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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA
MARCH 2018

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EDITOR'S COMMENTARY:

Chip LaMarca's JANUARY 2018 Newsletter

By Eric Berkowitz

In his January 2018 LaMarca Letter, District 4 County Commissioner Chip LaMarca details his support for Beach Renourishment, improved Emergency Management protocols and tighter safety standards for Assisted Living Facilities - policy objectives cherry-picked from a County Legislative Program compiled annually for Broward lawmakers and lobbyists promoting the County's agenda in Tallahassee during the legislative session. LaMarca also updates air travelers about the opening of Concourse G East in Terminal 4 at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport; notes that a growing number of property owners are funding Clean Energy improvements with PACE Broward financing; and announces a new toll-free number for long distance inquiries about County government services, facilitating communication for out-of-residence snowbirds and snowflakes.

LaMarca's Annual Tallahassee Delivery
For decades, Broward voters have honed the County's statewide reputation as a bastion of Democratic politics. The court-ordered 2012 redistricting revisions provided Broward County with 19 State lawmakers. Many of the County's five State Senators and fourteen House members serve in Districts that also contain voters in Palm Beach, Miami-Dade and Collier Counties. Except for Miami-Dade Representatives Carlos Trujillo (R - Doral) and Manny Diaz, Jr. (R - Hialeah), whose adjacent Districts 105 and 103 each include a tiny snippet of Miramar with a handful of Broward residents, Broward's sole Statehouse Republican is District 93 Representative George Moraitis (R - Fort Lauderdale).

Florida has been a Republican Trifecta since 1999. 23 of the Senate's 40 members (58%) are Republicans. Republicans also hold 76 of the 120 seats (63%) in the Statehouse. A Republican inhabits the Governor's mansion. Although the last election cycle deprived them of a 68% veto-proof majority, Republicans will decide the fate of every bill filed in 2018. While Senator Gary Farmer (D - Fort Lauderdale) and Representative Richard Stark (D - Weston)

currently lead the Broward Legislative Delegation, key local legislative objectives will functionally fall to Moraitis in the Statehouse.

Given the County's Democrat voting plurality, Republican Tallahassee refers to Broward County as "The Killing Fields". Of the County's nine Commissioners, eight are Democrats. As the sole Republican on the Broward Board, Chip LaMarca's stock skyrockets prior to the annual legislative session, when he is tagged to carry Broward's wish list to the State Capitol.

The five State Senators and 14 Statehouse Representatives elected in Broward form the County's Legislative Delegation. In preparation for the annual legislative session, the County provides these lawmakers - and its seven contract lobbyists - with a Legislative Program proposed by the Intergovernmental Affairs / Boards Section and approved by the Broward Board of County Commissioners.

The 17-page 2018 legislative libretto features a buffet of proposals with widely varying impacts, including an embarrassingly rich selection of "WTF" concessions to paper-thin local special interests (i.e. regulatory requirements for safe Kayaking, a "Move Over" mandate for slow drivers, etc.). This Chinese menu of options also provides political capital for County Commissioners who will each select three issues, ostensibly those of consequence to constituents in their respective districts.

LaMarca's Three Wishes

Of the three issues selected by LaMarca in 2018, Beach Renourishment is the big dog in his District 4 back yard. While drawn from the Broward Board's list of six 2018 legislative priorities - the economic and "Quality of Life" benefits of Beach Renourishment resonate with LaMarca's entire coastal constituency. To actualize the long-awaited Segment 2 Beach Renourishment, LaMarca spent years bouncing between Broward, Tallahassee and Washington D.C., where he helped locate and shake out scarce funding while eliciting federal and State regulatory approval. Not surprisingly, he staunchly supports a reliable source of State funding for beach projects.

The County's 2018 Legislative Program also contains a "secondary" list of policy issues for Commissioner advocacy. Along with "Emergency Management" improvements - an effort to cure preparation and response deficiencies exposed by Hurricane Irma, LaMarca also advocates tighter safety standards for Assisted Living Facilities, including a minimal 5-day span of emergency power during an outage, as provided in Senate Bill 284 filed by Broward Senator Lauren Book (D - Plantation), and a far more detailed compendium of protections filed by Gary Farmer (D - Fort Lauderdale) in his Senate Bill 896.

The Beach projects in LaMarca's 2018 wish list include the Port Everglades sand bypass project, which would transfer 50,000 to 80,000 cubic yards of sand annually from the north to the south side of the Port entrance channel, bridging a disruption in the littoral drift that starves South County beaches of sand. Once the inlet no longer impedes the natural southerly flow of sand along the Broward coast, the county plans to renourish the depleted South County shoreline with a \$53.7 million truck haul project in 2020. The County also seeks an appropriation of \$87,946 for monitoring the impacts of the recently completed Segment 2 project. Completing these projects will also realize Broward Beach Administrator Nicole Sharp's vision for a stable Broward coast.

Proposed beach legislation included in LaMarca's wish list should help allay Galt Mile concerns about hurricanes stripping the sand from the newly widened beach. At a December 16, 2015 pre-Segment 2 meeting in the Sonesta Hotel, Broward beach boss Nicole Sharp assured Galt Mile attendees that a "sea change" in Broward beach policy would stabilize the coast after a beach project. Once the beach was renourished, occasional beach fills could address "hot spots" eroded by storm surge - reducing the frequency and scope of future renourishments and saving taxpayers \$hundreds of millions over the next decade.

Continued on page 6

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY



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Sharp's promise was recently tested. A few days before and after Hurricane Irma slammed Broward, Sharp dispatched staffers to survey the Broward coast, documenting sand loss, eroded dunes and other adverse storm impacts. On September 13, 2017, Sharp sent evidence of the damage documented with photographs to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), along with a request for assistance with rehabilitating beaches widened via the county's federal shore protection project. Since the repairs are subject to the cost-sharing formula that governs project funding, a similar appeal to the state is in the cards.

The 2018 Beach Renourishment legislation that would facilitate each of these County objectives - is the latest in a series of annual attempts to establish a funding process for salvaging the critically eroded beaches that anchor the State's Tourism Economy.

2017 Beach Funding Bills

During the 2017 legislative session, LaMarca headed to Tallahassee with President Debbie Flack of the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association to once again lobby lawmakers to create a reliable funding source for beach and inlet projects. In order to file the relevant legislation, they met with Statehouse Representatives George Moraitis (R - Fort Lauderdale), Evan Jenne (D - Dania Beach), Joe Geller (D - Aventura) - and other members of the County's legislative delegation. Soliciting support for the proposed legislation, they distributed copies of a January 2015 study by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR - research arm of the Florida Legislature) that focused primarily on the fiscal impact of beach renourishment.

Entitled "Economic Evaluation of Florida's Investment in Beaches", the EDR report calculated the Return on Investment (ROI) of Beach Restoration, assessed the economic risk of disasters and concluded that beaches are indispensable to the Tourism economy that underwrites the State's financial well-being. The report concluded that \$44 million invested in the State Beach Program from 2011 through 2013 directly increased State GDP an average \$2.4 billion per year, plumping state revenues by \$237.9 million.

Upon learning that Beach Renourishment "generated a positive return on investment of 5.4", based solely on tangible financial gains or losses to state revenues, even inland lawmakers who openly resent subsidizing beach neighborhoods enthusiastically approved a beach funding boost once their in-house bean counters monetized the investment's windfall dividend.

In the Senate, former Chairman Jack Latvala (R-Clearwater) of the Senate Appropriations Committee said that he considers increasing annual beach funding to at least \$50 million "a top priority". On March 3, 2017, Latvala filed Senate Bill 1590, which would revise how Florida prioritizes beach and inlet projects while annually cloistering \$50 million in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to rehabilitate eroded beaches.

On the same day, Representatives George Moraitis (R - Fort Lauderdale), Bill Hagar (R - Delray Beach), and Kathleen M. Peters (R - Treasure Island) co-filed the companion bill - House Bill 1213. On April 27, 2017, the full Senate unanimously approved Latvala's bill (37 Yeas vs. 0 Nays) before sending it to the House

for consideration. After unanimously sailing through two of its three vetting committees, Moraitis' House Bill was throttled on the calendar while awaiting a hearing by the House Government Accountability Committee, where it died.

2018 Beach Funding Bills

Florida voters will choose a new Governor in 2018. Also up for grabs is every seat in the Statehouse, and 20 of the 40 Senate seats. Special interests will have a field day as cash-strapped campaigning lawmakers unashamedly barter their votes to window shopping lobbyists. As a result, the election year session will emulate a crap shoot in a smoke-filled warehouse garage. To provide prospective incumbent candidates with an opportunity to campaign in their home districts before the election, lawmakers voted to convene the 2018 legislative session a few months early, scheduling the 60-day span from January 9 through early March.

Anticipating election year chaos, during the Committee weeks prior to the early 2018 session, an undeterred Latvala refiled his legislation as Senate bill 174 on August 18, 2017. On October 9, it was unanimously approved in the Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation by 10 Yeas vs. 0 Nays. On October 25, it was unanimously found favorable by 7 Yeas vs. 0 Nays in the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources and forwarded to its final committee stop - the Committee on Appropriations, which Latvala chaired until events abruptly ended his tenure in the Senate.

On December 20, 2017, Latvala resigned his seat in disgrace after the second of two misconduct investigations corroborated accusations of sexual harassment. Allegedly, Latvala advanced the career goals of women in his political wheelhouse in exchange for "sexual favors." When LaMarca arrived in Tallahassee a few days later, the bill's future was understandably cloudy. Fortunately, the orphaned Senate Bill was salvaged by Senator Dorothy L. Hukill (R - Port Orange), who guided a Committee Substitute (CS/SB 174) through the Senate Committee on Appropriations by a vote of 20 Yeas vs. 0 Nays on January 31, 2018. Having successfully navigated its Committee reviews in the Senate, the legislation's fate will depend on the distracted candidate-lawmakers in the other chamber.

In the Statehouse, Representatives George Moraitis and Kathleen M. Peters filed companion House Bill 131 on September 1, 2017. At its initial Committee stop - the House Natural Resources & Public Lands Subcommittee - the bill had its 1st Reading on January 9, 2018. Whether it can dodge the election year lawmaker paranoia sufficiently to catch up with its Senate counterpart is questionable. More to come! - Read LaMarca's January 2018 message to District 4 constituents - elsewhere in this edition - [editor]*



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Chip LaMarca's

JANUARY 2018 Newsletter

SB284. The Board also supports priority checks on the welfare of nursing home residents in the aftermath of a natural disaster, providing energy, water and food for at least 96 hours after power loss, as proposed in HB655/SB896.

Our community saw the direct impact that these storms can have on our beaches. We also saw the direct benefits that our recent shore protection projects provided, especially where dune structures were built. Therefore, I will continue to advocate for the State Beach Management Program by supporting SB174 and HB131 which update the project review criteria to include consideration of a project's economic and environmental importance, creates a three-year work plan to maximize matching contributions at the federal, state, and local level, and sets a dedicated state funding source of \$50 million through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. I will also advocate and support the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact State Energy and Climate Legislative Principles as they guide our communities to a more resilient infrastructure through adaptation.

Our community faces several challenges, one of the greatest challenges comes in the aftermath of a major hurricane. This last hurricane season taught us that we must be better prepared and if we work together, we can make sure that our state legislature understands the importance of each of these policies for our community.

Dear Broward County Residents,

I am honored to serve as your county commissioner, representing our coastal communities from Deerfield Beach to Fort Lauderdale and all of the amazing communities in between. Here are some recent highlights from around Broward County.

Legislative Session 2018

The 2018 State Legislative Session is upon us and Broward County is working full force to make sure our priorities are being heard in Tallahassee. Due to the Gubernatorial Elections later this year, the Florida Legislature is meeting early - from January 9th through March 9th. The Board of County Commissioners approved the 2018 State Legislative Program which contains the County's policies, proposed appropriation requests, and legislative proposals. The Board also approved the 2018 State Fundamental Principles which guide the lobbying efforts of County Commissioners, staff, and the County's contract lobbyists to reflect the Board's continuing visions and goals. The program and fundamental principles reflect the County's dedication to the community with commitments to economic development, a robust transportation network, growth management, human services and environmental stewardship.

As your County Commissioner, I will also be heading to Tallahassee this legislative session, as I have done for the past seven years. There are several policies that I believe are a top priority for the residents of Broward County, and specifically for the communities in District 4. Due to the 2017 hurricane season that we faced, there are several issues that we can work on to be better prepared for what the future may hold. Specifically, I will advocate for a viable, fully integrated and coordinated local, state and federal disaster response structure, while also supporting appropriate and increased funding for upgrading our emergency operations centers so they function proficiently during a natural disaster or crisis. Another crucial issue that must be taken seriously, as we witnessed last hurricane season, is the regulations that guide our assisted living facilities. Broward County supports placing nursing homes and elderly/disabled care facilities as Tier One Critical Infrastructure under Florida Power and Light disaster operations, as is being proposed in

Fort Lauderdale International Airport

Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) recently opened Concourse G East in Terminal 4, which provides travelers with more dining, shopping and destination options. This new portion of Terminal 4 offers six beautiful new gates with all of the amenities that the traveling public has come to enjoy including comfortable new seating, modern restrooms and several new concessions. The expansion and modernization of Terminal 4 is being constructed in two phases (west and east) to reduce disruption to passengers and airlines. The next phase of Terminal 4 development is a new International Baggage Claim Facility which is expected to be completed in late January 2018.

It is great to see one of Broward County's major economic engines continue to grow in size as well as passenger traffic. In November 2017, total traffic was up 9.7 percent; domestic traffic was up 7.1 percent; and international traffic was up 20 percent. While numbers are being calculated, December traffic is expected to be up 6 percent, and 2017 should end with approximately 32.5 million passengers, up 11 percent. According to Airports Council International, FLL was the fastest growing large hub airport in all categories for the 12 months ending in October.

PACE Program in Broward County

In June 2016, the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE Broward) financing program was launched countywide. Since that time, those interested in using PACE to finance qualifying property improvements has continued to steadily increase. Property owners have submitted more than 13,000 applications for improvements such as rooftop solar panels, impact windows, insulation and more. PACE financing is available to both residential and commercial properties, and there are now five PACE Providers available to compare and choose.

New Toll-Free Number

The Broward County Call Center is a multi-lingual, one-stop center for information on County government service that also provides important information and support services for the public during hurricanes and other emergencies. To enhance its level of service, the Call Center has launched a new toll-free number, 1-833-BRWD (2793), that can be used by anyone across the country. Local callers can continue to reach the call center at 311 or 954-831-4000.

The Resident's Guide to Government provides a convenient resource to help people stay connected to their local government. It includes contact information for County officials and Federal, State, and local agencies. Visitors can subscribe to eNews and social media sites. Please sign up at Broward.org/District4 to receive email updates from our office. If there is anything that we can do to assist you with your vision for a better Broward, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 954-357-7004 or by email at clamarca@broward.org.

As always, it is my honor and privilege to serve you.
Best regards,

Chip

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED
4 Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FTL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622 30th Annual Las Olas Art Fair Part II 600 East Las Olas Blvd. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 561-746-6615	5 Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033	6 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 City Commission Meeting City Hall, 6 p.m.	7 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 Riverwalk Noon Tunes Performer: Andrew Moriss Band (Country) Huizenga Plaza Noon to 1:30 p.m. Info.: 954-828-4755
11 Las Olas Triathlon & Duathlon DC Alexander Park 7:30 a.m. Info.: 954-213-6699 Daylight Saving Time Starts The Original Florida Folies Parker Playhouse, 2 p.m. Info.: 954-445-4232	12	13 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	14 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 Pi Day Riverwalk Noon Tunes Performer: Raise the Roof (Irish) Huizenga Plaza Noon to 1:30 p.m. Info.: 954-828-4755
18 Florida Youth Orchestra Mizner Park 4 p.m. Info.: www.myboca.us/1035/FAQs Florida AIDS Walk and Music Festival South Beach Park 8 a.m.: Registration 9 a.m.: Opening Ceremony 10 a.m.: Walk Begins 11 a.m.: Music Festival Begins Info.: 954-522-3132	19 Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033	20 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 City Commission Meeting City Hall, 6 p.m.	21 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 Riverwalk Noon Tunes Performer: Twocan Blue Musical Duo (Beach Party Music) Huizenga Plaza Noon to 1:30 p.m. Info.: 954-828-4755
25 Dancing By The Sea The Beach Pavilion 5 to 7 p.m. Info.: www.lbtsevents.com/events Deering Seafood Festival on the Bay Seafood Alley (along Biscayne Bay in Miami) 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Info.: 305-235-1668 ext. 253	26	27 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	28 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 Riverwalk Noon Tunes Performer: Big Harvest (Reggae) Huizenga Plaza Noon to 1:30 p.m. Info.: 954-828-4755
2 Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FTL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622	3	4 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	5 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

MARCH 4: 35th Annual Show 'N' Shine Car Show 2018, Mills Pond Park, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Info.: 954-553-5336
 MARCH 10: Steve Martin & Martin Short, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., Tix.: www.browardcenter.org
 MARCH 10: Health & Wellness Experience, Mizner Park, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Info.: 561-881-0702
 MARCH 11: Dancing By The Sea, The Beach Pavilion, 5 to 7 p.m., Info.: www.lbtsevents.com/events
 MARCH 11: Audra McDonald, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 6 p.m., Tix.: www.browardcenter.org
 MARCH 10-11: ArtFest in the Pines, Charles F. Dodge City Center (601 City Center Way), Pembroke Pines, 10 a.m. to Sundown, Info.: 954-392-2122
 MARCH 11: 9th Annual Jazz Picnic in the Park, Performer: Blues Therapy & Jazz, Ilene Lieberman Botanical Gardens (Lauderhill), 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Info.: 954-730-3000
 MARCH 17-18: Coral Springs Festival of the Arts & Crafts, The Walk on University Dr. (Coral Springs), 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 561-746-6615
 MARCH 22: LBTS Art Stroll, Green Turtle Plaza, 5 to 8 p.m., Info.: www.lbtsevents.com/events
 MARCH 24-25: Florida Renaissance Festival, Quiet Waters Park, 10 a.m. to Sundown, Info.: 954-776-1642
 APRIL 7: Boca Bacchanal Wine & Food Festival, Mizner Park, 7 to 11 p.m., Tix.: https://one.bidpal.net/bb2018/ticketing
 APRIL 7-8: Annual CityPlace Art Fair, 700 South Rosemary Ave., WPB, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 561-746-6615

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<p>8</p> <p>18th Annual Tribute (honoring Mike Jackson) Riverside Hotel 5 to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-468-1541 Ext. 208</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Friday Night Music El Mar & Commercial Blvd. 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092</p> <p>International Orchid Festival (Through 3/11) Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Info.: 305-667-1651</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Florida Renaissance Festival (Through 3/11) Quiet Waters Park 10 a.m. to Sundown Info.: 954-776-1642</p> <p>Youth Day Parade & Carnival Oakland Park City Hall to Dixie Hwy to Wimberly Field 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Info.: 954-630-4507</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition (Through 3/18) Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 786-315-5266</p> <p>G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Meeting Nick's Italian Restaurant, 11 a.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Live Music at Mickel Park Concert Series Mickel Park (2675 NW 7th Ave, Wilton Manors) Performer: Caribbean Chillers (Jimmy Buffet Tribute Band) 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Info.: 954-390-2130</p> <p>Friday Night Music El Mar & Commercial Blvd. 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Gun & Knife Show (Through 3/18) War Memorial Auditorium Info.: 954-828-5380</p> <p>Saint Patrick's Day</p> <p>Citywide Yard Sales Jaco Pastorius Park 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info.: 954-630-4505</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Palm Beach International Boat Show (Through 3/25) Info.: 954-764-7642</p> <p>ClueLess on Las Olas: "Condo Confidential" Stranahan House & Laura Ward Park 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Info.: 954-288-7201</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Friday Night Music El Mar & Commercial Blvd. 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092</p> <p>Memphis: The Musical (Through 4/8) Broward Center for the Performing Arts Tix.: www.browardcenter.org</p>	<p>24</p> <p>MS Walk - Fort Lauderdale George English Park 7 a.m.: Registration Info.: 855-372-1331</p> <p>Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Drop-off Events Across from Vincent Torres Park @ 4331 NW 36th St. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-8000</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Friday Night Music El Mar & Commercial Blvd. 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Info.: 954-776-5092</p> <p>Erev Pesach</p>	<p>31</p> <p>International Orchid & Bromeliad Show Flamingo Gardens 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info.: 954-473-2955</p> <p>Egg Hunt Triathlon & Duathlon and Kids Aquathlon CB Smith Park, 7 a.m. Info.: 954-213-6699</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Rock the Ocean: Tortuga Music Festival (Through 4/8) Fort Lauderdale Beach Park Info.: 615-498-7548</p> <p>Boca Bacchanal Wine & Food Festival (Through 4/7) Various locations in Boca 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info.: 561-395-6766 ext 301</p>	<p>8</p> <p>"Spring Fling" Exhibit Broward Art Guild 6:30 to 9 p.m. Info.: 954-537-3370</p> <p>The Best Bead Show (Through 4/8) DoubleTree Hotel (Miami) Info.: 610-241-8329</p>

LOTS HAPPENING IN TOWN!

APRIL 8

Jazz Picnic in the Park
Ilene Lieberman Botanical Gardens
Performer: Jazz Survivors
11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-730-3000

APRIL 10

Fort Lauderdale Career Fair
Marriott Fort Lauderdale North
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Info.: 702-614-9537

APRIL 13

Annual Pineapple Jam Dinner and Auction
Historic Stranahan House Museum
6 to 9 p.m.
Info.: 954-524-4736

APRIL 13-15

56th Annual Delray Affair
Intracoastal to NW 2nd Ave. in Downtown Delray Beach
Info.: 561-279-0907

APRIL 14

18th Annual Riverwalk Run
Huizenga Plaza
6:45 a.m.: Check in; 8 a.m.: 5K & 5M Start;
9:15 a.m.: Kids' Fun Run Start
Info.: 954-247-4551

APRIL 14-15

11th Annual Ocean Adventure Expo
Broward County Convention Center
Info.: 561-715-0247

**FOR A COMPLETE
LISTING OF EVENTS,
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CALENDAR AT
WWW.GALTMILE.COM**

First Saturday of Every Month: Beach Cleanup, Commercial Blvd. & the Beach LBTS (Meet at Pavilion), 9 to 9:30 a.m., Info.: 954-776-1000

First Saturday of Every Month: North Beach Art Walk, 3280 NE 32nd St, 7 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-537-3370

Second Saturday of Every Month: Beach Sweep, Fort Lauderdale Beach Park, 1100 Seabreeze Blvd., 7 to 11 a.m., Info.: 954-593-8501

Second Saturday of Every Month: Burlock Coast Farmer's Market, Burlock Coast at the The Ritz-Carlton, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Info.: myfortlauderdalebeach.com

Second Tuesday of Every Month: Orchid Greenhouse Tours, Bonnet House, 11 a.m. to Noon, Info.: 954-703-2606

Mondays: Food Trucks at Artspark, 5:30 to 10 p.m., Youngs Circle in Hollywood

Thursdays: BHIP Farmer's Market, Broward Health Imperial Point Medical Arts Pavilion (633 N Federal Hwy.), 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sundays: Tour-the River Ghost Tour, Stranahan House & Water Taxi, 7:30 p.m., Tix.: 954-524-4736

Sundays: Las Olas Sunday Market, 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 954-426-8436

Sundays (through May): Farmer's Market at El Prado Park, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 561-714-2745

Saturdays: Saturday Night Under the South Florida Stars, Fox Astronomical Observatory at Markham Park, Sunset to Midnight, Info.: 954-384-0442

Saturdays: Music at Athena's By The Sea, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., Info.: 754-333-3864

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY:

Bruce Roberts FEBRUARY 2018 Newsletter

By Eric Berkowitz

** In his February 2018 Newsletter, Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts welcomes Commissioner-Elect Heather Moraitis to step into his District 1 shoes, announces Mayor Seiler's State of the City Address at the recently transformed South Side Cultural Arts Center, alerts municipal water customers to the temporary introduction of free chlorine into our drinking water to boost the disinfection process, reports how a city IT team sought to cure a glitch in the FLPD body worn cameras pilot program by exploring how their Orlando peers deployed similar equipment, updates constituents about the progress of District 1 infrastructure projects either completed, currently underway, or on the drawing board, including the long awaited construction kick-off of Fire Rescue Station 54. Roberts closes with a list of upcoming events, essentially commission meetings leading up to the March 13, 2018 municipal election - and the swearing in ceremony a week later. v. ing taxpayers \$hundreds of millions over the next decade.*

Body Cameras: A Bumpy Start
Body worn camera programs are exploding across jurisdictions intrigued by their unique law enforcement benefits, such as obtaining evidence for criminal prosecutions, protecting officers from false allegations of misconduct, curbing overzealous enforcement, strengthening police accountability by documenting interactions with the public, and increasing Departmental transparency by providing the public with access to video evidence of police encounters. It has also been proven to reduce the number of shootings by Police Officers. However, in January of 2016, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission postponed a body worn camera (BWC) pilot program pending the development of guidelines to protect participants, the public and the Police Department.

Although similar programs were already underway in more than 60 police departments nationwide, including the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) and the Hallandale Beach Police Department, Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler

expressed concern about how the courts would react to the inadvertent recording of bystanders not involved in an incident, such as emergency room patients whose privacy rights are shielded by statute.

Commission concerns about judicial blowback weren't without merit. Florida jurisdictions invested \$millions in red light camera systems that largely became landfill fodder once their enabling ordinances were reversed in court. When City Attorney Cynthia Everett told Commissioners "I don't believe there's any legal impediment to implementing this program, if that's what you want to do. We're going to have policies and procedures and training," Roberts asked Everett to draft an official legal opinion about the body-worn cameras.

Commissioners also expressed reservations about the cost of storing and managing an ever-growing evidentiary database of tapes, disks and/or flip drives. For instance, when lawyers, victims, suspects, the media, or members of the public file a public records request for a video, to mitigate prospective liability damage claims, the Department must first perform a costly legal analysis and redact any material subject to public records exemptions.

To shield members from lawsuits alleging a violation of privacy rights, the police union sought to amend its collective bargaining agreement with protection against potential personal liability for participating officers. Commissioner (and former Fort Lauderdale Police Chief) Bruce Roberts suggested soliciting input from the Citizens Police Review Board. Once the Commission concluded that the City should move ahead with a test program, Mayor Jack Seiler charged staff with identifying obstacles to the pilot program and customizing policy guidelines.

BSO Chimes In

On March 22, 2016, Broward Sheriff Scott Israel announced that a pilot BWC program of 50 road patrol deputies in North Lauderdale, Central Broward County, Pompano Beach and Deerfield Beach, would soon be expanded to 1500 BSO officers. Despite his vow to enforce a BSO policy dictating when the cameras must be used, Israel's disclosure that deputies would be allowed to manually turn the cameras on and off prompted Broward's Chief Assistant Public Defender Gordon Weekes, Jr. to raise another program impediment, observing "An officer will never record his or her own misconduct."

A body worn camera (BWC) is always recording, but until the officer turns it on, the recording is regularly overwritten. As such, along with whatever is preserved after the system is turned on, events recorded prior to a specific incident are also available. How much of that prior video is also preserved will depend on the Department's policy, and could range from one minute to one hour - or more. The program's intuitive vulnerabilities suggest the critical importance of a bulletproof governing policy. Fortunately, a growing pool of policy resources has been made available to jurisdictions for this purpose

Crafting a BWC Policy

In compliance with a Commission directive to craft an effective BWC policy, City Manager Lee Feldman solicited input from Law Enforcement agencies and private consultants authoritatively experienced with developing BWC best practices. With support from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing (AKA COPS), the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) extensively researched the use of body-worn cameras by Law Enforcement. PERF reviewed dozens of BWC policies submitted by police agencies while interviewing scores of police executives with relevant expertise.

Compiling this research into a study detailing the factors that law enforcement agencies must address when formulating a body-worn cameras policy, PERF published "Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program: Recommendations and Lessons Learned." While adapting a comprehensive set of policy recommendations to the available resources and statutory constraints of any law enforcement agency, PERF also exhorts jurisdictions to invite input from frontline officers, legal advisors and the community.

As city staff molded the PERF data into a draft policy, Feldman opened a dialogue with several U.S. cities that conducted independent studies. He also reached out to Bobcat Training and Consulting, Inc., a "Community Policing" consultant hired by the city to improve FLPD's operational protocols.

Next, Feldman solicited feedback about the draft policy from the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, the Fort Lauderdale Council of Civic Associations, the Broward County Urban League, the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Broward Dream Defenders and the City's Citizens Police Review Board.

Lawmakers Mandate BWC Program Policies

While Feldman was framing a BWC policy, Florida lawmakers finally plugged a longstanding vacuum in state law. Driven by the controversial Palm Beach Gardens shooting death of Corey Jones, Broward Statehouse Representative Shevrin Jones (D – West Park) filed House Bill 93, which was signed into law on March 24, 2016. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, thirty-four states (and Washington D.C.) have already passed body camera laws.

The legislation requires jurisdictions to formulate policies prior to using body cameras, and specifies rules for storing audiovisual data that comply with Florida public records laws. The Florida BWC law essentially codifies PERF policy recommendations. Florida cities and counties seeking to add body cameras to their law enforcement arsenals will have to wade through the same policy options navigated by Feldman.

During the 2017 legislative session, lawmakers amended the 2016 Statute. Conceived and supported by Florida Police Benevolent Association lobbyists, Senate Bill 624 and House Bill 305 featured a single paragraph that allows police officers to review the recorded footage on their body cameras before writing reports or making statements. While proponents claim that the legislation will allow officers to provide a more accurate and detailed description of events, opponents decry providing an unfair advantage to officers when their recollection of events conflicts with those of other witnesses.

Aspiring to add context to the controversy, Analyst Matthew Feeney with the Washington D.C.-based Cato Institute said he is skeptical of such body-camera review policies, especially

when they extend to the most serious kinds of interactions between law enforcement and the public, particularly shootings. Feeney explained, "The legality of use-of-force incidents often hinges on what an officer believed or thought at the time of the incident. The problem with these kinds of proposals is that they give officers an unfair advantage that is not given to citizens." Despite related concerns raised by Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) and Sen. Jeff Clemens (D-Lake Worth) in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, the legislation was unanimously approved in both chambers.

Policy Approval Uncorks Pilot Program

Having received ten (10) vendor responses for a proposed "turn-key solution to capture video from an officer's perspective," Feldman placed the issue on the December 6, 2016, Commission Meeting agenda, where he finally delivered the policy guidelines requested eleven months earlier.

On January 4, 2017, the city agreed to kick in \$600,000, its share of a matching grant provided by the Federal Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program (through the Department of Justice / Office of Justice Grant Programs for Body-Worn Cameras). The funds will cushion the BWC Pilot Program's \$1.2 million burden on taxpayers. The \$600,000 matching grant awarded to Fort Lauderdale was the third largest Florida distribution in 2016, after Broward County (\$999,564) and Miami (\$960,000).

With the Commission on board, city staff embarked on a collaborative effort with FLPD (and input from police union officials) to evaluate the vendor proposals. The review team included Assistant Police Chief Mike Gregory, a former FLPD liaison to the Galt Mile. By vetting the various systems - assessing each vendor's technology, training regimen and support capabilities - the procurement team finally narrowed the field to three vendors by February 21, 2017, selecting the Body Worn Cameras (BWC) and Digital Evidence Management Systems provided by Motorola Solutions, Inc, Axon Incorporated (also referred to as Taser) and VieVu LLC. Two of the three would win a City contract.

Continued on page 14

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When VieVu LLC. failed to provide a Best and Final Offer (BAFO) by the May 22, 2017 deadline, they were dropped as "non-responsive", prompting staff to recommend awarding the two pilot program contracts to Axon and Motorola on June 6, 2017. On November 13, 2017, FLPD announced that 35 of the more than 50 BWC pilot program volunteers would receive product training from the two vendors between November 27th and December 8th, "after which time, they would begin their patrol duties outfitted with the cameras."

Mystery Glitch

As explained by Roberts, shortly after pilot project officers concluded their training on December 8, and began using the cameras on patrols, they ran into problems with uploading and sharing their recorded video content. Although Roberts doesn't disclose whether the problems afflicted the system provided by Motorola, Axon or those of both vendors, he mentions that the IT team sought to fix the problem by consulting with police officials in Orlando, having learned that their Digital Evidence Management System was free of glitches, and working perfectly.

*Since Motorola underbid Axon while competing for the Orlando BWC contract in December 2016, the Orlando Police Department purchased 450 Motorola cameras and the Motorola video management system. Given the IT team's decision to compare notes with Orlando, one might conclude that the Fort Lauderdale glitch resides in their Motorola hardware or software, or how either is being utilized. However, since a hiccup like this could damage the company's credibility at a time that its poised to sell hundreds of similar systems across the planet, why couldn't an army of Motorola technicians obliterate the glitch in short order? Peruse Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts' February 2018 Newsletter in its entirety elsewhere in this edition - [editor]**



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BRUCE ROBERTS

FEBRUARY 2017 DISTRICT 1 Newsletter

tion at 5:30 PM to acknowledge Advisory Board and Committee members for their volunteer service to the City. A ribbon-cutting occurred at 6:30 PM to celebrate the completion of the restoration of historic South Side School, which has been transformed into the new South Side Cultural Arts Center. At 7 PM, Mayor Seiler delivered his final State of the City Address, which reviewed many of Fort Lauderdale's accomplishments and highlight opportunities that lie ahead.

City to Chlorinate Water System

The City will temporarily return to using free chlorine in its drinking water system. This preventive maintenance procedure will begin at 9 AM Tuesday, February 13 and will end at 9 AM Tuesday, March 20. Free chlorination is a common practice for water systems using combined chlorine disinfection. The chlorination period is anticipated to be transparent to water customers; however, some may notice a slight change in the taste or smell of their tap water. Some customers may also see water running from fire hydrants in their neighborhoods, which is part of the normal maintenance process. The City maintains the highest standards to ensure that clean, high quality drinking water is delivered to its customers. The City's drinking water meets all federal, state, and local drinking water quality standards. For more information, Fort Lauderdale utility customers may contact the 24-hour Neighbor Call Center at 954-828-8000 or online at www.fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv. Customers who receive a utility bill from other municipalities or entities should call their respective water provider's customer service phone number for more information.

Police Body Worn Cameras Pilot Program

Pilot users have been recording and submitting videos to both the Axon (Taser) and Motorola BWC systems since training concluded December 8, 2017. We have experienced several setup/configuration type issues that City IT and the vendors have been addressing. These include slow speeds and lockups when uploading videos as well as challenges sharing videos with detectives and the State Attorney's Office. The implementation team has travelled to Orlando Police Department for a site visit and to discuss video management strategies. They are not incurring any upload timeouts or extraordinary delays. This was useful and as a result IT will be performing additional testing on the FLPD/City network.

I would like to say it has been a pleasure serving you for the past 9 years. During that time, we have made great strides in making this City a better place to live, work and play. Some of those accomplishments have been within our District; others throughout the City. We all want the same end result – making sure the future of Fort Lauderdale remains a beautiful place to live and visit. I would also like you to join me in welcoming Commissioner Elect Heather Moraitis who will take over the position of District 1 Commissioner on March 20, 2018. She brings with her Melissa Coningsby as her Commission Assistant replacing Robbi Uptegrove who will be retiring after 17 years with the City.

State of the City Was January 30

Join Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler and the Fort Lauderdale City Commission for the State of the City Address, Advisory Board Reception, and Ribbon-cutting Ceremony to celebrate the completion of the South Side Cultural Arts Center. The event took place on Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018, at 5:30 PM at South Side Cultural Arts Center, 701 S Andrews Avenue. The evening began with a networking recep-

Update on Projects in District 1

• Bike Route through Galt Shoppes Area with sharrows and signage – (Galt Mile):

• Access Road (east side of Intracoastal Waterway): Combination of sharrows and designated bike lanes (under the bridge) is being studied for structure, survey and utility. A typical section will be prepared as the design progresses. The preliminary FDOT concept was for all sharrows; however, City staff pushed to ensure that bike lanes were provided under the bridge for all users' safety.

Continued on page 16



Bruce...Continued

- NE 33rd Ave: Sharrows from Access Rd (north of Oakland Park Blvd) to NE 34th St

- NE 34th St: Sharrows from NE 33rd Ave to A1A

- Middle River Dr: Bike Lanes and Sidewalks - Staff attended the 9/27/17 Coral Ridge Association Board meeting to share the concept and received unanimous support to move forward into design.

- NE 32nd St: Designated bike lane from NE 26th Ave to NE 30th Ave to Access Rd. The concept was shared with the HOA president of Coral Ridge Country Club Estates and he provided written support of the project on behalf of his neighborhood.

- **Fire Station #54:**

The construction phase is currently 20% complete. Burke Construction Group (BCG) has completed the block walls around the first floor. The contractor is currently placing I-beams for the second level floor deck and installing metal decking. The block wall for second floor has also started.

- **Completed Projects:**

- Signal Repaired at Galt Ocean Dr north of NE 36th St
- 6 Radar signs in the Coral Ridge Community
- 2 Speed humps on NE 29 Ave north of NE 68 St
- 4 Speed humps on NE 68 St east of NE 31 Ave
- Striping/swale work on Yacht Club Blvd
- District-wide speed hump restriping including Bayview Dr
- 1 Radar sign on NE 55 St west of bridge
- Speed hump installation on NE 24 Terr north of NE 62 St
- Installation of flexible delineators on NE 62 St east of NE 18 Ave

- **Upcoming Projects:**

Speed Radar Signs along Cypress Creek Rd/NE 62nd Street in partnership with Broward County are currently being installed in the first few months of 2018 by Broward County. Four total signs will be installed per discussions.

- **Dates for Calendar:**

3/5/18: Pre-Agenda Meeting, Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.
3/6/18: Commission Meetings, City Hall, 1:30 and 6 p.m.
3/13/18: GET OUT AND VOTE
3/19/18: Pre-Agenda Meeting, Imperial Point Hospital, S Entrance, 6pm
3/20/18: SWEARING IN OF NEW MAYOR AND COMMISSION, CITY HALL CHAMBERS, 11 a.m.
3/20/18: Commission Meetings, City Hall, 1:30 and 6 p.m.

- **Office Contact:**

Robbi Uptegrove: 954-828-5033 or ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov
In addition to hosting two pre-agenda meetings twice a month, I am also available to attend your HOA meetings to update your neighborhood on what is going on in the City as well as answer any questions/concerns you may have. Please contact Robbi to schedule.

- **Email List:**

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2. Get your nutrients - The food you eat affects your weight, cholesterol and blood pressure



3. Control your cholesterol - Reduce intake of saturated and trans fat to maintain healthy arteries



4. Pass on the salt - Shake the salt habit and keep your blood pressure reading near the optimal 120/80



5. Get daily exercise - Commit to a physical activity for at least 30 minutes a day, every day to lower your risk for obesity



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