

January 2021

FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS of Local Elected Officials, Inc.

President's Message



Happy 2021 FBC-LEO Members and Friends:

As I reflect on the year behind us and look forward to the year ahead of us, one word that comes to mind is "HOPE!" I hope for an end to the COVID-19 Pandemic that has so negatively impacted every facet of our lives in 2020. I hope for the restoration of our cities, towns and villages. I hope for peace and unity in our nation. I hope for lasting change that creates a better world for those that come behind us. I am hopeful for the future of the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials. Despite all the challenges that we

faced last year, we have many reasons to be hopeful about the future of our beloved organization.

Establishing our official partnership with the Florida League of Cities was one of the great things to come out of 2020. In just a short time, we have accomplished quite a bit. We are currently in the process of a complete branding refresh, which I look forward to unveiling very soon. We are hopeful that we will be together, in-person, for our annual spring conference. We are in the process of developing conference programming that will be educational, informative and enjoyable. You won't want to miss it.

On Thursday, January 14 at 2:00 p.m., we will be kicking off our 2021 Webinar Series with our first virtual program entitled, "Get Moving on the Road to Healthy Living!" The Florida League of Cities Hometown Health Wellness Team will take a brief look back at how and why the pandemic had such adverse impacts on our communities and share great tips for getting yourselves and your constituents on the road to a healthier lifestyle in 2021 and beyond. I hope that you will join us for that and for other virtual learning opportunities that we will announce in the months to come.

I am committed to my goal of increasing our membership and providing each of you with valuable tools to better equip you to lead and grow as elected officials. It is my hope that we will all work together this year towards that end, and I remain hopeful that the future is bright for FBC-LEO. I wish you health, love and blessings this year, and I implore you to hold on to the hope that our best days are yet to come!

Teresa Watkins Brown

President Teresa Watkins Brown
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Fort Myers

Membership Dues



Change in Membership Dues Amount

In an effort to stay current and offer the most benefit to our members, the board approved an increase in membership dues. The new cost of membership dues will be \$125.00.

FBC-LEO 2021 dues invoices will be emailed this week on Friday, January 8, 2021.

The invoice will include a link to the new FBC-LEO member portal and credentials for accessing the portal. Dues payments must be paid by March 1, 2021.

If you do not receive your invoice, be sure to check your spam/junk folder. If you need the invoice emailed to you again, contact staff at fbcleo@flcities.com.

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

FBC-LEO Board of Directors

Congratulations!

At the December board of directors meeting, Commissioner Justin Campbell ascended to the 2nd Vice President position. Additionally, Commissioner Jessica Davis ascended to the Secretary position.

We know that Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Davis will serve the membership well in their new positions and we thank them for their willingness to serve.

Congratulations, Commissioners!

Honoring Commissioner Willie Shaw

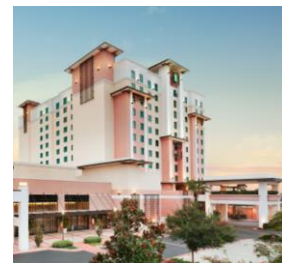


In December, Commissioner Willie Shaw was recognized by the FBC-LEO Board of Directors for his phenomenal service and dedication to the FBC-LEO. President Watkins Brown and the Board shared words of appreciation and reflected on the impact the commissioner has had on the organization and his peers.

Click the image above to watch the video.

Save the Date

FBCLEO 2021 Spring Conference
March 18-19, 2021
Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista South
4955 Kyngs Heath Road
Kissimmee, FL 34746



More details coming soon.

Affordable Housing



Update on FLC Priorities: Affordable Housing

Legislation: Representative Sam Killebrew has filed HB 13, the State Housing Trust Fund Bill. The bill specifies that funds deposited in the State Housing Trust Fund and the Local Government Housing Trust Fund may not be transferred or used for any other purpose.

Background: A key funding mechanism for Florida's statewide affordable housing programs is the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Passed in 1991, the Sadowski Act created a statutory law that dedicates a portion of the documentary stamp tax paid on all real estate transactions to an affordable housing specific trust fund. The housing programs supported by the Sadowski Fund include the **State Housing Initiatives Partnership or SHIP program**. SHIP is used to ensure mortgage affordability for the lowest-income families, teachers, first responders and retrofitting homes for seniors and individuals with special needs. In addition to SHIP, Sadowski funds support the **State Apartment Incentives Loan or SAIL program**. SAIL offers low-interest loans on a competitive basis to affordable housing developers and is crucial to stimulating private sector investments in affordable housing.

Call to Action: When you speak with the members of your legislative delegation between now and March 2, 2020, please ask them to **Co-Sponsor HB 13**.

Please contact Jeff Branch, FLC Senior Legislative Advocate at **850.701.3655** or **jbranch@flcities.com** with any questions or comments.

Events & Training Opportunities

FBC-LEO Presents: Get Moving on the Road to Healthy Living in 2021

January 14, 2021

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST

via GoToWebinar



Join us as we look back on the health challenges that plagued our communities in 2020 and discuss how to implement healthy practices to improve the quality of life for our communities. This discussion will explore:

- Health factors contributing to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority communities.
- Tips for kicking off 2021 with wellness practices that combat the effects of the pandemic.
- How your municipality can work with the "Hometown Health" Team to promote healthy living in your communities.

The Florida League of Cities "Hometown Health" experts, Gwendolyn Mahabir and Cindy Crump, will be our guest presenters for this informative program hosted by President Teresa Watkins-Brown and facilitated by FLC Ambassador Shwanda Barnette. This program highlights President Teresa Watkins Brown's Presidential Initiative on Healthy Living for FBC-LEO Members.

[**Register Now**](#)

Content Submission



CALL FOR CONTENT

Do you have newsworthy content that your fellow FBC-LEO members would benefit from having in the monthly newsletter? We are now accepting content for our Member News section.

Newsworthy content includes articles, photos, videos, educational opportunities, and life events such as awards, retirement, community activism and the death of members.

Content Submission Guidelines:

1. Original content is preferred.
2. Non-original content should include proper attribution, including links to references and permission from the content's creator.
3. The tone of the content should be neutral and professional.
4. Content should look at major problems, rising trends and innovative ideas affecting elected officials and membership.

5. Promotional content should be for educational opportunities only.
6. Content should be informational, educational, entertaining insightful or procedural.
7. Content should be 3,000 words or less.

Submissions that do not follow the established guidelines may not be accepted for publication. Submissions will be published based on relevancy to the current newsletter theme and will be published at the discretion of the administration team.

To submit content, email **FBC-LEO**.

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Officials**