

**September 2024**



**FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS  
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

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## President's Message



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends!

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your participation in our recent 2024 Annual Breakfast. Your presence and engagement made the event truly memorable.

A special appreciation goes to our esteemed guest speaker, Meredith Lilly, Senior Advisor to US Senator Raphael Warnock. We are extremely grateful for her contribution.

I am excited to invite you to join us for an upcoming webinar on October 2, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. This joint event, is hosted by the Florida League of Mayors and the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials and promises to be enlightening and informative. Let's come together to learn and collaborate towards our shared goals.

Additionally, mark your calendars for our General Membership Meeting scheduled for October 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be held via Zoom, offering us the opportunity to connect virtually and discuss important matters that impact our community.

Thank you once again for your continued support and commitment to our organization. Your involvement is instrumental in our collective efforts to serve our communities effectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morris L. West".

President Morris West  
Commissioner, City of Haines City

**FBC-LEO Webinar**



**Joint Florida League of Mayors and Florida Black  
Caucus of Local Elected Officials Webinar**

**Wednesday, October 2, 2024**

**2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. ET via Zoom**

**Registration open now!**

**Program Summary:**

Retail Matters - From Downtown to Big Box: Join us for an interactive webinar on how a retail-focused economic development strategy can breathe life into areas and foster business growth while revitalizing existing physical assets. In this engaging discussion, we'll dive into the significance of nurturing both downtown and national retail corridors as

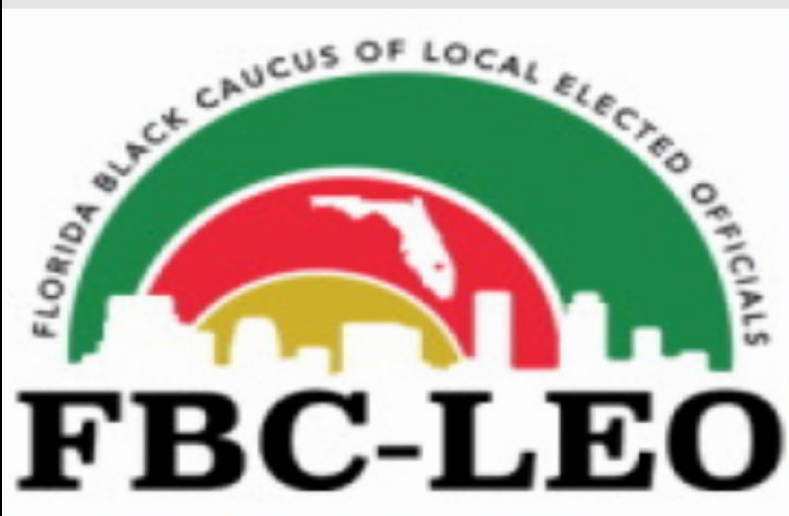
catalysts for economic vitality and how 2024 economic factors are impacting retail in rural markets. Gain inspiration from real-world case studies of successful projects in Florida, illustrating the concrete advantages of prioritizing retail-driven growth.

**Speaker:**

Sarah Beth Stewart, Vice President, Retail Strategies

[Register Here](#)

**2024 FBC-LEO Booth at the FLC  
Annual Conference Recap**



Thank you to the volunteers listed below for working the FBC-LEO Booth during the FLC Annual Conference.

**Shirley Green Brown**, Commissioner, Alachua

**Jake Jill**, Commissioner, Lake City

**N'Kosi Jones**, Mayor, Bowling Green

**Lawrence "Jabbow" Martin**, Commissioner, Lauderhill

**Yvonne Minus**, Council Member, Melbourne

**Kathy Washington**, Councilwoman, Welaka

**Teresa Watkins-Brown**, Councilmember, Fort Myers

**Now Accepting Nominations for the  
2025-2026 FBC-LEO  
Board of Directors**



As an FBC-LEO member, serving on the Board of Directors is an opportunity to develop strategic plans and make a lasting impact on your association. FBC-LEO can benefit from your ideas and perspective.

Nominations are being accepted for the following positions:

- 2nd Vice President
- Treasurer
- Assistant-Treasurer
- Secretary



- Assistant Secretary
- Parliamentarian
- Regional Coordinator/Membership Director (North)
- Regional Coordinator/Membership Director (South)
- Historian
- Chaplain
- Sergeant-At-Arms

The position of 2nd Vice President will serve for two years.  
All other positions will serve for one year.

Eligible members must be a Regular Member in good standing and have been a Regular Member for at least one year.

New officers will be sworn in at the Annual Conference that will be held in February 2025.

The FBC-LEO Board of Directors meets at 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every other month. If you wish to be considered for a board position, please complete the form below.

If you have any questions feel free to contact us at [fbcleo@flcities.com](mailto:fbcleo@flcities.com).

**The submittal deadline is 09/30/2024.**

Thank you for your nomination

[Submit Nomination](#)

## New Member News



**Welcome the newest FBC-LEO Member:**

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

- Commissioner Rahman Johnson, City of Jacksonville

## **FBC-LEO Apparel Available Online**



**Purchase your shirt now to wear at the 2025 FBC-LEO Annual Conference in February!**

There are many colors and styles for you 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 turned off, please call Full Press Apparel before placing your shirt order. The phone number for Full Press Apparel is (850) 222-1003.

**FBC-LEO Apparel is now available for online ordering until November 29, 2024.**

[View Shirts and Pricing](#)

**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\*\*](#)

## From Our Partners



# FEMA

With Hurricane Debby damage assessments still underway and in preparation for the next event, we would like to remind you of FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Policy FP 104-009-13, which provides essential guidance on assessing and documenting damage to public roads submerged or impacted by floodwaters due to a disaster. This policy is crucial for determining eligibility under the PA program and ensuring accurate initial damage assessments, Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments, and project development.

Please review the policy and accompanying FDEM summary, and share them with your teams, local governments, and disaster recovery partners. The policy

outlines key requirements for damage assessment, reporting timelines, and necessary documentation for road damage claims.

If you have any questions, need further clarification, or would like to schedule a call to discuss further, please contact us at [fdem-recovery-questions@em.myflorida.com](mailto:fdem-recovery-questions@em.myflorida.com).



**SAVE THE DATE**

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

**Florida Black Caucus of  
Local Elected Officials  
and Florida League of  
Mayors Joint Webinar**

Wednesday, October 2,  
2024

2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. ET  
via Zoom

[Register Here](#)

**Board of Directors  
Meeting**

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

5:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

[Register Here](#)

**General Membership  
Meeting**

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

6:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

[Register Here](#)

**Opening Soon!**



**FBC-LEO Essay  
Scholarship Contest**

**September 16, 2024**

Questions? Please contact  
staff  
at [fbcleo@flcities.com](mailto:fbcleo@flcities.com) or  
850.222.9684.

**FBC-LEO Annual  
Conference  
Registration Opening  
Soon!**

February 27-28, 2025

The Embassy Suites Lake  
Buena Vista South

Kissimmee, FL

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

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