

October 2021



FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

In This Issue

- **President's Message**
- **Member News**
- **Welcome Committee Chairs**
- **2021 FBC-LEO Reception**
- **FBC-LEO Webinar**
- **Task Force on Abandoned African-American Cemeteries**
- **Events & Training Opportunities**

President's Message



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends,

As autumn begins, I'm reflecting on how seasons change. There are days when it feels like we have been caught in a never-ending stream of difficult headlines and discouraging reports. But as COVID-19 numbers start to decline in many areas, I have hope that we will see this dark season end, eventually.

With the holidays quickly approaching, FBC-LEO invites you to attend the next webinar in our healthy living series on November 2, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. This virtual learning opportunity titled, "[Staying on the Road to Healthy Living during the Holidays](#)," features Palatka Commissioner and FBC-LEO 2nd Vice President, Justin Campbell and Cindy Crump, FLC Hometown Health Wellness Coordinator. Join us as we discuss the role of balanced nutrition and physical activity in achieving overall wellness, and how we can combat overeating and inactivity during the holiday season.

FBC-LEO will also host its [annual reception](#) in conjunction with the FLC Legislative Conference, on November 3, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Join us for an evening of fellowship and networking with FBC-LEO members and friends. Registration is now open. I look forward

to seeing you at these events as well as the [FBC-LEO General Membership Meeting](#) on October 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. via zoom. Let's continue to work together to grow our organization and increase our impact in our municipalities.

Teresa Watkins Brown

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 you as members of the FBC-LEO organization and look forward to getting to know you.

- **Willie Hawkins**, Commissioner, Eustis
- **Charles Willis**, Councilmember, Midway

Welcome Committee Chairs



Membership Communications & Public Relations Committee

Chair Samuel Berrien, Mayor, Fort Meade



Membership Education Committee

Chair Jessica Davis, Commissioner, DeLand

2021 FBC-LEO Reception

FBC-LEO Annual Reception

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET

Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista South

Registration is \$25.00

ANNUAL FBC-LEO RECEPTION

Wednesday, November 3, 2021
6:00–7:00 p.m. ET

Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando
Lake Buena Vista South



The Annual FBC-LEO Reception will be held in conjunction with the [FLC Legislative Conference](#) in November. If you plan to participate in FLC activities, a separate registration is necessary.

Gather with FBC-LEO members and guests to enjoy drinks and hor d'oeuvres.

The Annual FBC-LEO Reception registration fee is \$25.00 for members and guests.

The deadline to register for the reception is Monday, October 25.

Please the "Register Here" button below to register.

[Register Here](#)

Please contact fbcleo@flcities.com if you have questions or need assistance with registration.

FBC-LEO Webinar

FBC-LEO Presents: Staying on the Road to Healthy Living during the Holidays
Tuesday, November 2, 2021
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET

Via GoTo Webinar



Join us as we discuss the role of balanced nutrition and physical activity in achieving overall wellness and how we can combat overeating and inactivity during the holiday season.

Panelists:

Justin Campbell, 2nd Vice President, FBC-LEO and Commissioner, Palatka
Cindy Crump, Hometown Health Wellness Coordinator, Florida League of Cities

Hosts:

Teresa Watkins Brown, FBC-LEO President and Councilwoman, Fort Myers
Shwanda Barnette, J.D., FLC Ambassador

[Register Here](#)

**Task Force on Abandoned African American
Cemeteries**



On June 4, 2021, Governor DeSantis signed into law [CS/CS/HB 37 \(Chapter 2021-60, Laws of Florida\)](#) relating to Abandoned Cemeteries. The bill created a 10-member Task Force on Abandoned African American Cemeteries. The purpose of this task force is to:

1. Study the extent to which unmarked or abandoned African American cemeteries and burial grounds exist throughout the state.
2. Develop and recommend strategies for identifying and recording cemeteries and burial grounds while preserving local history and ensuring dignity and respect for the deceased.

Jaha Cummings, Councilman, City of Punta Gorda and FBC-LEO Historian, has been appointed to the Task Force.

Councilman Cummings is asking the FBC-LEO membership to provide information regarding abandoned African American cemeteries in their municipality to ensure that any abandoned cemeteries in their city/county can be duly noted as part of the committee's work. A brief, one-page, historical background of the cemetery's establishment, current condition, impending threats, etc., would be helpful.

For more information about the task force, [click here](#).

Please send this information to Councilman Jaha Cummings at jcumings@cityofpuntagordafl.com by November 15.

Events & Training Opportunities

FLCities Strong Webinar
Monday, October 11, 2021
10:00 a.m. ET



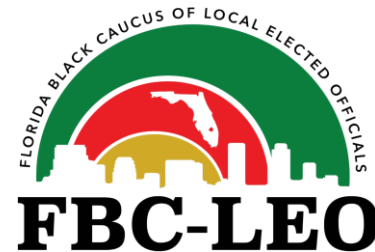
October's program returns our focus to the American Rescue Plan Act. We'll hear the latest updates on rules and deadlines. We'll also discuss strategies for public engagement for municipalities as we plan investments of significant and lasting impact.

Join hosts **Shwanda Barnette** and **Dr. Scott Paine** for these engaging and informative conversations.

[Register now.](#)

FBC-LEO General Membership Meeting
October 12, 2021
6:00 p.m. ET

Click on the buttons below to register and view the meeting agenda.



[Register Here](#)

[View Agenda](#)

2021 FLC Legislative Conference
Embassy Suites Orlando - Lake Buena Vista South
November 3-5, 2021



You are essential to the League's legislative success. Join your municipal colleagues to discuss the latest on the state's top issues, the status of the League's legislative priorities and to share ideas on ways to urge legislators to support Home Rule!

The registration fee for this event is \$250 and covers admission to all conference sessions, continental breakfasts, refreshment breaks and Thursday's luncheon and networking event.

[Click here to register.](#)

Questions? Contact mhowe@flicities.com.

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](#)