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FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

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President's Message



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends!

I'm still basking in the joy of our fantastic time at this year's annual conference. The camaraderie and networking alone filled my heart with warmth. If you were there, you'll understand how our keynote speakers, sessions and sponsors shared a wealth of knowledge and insight, benefiting us as local elected officials in our communities.

The eagerness to learn from our speakers and their generosity in sharing their time and expertise fills me with excitement and hope for next year's annual conference and the future of FBC-LEO.

May marks National Mental Health and Hypertension Awareness Month. Since we can't always grasp the feelings or circumstances of others, let's remember to

check in regularly with family, friends, colleagues and anyone we encounter.

Our next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. ET via Zoom.

[Register Here](#)

Sincerely,



President Morris West
Commissioner, City of Haines City

2024 FBC-LEO Dues



The final 2024 FBC-LEO membership dues notice was sent via email on March 29.

Please note that on **June 3**, members with outstanding dues will be marked as inactive. Consequently, they will no longer have access to FBC-LEO member benefits, which include the FBC-LEO Newsletter, event notifications, webinars and listing in the FBC-LEO Directory. Should you have any inquiries, feel free to reach to fbcleo@flcities.com.

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

2024 FBC-LEO Annual Conference Recap



Earlier this month we gathered for an excellent 2024 FBC-LEO Annual Conference. It was a time filled with empowerment and education for local elected officials. From inspiring keynote speakers to interactive table talk discussions, participants were immersed in a wealth of knowledge and collaboration.

We even acknowledged the winner of our 2024 Essay Contest along with the first and second runners-up. This year's first-place winner is Anjani Sharma, a senior at Westshore Jr./Sr. High School. Sharma, who has now won the contest two years in a row, discussed the Florida Legislature's efforts to limit the use of social media for certain minors in the winning essay. She also wrote about how social media had been a good tool to promote her organization, Minds Without Borders, a youth-led, global community aiming to make mental health resources more accessible.

Sharma will receive a \$1,500 grand prize. All contest winners will be recognized by

their Mayors during meetings of their local government. They will be presented with a resolution from FBC-LEO, and their essays will be published on the FBC-LEO website.

Thank you all for joining us! We look forward to next year's conference. Stay tuned for a full video recap in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, check out and share pictures from this year's conference and read the award-winning essays.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE AWARD-WINNING ESSAYS](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR PICTURES FROM THE CONFERENCE](#)

FBC-LEO Membership Inquiry Form



FBC-LEO Membership Inquiry Form

FBC-LEO strives to continuously enhance and serve our members. We kindly request that you fill out our Membership Re-Election Inquiry Form. Completing the short form will significantly impact the initiatives set by the FBC-LEO Board of Directors.

All information provided will be kept confidential and used solely for the purposes

intended.

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE FORM](#)

FBC-LEO New Member News



Welcome the newest FBC-LEO Members:

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

- Commissioner Clifton Dollison, City of Winter Haven
- Councilmember Tommie Jefferson, City of Live Oak
- Council Member Alisa Stafford, City of Orange City
- Public Defender Gordon Weekes, 17th Judicial Circuit

From Our Partners



U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$1.25

billion in Direct, Accessible Grants for Local Communities to Improve Roadway Safety

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has opened the process for cities, towns, counties, Tribal governments, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to apply for \$1.256 billion in funding for local projects that improve roadway safety. The funds are from the competitive grant program, Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), which was created in President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help communities both plan and carry out projects that help reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our highways, streets, and roads. The SS4A grant program is a major action that supports funding to advance the DOT's [**National Roadway Safety Strategy**](#), which launched in 2022 to address the high number of traffic deaths happening across the country.

SS4A funds will help communities in the development of road safety action plans and improve unsafe roadway corridors by implementing effective interventions. Additionally, these funds can be utilized to test out safety features such as separated bicycle lanes or curb extensions at intersections.

Applications may come from individual communities or groups of communities and may include MPOs, counties, cities, towns, other special districts that are subdivisions of a state, certain transit agencies, federally recognized Tribal governments, and multijurisdictional groups of eligible applicants.

The Safe Streets and Roads for All Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found at [**https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A**](https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A). Applications for Implementation Grants are by May 16. Planning and demonstration grant applicants will have three opportunities to apply with the deadlines of April 4, May 16, and August 29.

SAVE THE DATE

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

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 2024
5:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

[Register Here](#)

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 2024
6:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

[Register Here](#)

FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast Registration Opening Soon

Friday, August 16, 2024
In conjunction with the Florida
League of Cities Annual Conference

Find Us on Social Media



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

