

October 2022



FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS  
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

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## President's Message



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends,

My thoughts and prayers are with those impacted by the devastating force of Hurricane Ian. My heart aches for those who lost loved ones to this calamity.

While it may be tough to fathom the road to recovery, I encourage those impacted not to lose hope. Do not despair. Know that in these difficult times, your fellow leaders stand with you and offer our support as you work to put your communities back in order, one brick at a time.

We know Florida's leaders and residents are resilient and will take this opportunity to not only recover what we have lost but to build our communities back stronger.

If your city needs help, I advise you to contact your county emergency management director directly. However, if your requests are unanswered, please email the Florida

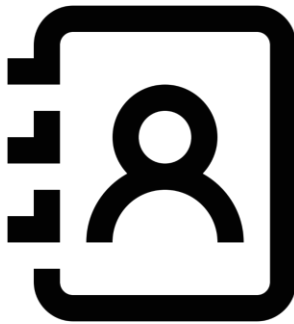
League of Cities at [hurricaneian@flcities.com](mailto:hurricaneian@flcities.com). The Florida League of Cities has open communication with the Governor's office and the Florida Division of Emergency Management and will try to alert them of your specific local needs.

Warm Regards,

**Morris West**

President Morris West  
Commissioner, City of Haines City

**2022-2023 FBC-LEO Directory**



**Directory Now Available!**

The FBC-LEO is proud to offer this **NEW** member benefit. Being placed in your organization's online membership directory is a valuable membership benefit that will allow members to connect and network easily.

Click the directory icon or [click here](#) to view the 2022-2023 Virtual FBC-LEO Directory.

**FBC-LEO Webinar**



**FBC-LEO  
WEBINAR**

FREE AND OPEN TO NONMEMBERS.

**Uniting Local Voices Webinar**  
**Tuesday, Oct 25, 2022**  
**2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT**

## Program Summary

Florida is a complex and diverse state with over 400 unique communities. What's best for one municipality isn't always best for another. From protecting our neighborhoods' safety to preserving our communities' unique interests, we believe Florida's many towns and taxpayers deserve flexibility and accountability, not sledgehammer solutions. Join host **Jeff Branch** and panelists as they explore how to unite local voices and strengthen the role of residents in advocating for our cities and their services.

### Panelists:

**Scott Dudley**, Director of Field Advocacy and Federal Affairs, Florida League of Cities

**Dianne Williams-Cox**, Commissioner, Tallahassee

**Joshua Simmons**, Commissioner, Coral Springs

[\*\*Register Today!\*\*](#)

## Upcoming General Membership Meeting

**Register today! The meeting date is approaching!**



**The next FBC-LEO General Membership Meeting will be held on October 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

General membership meetings begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. and typically last no more than 15 minutes.

Click the "Register Now" button below to register, and use the instructions below to save the meeting to your calendar.

[\*\*Register Now\*\*](#)

[\*\*View Agenda\*\*](#)

*You will receive a confirmation email from "FLC Association Services" with the link to join the meeting. Beneath the Join Meeting link, you will have the option to add the meeting to your calendar. Select your calendar type from the drop-down menu, and the calendar invite will download. Open the download and click save in your calendar.*

## 2022 Annual Reception

Annual

# FBC-LEO RECEPTION

**Wednesday, November 30, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m. - 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 Friday, November 25.**

Please click the "Register Here" button below to register.

[Register Here](#)

Member News



## Welcome to our new FBC-LEO Members

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

- **Sherelean Bass**, Commissioner, City of Opa-Locka
- **Sharon Berrian**, Retired Liaison, FBC-LEO
- **Chris Davis**, Commissioner, City of Opa-Locka
- **John H. Taylor, Jr.**, Vice Mayor, City of Opa-Locka
- **Veronica J. Williams**, Mayor, City of Opa-Locka

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## FBC-LEO Members serving on 2022-2023 FLC Policy Committees

Congratulations and thank you to the following FBC-LEO Members who are serving on a 2022-2023 Florida League of Cities Policy Committee.

These committees will set the 2023 legislative agenda for the League and Florida's 411 municipalities.

### **Finance, Taxation & Personnel Committee**

The Honorable Kenny Johnson, Deputy Mayor, City of Palm Bay  
The Honorable Tradrick McCoy, Councilperson, City of Riviera Beach  
The Honorable Johnny Streets, Councilman, City of Fort Myers

### **Land Use & Economic Development**

The Honorable Keith Babb, Mayor, City of Pahokee  
The Honorable Melissa Dunn, Vice Mayor, City of Lauderhill  
The Honorable Shannon Hayes, Councilmember, City of Crestview  
The Honorable Joseph McMullen, Commissioner, Town of Oakland  
The Honorable Jacquelyn Randall, Mayor, City of Hawthorne  
The Honorable Alexander Smith, Commissioner, City of Apopka  
The Honorable Cassandra Timothe, Councilwoman, City of North Miami  
The Honorable Phillip Walker, Commissioner, City of Lakeland  
The Honorable Morris West, Commissioner, City of Haines City  
The Honorable Delarian Wiggins, Councilmember, City of Pensacola

#### **Municipal Administration**

##### **Vice Chair: NanDrycka King Albert, Councilwoman, Midway**

The Honorable Shirley Brown, Commissioner, City of Alachua  
The Honorable Janice Hart, Mayor, Town of Havana  
The Honorable Anne Huffman, Mayor, City of Haines City  
Vanessa Joseph, City Clerk, City of North Miami  
The Honorable Yvonne Minus, Councilmember, City of Melbourne  
The Honorable Mary Richardson, Vice Mayor, Town of Dundee  
The Honorable Kenneth Thurston, Mayor, City of Lauderhill  
The Honorable Teresa Watkins Brown, Councilwoman, City of Fort Myers

#### **Transportation & Intergovernmental Relations**

##### **Vice Chair: Steve Wilson, Mayor, Belle Glade**

The Honorable Esther Berry, Commissioner, City of South Bay  
The Honorable Rufus Borom, Commissioner, City of Palatka  
The Honorable Mary Estimé-Irvin, Councilwoman, City of North Miami  
The Honorable Curtis Johnson, Commissioner, City of Fort Pierce  
The Honorable Janice Mortimer, Mayor, City of Starke  
The Honorable Gary Russ, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Gretna  
The Honorable Joshua Simmons, Vice Mayor, City of Coral Springs  
The Honorable Terolyn Watson, Councilwoman, City of Fort Myers

#### **Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works**

The Honorable Nathaniel Birdsong, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Winter Haven

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### **St. Pete Awarded for Affordable Housing Efforts**

The Florida Housing Coalition (FHC) recently recognized the City of St. Petersburg for its pioneering efforts to address the ongoing housing crisis affecting much of the state. City leaders walked up to the stage twice during the three-day FHC Statewide Affordable Housing Conference to collect awards. The first was for dedicating an overwhelming majority of federal funding to housing initiatives. The second was becoming the first – and likely still only – municipality to utilize legislation that allows the transformation of industrially zoned properties into affordable developments. The conference, held at the Rosen Centre in Orlando Aug. 29-31, attracts over 900 affordable housing professionals,

advocates, lenders, developers and policymakers, according to its website. James Corbett, city development administrator, called receiving the recognition a "great feeling" and said it signifies the dedication of **Mayor Ken Welch** and the St. Petersburg City Council. "To put their focus where it's needed right now," said Corbett. "It really shows our commitment to making a dent in providing more affordable housing. The city received the Housing Champion Award on the conference's first day for allocating the highest percentage of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to help subsidize affordable developments. [Source](#)

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## Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 51st Annual Legislative Conference



FBC-LEO Sergeant-At-Arms **Mayor Felicia Brunson**, West Park and FBC-LEO Membership Coordinator -North **Councilwoman Nan Drycka King Albert**, Midway attended the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 51st Annual Legislative Conference. This year's theme was "Advancing Our Purpose. Elevating Our Power."

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## Palm Bay City Council Approves \$5M for Affordable Housing Programs

The Palm Bay City Council has approved \$5 million for a range of programs to address homelessness and affordable housing in their city. Funding will come from a portion of the \$18 million that Palm Bay was allocated from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. The City Council in May earmarked \$5 million from the ARPA money for addressing homelessness, affordable housing and public services associated with such efforts. During a special council meeting on Thursday, council members awarded the money to six organizations from among 14 applicants. Grants were awarded to: Catholic Charities of Central Florida, Inc. (\$368,560); Community of Hope Inc. (\$1,231,320); Habitat for Humanity of Brevard County (\$961,120); Helps Community Initiatives Inc. (\$15,000); I Am Ministries Inc./"The Source" (\$1,299,000); and Volunteers of America of Florida Inc (\$975,000). "This is something that needed to be addressed years ago, but we have the opportunity now," Palm Bay **Vice Mayor Kenny Johnson** said. [Source](#)

## From Our Partners

### Florida League of Cities



**Florida City Government Week**, held annually in October, is a time for cities across the state to celebrate, showcase and engage citizens in the work of municipal government. 2022 Florida City Government Week will be held **October 17-23**.

Civic engagement activities can be held for citizens of all ages. Most are at no or low cost. Cities are encouraged to involve their local schools, businesses, media and civic clubs in Florida City Government Week activities. Visit [flcityweek.com](http://flcityweek.com) for ideas, tools and tips to get started with your #FLCityWeek celebration!

### Florida Department of Transportation



The Florida Department of Transportation, Office of Policy Planning, is hosting a series of grant information sessions this fall. Sessions will cover material to ensure local partners are ready to produce competitive applications and be successful direct recipients of federal discretionary funds.

[View Flyer](#)

## Events & Training Opportunities

### FLCities Strong Webinar

**Monday, October 10, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m. ET**  
**GoToWebinar**

Water and water quality are certainly timely topics these days, and **Florida's Department of Environmental Protection** offers several programs that can assist toward the goal of improving water quality and managing watershed areas. Guest speakers from the **Division of Water**





**Restoration Assistance** will be featured and will share the latest information and resources.

Guest speakers from the **City of Orlando's** award-winning **Sustainability Program** will also be featured as the newest winners of the **League's Environmental Stewardship Award for 2022!**

Attending this webinar will earn you 1 point in FLC's new **Certificate Program for Elected Municipal Officials**. Be sure to sign up for this FREE program to start earning points for the activities you already participate in! [Learn More](#)

[Register Here](#)

## State-Mandated Continuing Education in Ethics Webinar

**Wednesday, October 19, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET**  
**GoToWebinar**



The class contains a morning and afternoon session to cover all 4 hours with a lunch break in-between. Meet the state requirement and maybe, just maybe, enjoy doing it!

### **Agenda**

Session 1: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Florida Ethics Law (Chapter 112)

BREAK

Session 2: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Florida Public Records and Public Meetings Law

Participating in the FULL four hours of this webinar meets the state requirement for annual ethics training. We hope to see you there!

**Please note:** Attendees for this class must log in and have audio access to be awarded credit. Instructors use both slides and verbal information/illustrations throughout the course. No audio-only attendance will count toward the completion of the course.

[Register Online](#)

**2022-2023 Meeting and Events**

# SAVE THE DATE

Be sure all of the upcoming FBC-LEO events are on your calendar.

## **General Membership Meeting**

Tuesday, October 11, 2022  
6:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

[Register Here](#)

## **Annual Membership Reception**

Wednesday, November 30, 2022  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET  
Embassy Suites Orlando  
(In conjunction with FLC Legislative  
Conference)

[Register Here](#)

## **General Membership Meeting**

Tuesday, January 10, 2023  
6:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

## **2023 FBC-LEO Spring Conference**

March 2-3, 2023  
Embassy Suites Orlando

## **Annual Breakfast Meeting**

Friday, August 11, 2023  
7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. ET  
Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek  
(In conjunction with FLC Annual  
Conference, August 10-12, 2023)

**Find Us on Social Media**



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

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[Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials](#)