

June 2021

# FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS of Local Elected Officials, Inc.

## President's Message



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends,

I hope that you were able to enjoy the Memorial Day Holiday with family and friends. As Florida's schools are closing and summer activities are commencing, my hope is that this summer will hold even more opportunities for engaging with your families and residents, face-to-face. We want to kick off the summer with another learning opportunity for you, a webinar focused on Mental Health.

Transitioning into the next phase of re-opening, new CDC guidelines, and the removal of masks and other safety precautions will inevitably cause anxiety for many Floridians. We want to encourage you, as municipal leaders, to prioritize your mental health by providing tips and strategies that you won't want to miss. If you haven't already, please register today for our upcoming webinar on Tuesday, June 15, at 2 p.m., entitled: FBC-LEO Presents: On the Road to Healthy Living - Focus on Mental Health.

We also would like to encourage you, if you haven't done so already, to deepen your engagement with the Florida League of Cities by joining one of the five policy committees. To get involved, please reach out to Mary Edenfield at 850.701.3624 or [medenfield@flcities.com](mailto:medenfield@flcities.com). All policy committee meetings will be held in Orlando, with the first meeting being held this month, on Friday, June 11th, followed by the next meeting on July 16th, and then on August 12th at the FLC Annual Conference. The work of the 2021 policy committees will culminate at FLC's Legislative Conference, November 3-5, 2021.

As a reminder, the FBC-LEO 2021 Annual Business Meeting will be held in conjunction with the FLC Annual Conference, so we look forward to seeing you there, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, August 12 -14, 2021!

*Teresa Watkins Brown*

President Teresa Watkins Brown

Councilwoman, City of Fort Myers

## Save the Date



**FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast & Business Meeting  
August 13, 2021  
7:00 a.m. ET  
Orlando World Center Marriott**

The FBC-LEO Annual Business Meeting will be held in conjunction with the FLC Annual Conference. At this meeting, the membership will handle the business of the association, including approving the 2021-2022 slate of officers.

Registration will open in July.

Please be advised, if you plan to attend FLC conference sessions, you will need to register for the FLC Annual Conference separately.

**If you do not plan to attend an FLC conference session, you will only need to register for the FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast and Business Meeting.**

## FBC-LEO Webinar



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**FBC-LEO Presents:  
On the Road to Healthy Living - Focus on Mental Health**

**June 15, 2021  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST**

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Join us as we discuss the importance of focusing on mental health in our communities with Councilwoman NanDrycka King Albert of the City of Midway.

**Register Now**

## 2021 Home Rule Heroes



Each year, the Florida League of Cities recognizes municipal officials with Home Rule Hero Awards for their work during the legislative session. FLC-LEO congratulates its members who were recognized by the Florida League of Cities with Home Rule Hero Awards during the 2021 Legislative Session.

The local leaders listed below earned this award for their tireless efforts to protect the Home Rule powers of Florida municipalities and advance the League's legislative agenda.

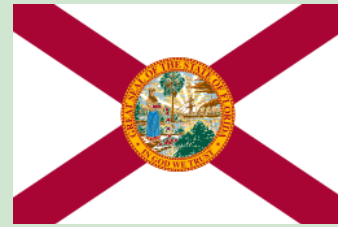
Congratulations, and thank you for your efforts!

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- Vice Mayor Jackie Gary Clarke, Village of Indiantown
  - Councilwoman Mary Estimé-Irvin, City of North Miami
  - Deputy Mayor Kenny Johnson, City of Palm Bay
  - Commissioner Leo Longworth, City of Bartow
  - Commissioner Phillip E. Walker, City of Lakeland
  - Councilwoman Teresa Watkins Brown, City of Fort Myers
  - Mayor Morris L. West, City of Haines City

**Celebrating Florida's Emancipation Day**

May 20, 2021, marked 156 years since President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was formally announced from the steps of the Knott House.

Here are pictures and proclamations celebrating this monumental day that ended slavery in the state of Florida:



- **Proclamation - City of Bartow**
- **Proclamation - City of Deland**



Pictured left to right: Sean King, President of West Volusia NAACP Sean King, Dr. Primrose Cameron, Sisters Build Network for Girls, DeLand City Commissioner Jessica Davis and Bishop Eugene Collier of New St. John Missionary Baptist Church.



The City of Lakeland celebrated Emancipation Day on the shore of Lake Wire where the Buffalo Soldiers encamped during the Spanish American War.

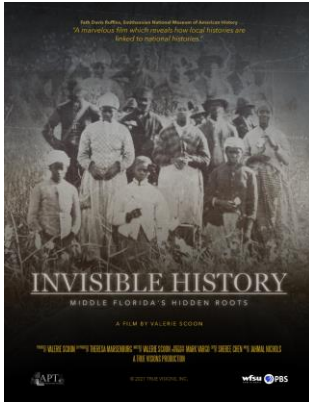


In recognition of Emancipation Day in Florida, the City of Tallahassee and the John G. Riley Center held a community Commemorative Civil War Grave Decorating Service.

[Click here to view more pictures from the service.](#)

[Click here to watch a recording of the service.](#)

**Invisible History: Middle Florida's Hidden Roots**



Valerie Scoon, Professor and Filmmaker in Residence at the FSU College of Motion Picture Arts was chosen to have her documentary, *Invisible History: Middle Florida's Hidden Roots* featured by American Public Television (APT).

The documentary sheds light on the little-known history of plantations and the enslaved in Florida.

Use the links below to stream this insightful documentary and read the press release about the film, or [click here](#) to view the carriage report for airdates and times by city.

[Watch the Film](#)

[Read the Press Release](#)

\*The "watch the film" link is active through Thursday, June 03, 2021.

## Member News



### Welcome to our new FBC-LEO Members

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

- Camille Evans, Attorney, Virtus LLP, Supporting Member
- Kris Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Lake Wales
- Daniel Williams, Commissioner, Lake Wales

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**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 removed, 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 Resources**

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 implementing the Act.

**Visit the Florida League of Cities' ARPA 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).

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Here are some fact sheets from the National League of Cities to help cities regarding ARPA funds:

- [How to Spend Coronavirus State & Local Recovery Funds](#)
- [How to Use ARPA to Access Coronavirus State & Local Recovery Funds](#)
- [How to Meet Reporting Requirements for Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)
- [How States Can Allocate Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Local Governments](#)
- [How to Use Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Ease Budget Shortfalls](#)

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.

## Events & Training Opportunities

**Florida League of Mayors  
Candid Conversations with Mayors  
Webinar via Zoom  
Thursday, June 17, 2021  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Join mayors from across the state and the National League of Cities Race, Equity and Leadership (REAL) Program as we have a candid conversation about the history of redlining and the impact it has had on existing housing and racial disparities in cities.** This program is a condensed part of REAL's training that focuses on a shared understanding of the history of institutional and structural racism in America.

Like other *Candid Conversations with Mayors* events, this program will provide an opportunity to learn and share. We will explore different ways to have some of the difficult discussions surrounding race and areas of our history that are often unknown or under-discussed.

[Register Here](#)

**#FLCities Strong Webinar Series**

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



Tune in monthly for insight and encouragement as Dr. Scott Paine and Shwanda Barnette host engaging conversations that take us beyond today's headlines. We'll explore what cities are doing and can do to turn the challenges of the present into better futures for our cities and our residents.

[Register Here](#)

## Find 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**