Thank you for your membership. We appreciate your continued support of FBC-LEO.

## President's Message



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends,

It is the start of a new month, but I am still full of joy, reflecting on our FBC-LEO 2021 Spring Conference, that took place March 18-19. There were so many memorable moments from our time spent together, that I could not choose just one to reflect upon. But I must take a moment to thank all of those who contributed to the success of this conference.

This year, we had a record number of registrants in attendance. FLC staff members and the FBC-LEO Board worked together to ensure that we were comfortable, had everything we needed for an enjoyable time, and to interact with each other in a safe way. At the conference, our team implemented safety precautions ranging from social distance seating, daily temperature checks, reinforcing the wearing of face masks, and providing a wellness booth with masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer. We also provided a customized FBC-LEO face mask and hand sanitizer in each registration bag. We enjoyed the dynamic presentations of speakers from all over central Florida, with FLC President Tony Ortiz kicking us off with a discussion on the history of the affordable housing crisis in America. Conference attendees were graced with a keynote address from Clarence E. Anthony, CEO and Executive Director of the National League of Cities. The conference culminated with a keynote address entitled "Respecting Differences for Cultural Competence," delivered by Darrell

Butler, President of BC Innovations. As promised, key conference elements included the presentation of the new FBC-LEO logo, presentation of the 1st ever FBC-LEO scholarship award to Erianna Quallo, a Rickards High School Student in Tallahassee, FL for her amazing essay on Florida's Emancipation Proclamation. Each of the powerful workshop sessions focused on my initiatives: racial equity, affordable housing, health & wellness & building stronger cities.

It was particularly exciting to see that so many of this year's conference attendees were our newest FBC-LEO members and first-time attendees. I enjoyed meeting each of you and look forward to your future participation and involvement. It is my hope that you will stay connected through our efforts in education, upliftment and advocacy on behalf of our communities. Be on the lookout for upcoming educational opportunities and we look forward to gathering in-person again, at the FLC Annual Conference, in August 2021!



President Teresa Watkins Brown  
Councilwoman, City of Fort Myers

## Member News



### Welcome to our new FBC-LEO Members

Warmest welcome! We are delighted to have each of you as members of the FBC-LEO organization and look forward to getting to know you.

- Deborah D. Figgs-Sanders, Councilmember, City of St. Petersburg
- Randy Foster, Councilman, City Palm Bay
- Daniela Jean, Commissioner, City of North Miami Beach
- N'Kosi Jones, Commissioner, City of Bowling Green
- Lawrence Martin, Commissioner, City of Lauderhill
- Curtis Richardson, Commissioner, City of Tallahassee

## FBC-LEO Shirts Available



The ordering window is open from now until July 1, 2021. Purchase your shirt now to wear at the FLC Annual Conference in August!

There are many great colors and styles to choose from. Short sleeve and long sleeve shirts are available.

**Click the "View Shirts" button below to view available options and to place your order.**

*If you are paying with a city/town/village credit card and need the sales tax turned off, please call Full Press Apparel before placing your shirt order. The phone number for Full Press Apparel is (850) 222-1003.*

[View Shirts](#)

Questions?  
[Contact FBC-LEO](#)

## American Rescue Plan Act Resource Center

The Florida League of Cities established this webpage to help share the latest information regarding the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act with our 411 municipal members.

We encourage you to check back to this page frequently for the latest news, information and guidelines regarding implementation of the Act.

[FUNDING](#) [GUIDANCE](#) [RESOURCES + UPDATES](#) [STAY INFORMED](#) [EVENTS + EDUCATION](#) [FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)

Privacy Policy | ADA Disclosure | © 2021 Florida League of Cities, Inc. All Rights Reserved. | Facebook | LinkedIn | Twitter

## **FLC Launches American Rescue Plan Act Resource Center**

Last week the Florida League of Cities launched the FLC American Rescue Plan Act Online Resource Center dedicated to providing the latest information, resources and guidance on the implementation of the Act.

The League will continue to update each section as new information is provided by the U.S. Treasury Department, the National League of Cities or from other partner stakeholders, so we encourage you to check back to the site often.

### **Visit ARP Online Resource Center**

If you have any questions about the American Rescue Plan Act for Florida cities, please contact Allison Payne at [apayne@flcities.com](mailto:apayne@flcities.com).

Additionally, the National League of Cities is compiling questions that need clarification in the Treasury Guidance. [Click here](#) to submit any questions you have on implementation.

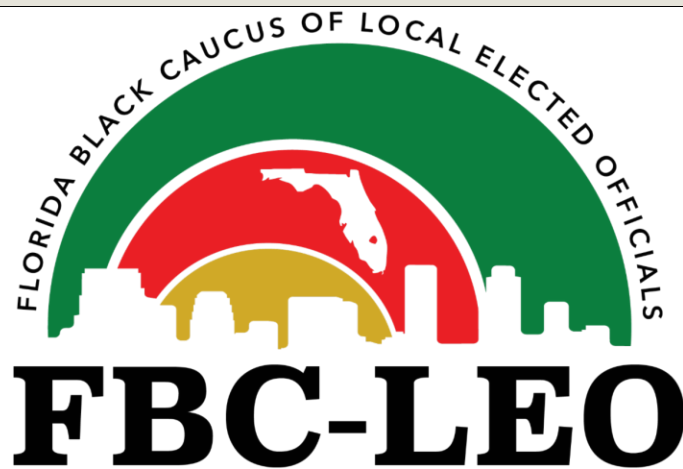
## **Join the Panel**

**JOIN THE PANEL FOR OUR  
UPCOMING HEALTHY LIVING  
WEBINAR ON MENTAL HEALTH**

---

EMAIL [FBCLEO@FLCITIES.COM](mailto:FBCLEO@FLCITIES.COM) TO INQUIRE

## **New FBC-LEO Logo**



We are proud to announce the launch of our new logo as part of our ongoing rebranding efforts. We have grown and evolved over the years, and we are refreshing our brand to better reflect who we are and who we aspire to be as an organization.

After careful consideration, we have chosen a new logo that is modern with key elements that convey our history and our mission. The arches in our new logo, and text surrounding them, incorporate our main FBC-LEO colors, red, black, and green; consistent with the pan-African flag. The red represents the struggle of our ancestors; the green represents the growth, vitality and abundance of our people; and our organization's name and acronym surrounding the image is in a bold, black font, continuing to represent us, as it did before.

Our logo is also Florida-centric. The golden arch is emblematic of the sunshine state. It features a cityscape at the bottom characterizing the municipal focus of our group and the outline of the state of Florida is nestled at the heart of the image. This new logo will be more easily recognizable and memorable as we showcase the logo in the different spaces we will frequent, including a new website that is coming soon.

## 2021 FBC-LEO Essay Contest Winner

### 2021 FBC-LEO ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

Errianna Quallo  
11<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Rickards High School  
Tallahassee, FL



We are pleased to announce that Erianna Quallo has been selected as the winner of the 2021 FBC-LEO Essay Contest, What Does Emancipation Day, May 20th mean to me.

Errianna is an eleventh-grader at Rickards High School in Tallahassee, FL. Apart from receiving a resolution and certificate from FBC-LEO, Errianna received a \$1000.00 scholarship to the college or technical career institution of her choice.

[Click here](#) to read Errianna's essay.

## FBC-LEO 2021 Spring Conference Recap

In the conference's opening address, **Teresa Watkins Brown, FBC-LEO president** and **City of Fort Myers council member**, reflected on how much had changed since the group last met in March 2020. Following a warm welcome and formal recognition of sponsors, she unveiled the newly redesigned FBC-LEO logo.



This year, FBC-LEO saw a record number of registrants for our reimagined spring conference, and safety was a top priority. FLC staff checked attendees' temperatures daily and worked with hotel staff to ensure the meeting rooms were arranged so that attendees could be socially distanced. Attendees wore masks to navigate safely through the property.

**FLC President Tony Ortiz, City of Orlando commissioner**, delivered the opening keynote address. Ortiz shared his research on how the history of oppression and discrimination in America caused the current housing crisis and then offered innovative ideas for how elected officials can work together to address this crisis in their respective communities.





Following lunch, attendees heard from a diverse panel, presenting in person and virtually, on innovative affordable housing projects and solutions for municipalities. The panel, moderated by **FBC-LEO first vice President and Haines City Mayor Morris West** and , included **Frances De Jesus, housing and community development program coordinator** for the **City of Kissimmee**; **Oren J. Henry, director of**

**housing and community development department for the City of Orlando**; **Regina I. Hill, City of Orlando commissioner**; and **Shannon Nazworth, president and CEO of Ability Housing**. A memorable moment at the conclusion of this session was when a mayor in the audience commended Commissioner Regina Hill for her unapologetic authenticity.

The day's final session was a panel on economic development focused on building a robust economy in Florida's cities. The panel moderator was **Justin Campbell, FBC-LEO second vice president and City of Palatka commissioner**, and consisted of **Bakari F. Burns, City of Orlando commissioner**; **Thomas C. Chatmon Jr., executive director for Downtown Orlando's Downtown Development Board/Community Redevelopment Agency**; and **Ken Thomas, director of housing and redevelopment** for the **City of Leesburg**.

Panelists shared their insight through individual presentations and engaged attendees in a spirited question-and-answer session.



The evening began with the President's Reception, which led into the President's Dinner featuring **National League of Cities CEO and Executive Director Clarence E. Anthony**. In his address, Anthony reflected on his formative years as a young elected official in South Bay, Fla., and recognized **City of Miramar Mayor Wayne Messam**, who was one of the

young residents in South Bay while Anthony served as mayor.

Anthony ended his heartfelt remarks by recognizing many of the elected officials in the room personally by affirming his belief in their abilities to lead their residents through the toughest situations. His last words to the group were "we are one!" Following a standing ovation, several attendees rushed to the stage to take pictures and speak with Anthony. Participants also gathered for a group photo, still wearing masks as a safety precaution.

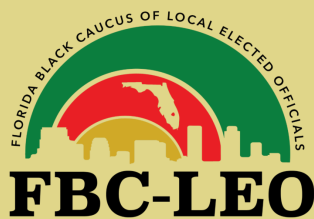
The final morning of the spring conference continued with a session on communicating to our communities in difficult times, specifically addressing COVID-19 outreach strategies. The panel moderated by **Jessica Davis, FBC-LEO secretary** and **City of DeLand commissioner**, included the **City of St. Petersburg's Director of Urban Affairs Nikki Gaskin-Capehart** and **Marketing Director Nina Mahmoudi**, who both joined virtually.



Attendees participated in a panel discussion on promoting the local economy and the roles that minority business programs, community redevelopment agencies and destination marketing organizations play in impacting development and partnerships. The panel was moderated by **Phillip E. Walker, FBC-LEO immediate past president, FLC first vice president** and **City of Lakeland commissioner**, and consisted of **Ardail S.**

**Allen, CCA, business analyst** for the **City of Tampa's Equal Business Opportunity Office; Mayor of Eatonville Eddie Cole** and **Experience Kissimmee President and CEO D.T. Minich**. The wealth of knowledge these panelists brought to the group was appreciated by attendees, who were pleased to see a variety of cities represented in the conversation.

The final session of the conference was a workshop titled "Respecting Differences for Cultural Competence," delivered by **Darrell Butler, president of BC Innovations**. Butler walked attendees through the process of understanding their own cultural identities and how those identities impact others, in order to increase communication that leads to productive outcomes. Attendees actively participated throughout the session by asking poignant questions and offering thoughtful reflections.



President Watkins Brown closed the conference with warm words of gratitude to all those involved in making the spring conference a reality and words of hope for what next year will hold. Her final words were, "We look forward to seeing you again, soon!" That sentiment was shared by many who attended for the first time and are now looking forward to future events and educational opportunities hosted by FBC-



LEO for municipal leaders. As Watkins Brown often says, "the best is yet to come" for FBC-LEO.

## FLC Legislative Policy Committee Sign-Up

The Florida League of Cities' legislative policy committees set the legislative agenda for the League and Florida's 411 municipalities. If you would like to serve on a legislative policy committee for 2021-2022, please click [HERE](#) to sign-up. You will need to have your FLC username and password to register. This is the same information you use to register for a FLC event such as Annual Conference. If you need assistance signing up, please let me know. If you served on a policy committee this past year, you still need to sign-up again for 2021-2022. **Please complete sign-up by May 7** (*members can only serve on one committee at a time*). Appointment letters will be mailed in mid-May.

[Click here](#) to view the meeting schedule and committee descriptions.

## Events & Training Opportunities

### FLC Legislative Monday Morning Call-In

**March 1 - April 26 (Mondays During Legislative Session)**  
**9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. ET**



**Call the phone number below, and when prompted, enter the conference room number to join the call.**

Phone Number: 888.585.9008  
Conference Room Number: 301-563-714#

### #FLCities Strong Webinar Series

**April 12, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m. ET**



For this special edition, City Managers and Past Presidents of the Florida City and County Management Association Michael Cernech of Tamarac, Shannon Lewis of Melbourne and Joyce Shanahan of Ormond Beach will share their perspectives on lessons learned over this past year and ideas for the future of our cities.

President of the Florida Municipal Communicators Association and North Port Communications Manager Josh Taylor and Atlantic Beach Deputy City Manager Kevin Hogencamp will discuss the unique communication challenges of the past year and tips for effective communication going forward.

Co-hosts Shwanda Barnette and Scott Paine will also take a few moments to remind us of the journey we've been on together.

[Register Here](#)

## Find Us on Social Media



Follow Us ON  
**SOCIAL MEDIA**



**Click on the icons below to follow us on Facebook, Indeed, YouTube and Twitter!**



**Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials**