



February 11, 2022



### **District 6 Update**

This week I spent a few days in Tallahassee advocating for the Glades. Each year during the legislative session, I work tirelessly to help District 6, and especially the Glades, ensuring its priorities are heard and advocating for appropriations to help its economic and infrastructure development. Together with representatives from Belle Glade, I met with legislators to share the progress the Glades has made and how the appropriations that have been requested this year can continue the region's growth. The session has now reached its mid-point, so time is of the essence to make sure the region's priorities make it through the Legislature.

L-R: Belle Glade Commissioner Kenny Berry; Belle Glade Mayor Steve Wilson; Commissioner McKinlay; Belle Glade Commissioner Joaquin Almazan; Belle Glade City Manager Robert Rease.



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### **Unsafe Apartment Complex**

I have always promised to be an advocate for families who need a safe environment in which to live. When I learned about the terrible conditions people were living in at the Okeechobee and Osceola Centers in Belle Glade, I took immediate action that ushered forth significant improvements. And once again, when I learned this week of potential life-safety code violations at an apartment complex in the Glades area and saw pictures that would make anyone's stomach churn, I immediately arranged a visit to the property with County Administration, Code Enforcement, Community Services, and the Solid Waste Authority. I am going to do everything I can to help these families who are living in a property that has fallen into egregious disrepair. No one--especially young children--should ever have to live in the horrific unsafe and unsanitary conditions I witnessed there.

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### **Firefighter Cancer Presumption Three Year Anniversary**

It's been three years since our County led the way to protect our firefighters. When I look back at the battles I've fought during my time on the Commission, winning this one will definitely be in the Top 10. We must always take care of those that take care of us!



**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
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(561) 355-2206  
February 5, 2019

### **Palm Beach County First in Florida to Approve Cancer Presumption Language for Firefighters**

On February 5, Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, along with her fellow County Commissioners, approved a new collective bargaining agreement with the Professional Firefighters/Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Local 2928, IAFF, Inc. Included in this agreement is cancer presumption language that entitles firefighters to on-the-job disability and supplemental long term disability benefits if they are diagnosed with cancer during the performance of their regular duties.

Palm Beach County is the first county in Florida to approve cancer presumption language for firefighters. With the Florida Legislature consistently failing to pass similar legislation in recent years, Commissioner McKinlay pushed to include this language so Palm Beach County could lead by example.

"Firefighters perform one of the most important, yet dangerous, jobs in our society. I'm thankful that Palm Beach County is taking the lead in Florida by recognizing the risks of carcinogenic exposure that these brave men and women face during their careers," Commissioner McKinlay said. "Firefighters spend their careers putting their lives on the line for us, so Palm Beach County's approval of this contract sends a strong message that we will stand with them when they need it most. I hope it encourages the Legislature to finally pass essential legislation to protect firefighters across the state."

A growing body of research and data shows how cancer impacts the firefighting profession. According to the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), cancer is the leading cause of death among firefighters. From January 1, 2002 to March 31, 2017, the IAFF reports that 61% of career firefighter line-of-duty deaths were caused by cancer. Research from the Centers for Disease Control and The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health shows that firefighters in the United States face a 9% higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer, and a 14% higher risk of dying from cancer, than the general population.

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**Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship**

Friends of Youth Services and Palm Beach County, Inc. has announced the call for applications for the 2022 Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship. The scholarship opens on February 1 and will close on March 31, 2022.

The Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson Scholarship is dedicated to those who need a little extra assistance in achieving educational goals. The scholarship provides \$1,000 per year, distributed over two semesters to each recipient, and is renewable for up to four years, depending on the degree or certificate program.

The scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors and high school graduates who will attend an accredited college or technical vocational school beginning in Fall 2022. Currently enrolled college, technical, or vocational students are also encouraged to apply. Enhanced consideration will be given to applicants who are members of Future Leaders United for Change or involved in the dependency or delinquency systems.

For more information on the scholarship and the application criteria, please visit <http://pbcgov.com/ysd-scholarship> or contact Geeta-Loach Jacobson, Director of Outreach and Community Programming of Palm Beach County Youth Services, at 561-242-5713.

The scholarship is in memory of Alyssa Sangeeta Jacobson. Alyssa was committed to living a self-sufficient life and discovering her passions. Her determination to pursue education, earning undergraduate and graduate degrees, enabled her to live consistent with those commitments. She hoped others could have support to achieve their goals.

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## **PBC Cooperative Extension to Offer Workshop for First-Time Homebuyers**

Are you thinking about purchasing a home? Learn about the steps to homeownership and how to obtain an affordable mortgage in Palm Beach County (PBC) by attending the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension First-Time Home Buyer workshop. The class is provided by the Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension, a local agency approved by Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The course is HUD-approved and is an 8-hour, pre-purchase, homebuyer workshop that meets the homebuyer education requirement for workforce housing and down payment assistance programs. Participants must attend two 4-hour sessions or one 8-hour session for successful completion of the 8-hour program.

Classes are \$10 per individual/couple. A scholarship is available to those who qualify. The sessions are offered online via Zoom in English and Spanish.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://homebuyerred.eventbrite.com>

Workshop Dates in English:

Feb. 18 & 25 (Fridays)

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (two sessions)

Feb. 17 & 24 (Thursdays)  
March 18 & 25 (Fridays)

5 p.m. - 9 p.m. (two sessions)  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (two sessions)

Workshop Dates in Spanish:  
Feb. 8 & 15 (Tuesdays)

5 p.m. - 9 p.m. (two sessions)

For more information, please contact Cyndi Longley at [clongley@pbcgov.org](mailto:clongley@pbcgov.org) or 561-233-1744.

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### **District 6 COVID-19 Testing Sites**

Lakeside Medical Center, 3200 Hooker Highway, Belle Glade 33430. Mon - Sat, 9 am - 4 pm. No appointments needed. Walk-ups welcome. Any age. No cost.

C.L. Brumback Health Center, 38754 State Road 80, Belle Glade 33430. Mon, Thurs, & Friday, 8 am - 4:45 pm. No appointments needed. Walk-ups welcome. Any age. No cost.

Commons Park, 11600 Poinciana Blvd, Royal Palm Beach. Mon & Fri, 9 am - 5 pm.  
Wed, 12 pm - 5 pm. No appointments needed. No cost.

Wellington Village Hall Parking Lot, 12300 Forest Hill Blvd. Mon - Sat, 8:30 am - 8 pm.  
Appointments may be booked through [www.curative.com](http://www.curative.com). No cost.

Wellington Green Park, 2175 Wellington Green Drive. Mon - Fri, 8 am - 5 pm. Drive-thru. No appointments necessary. No cost.

For a full list of sites throughout the County, visit [here](#).

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### **Press Release! Housing Rehabilitation Assistance**

Palm Beach County's Department of Housing and Economic Development (HED) has announced the availability of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation assistance funds for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Funding will assist income eligible homeowners, residing in the **unincorporated area of Palm Beach County**, with substantial rehabilitation to correct code violations or items that will soon become a code violation. Properties **MUST** be located within a federally designated Qualified Census Tract (QCT). Properties located outside of a QCT, may not be eligible to apply for assistance. **NOTE:** Applicant must provide a statement on how their household was financially impacted by COVID. **PROPERTY'S ASSESSED VALUE CANNOT EXCEED \$352,371.**

ARPA Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program applications will be available online by visiting the website at <https://pbcgov.com/HED> beginning **Monday, January 24, 2021 at 8:00am – Monday, February 28, 2022 at 11:59pm** (or until 90 applications

have been submitted). Applications will be processed on a first submitted, first qualified, first served basis, subject to funding availability. **NOTE:** *Additional program information and required documents needed for application submittal are available on the website at [pbcgov.com/HED](http://pbcgov.com/HED).*

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** ALL applicants are required to attend a Virtual Mandatory Orientation prior to application submittal. Interested parties may register at <https://survey.pbcgov.com/s3/HED-Owner-Occupied-Housing-Rehabilitation> beginning Monday, December 13, 2021. **NOTE:** Applications will not be reviewed if proof of orientation attendance is not provided.

For additional information, please contact:  
Palm Beach County Department of Housing and Economic Development (HED)  
Mortgage and Housing Investments Division  
Telephone: (561) 233-3600  
Email: [HEDverify@pbcgov.org](mailto:HEDverify@pbcgov.org)

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## In Closing

[COVID-19 testing sites](#)

To find vaccine sites near you, click here: [Interactive Vaccine Locator](#)

[Health Care District Weekly Vaccination Schedule](#)

For rental assistance, click here: [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#)

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