



February 2021

Palm Beach County District Six



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COVID-19 Vaccine Access



The last few weeks have seen a mix of optimism as COVID-19 vaccines have rolled out, but also frustration making sure residents have equitable access to them. One of my top priorities has been to ensure that all residents, no matter where they live, have convenient access to a nearby vaccination site.

The Governor's unexpected decision that Publix was going to be the sole provider of COVID-19 vaccines in Palm Beach County left the entire Glades region out--the nearest Publix is 25 miles to the east, 108 to the west. I immediately raised attention to this inequity and did numerous media interviews. I spoke with FL Division of Emergency Management Director Jared Moskowitz who understood the need to rectify the problem. Along with the assistance of local Glades elected officials and former NFL star Anquan Boldin (who is from Pahokee), I am grateful the Glades now has a permanent state-run vaccination site in Pahokee at Anquan Boldin Stadium, providing 500 shots per week.

I'm also happy we now have the South Florida Fairgrounds mass vaccination site open to help whittle down the Department of Health's vaccine waiting list. The County has additional locations and strategies planned as soon as supply allows. I will continue to keep you updated as new vaccination opportunities become available.

For more information and resources, please visit the County's COVID-19 page at <https://discover.pbcgov.org/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>.



Pop-up vaccination clinic at Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center in Belle Glade. Over 500 vaccines were provided.



Inside the mass vaccination site at the South Florida Fairgrounds.



Attending the announcement of the Anquan Boldin Stadium vaccination site, Feb. 3, 2021.



Being interviewed at Anquan Boldin Stadium, Feb. 3, 2021.



Interview with CNN. One of many I gave to raise attention to the lack of vaccine access in the Glades.

Lake Village at the Glades

On February 4th, local Glades elected officials, representatives from the offices of Senator Scott, Congressman Hastings, and State Senator Polsky, and community stakeholders joined me for the ribbon cutting of Lake Village at the Glades. This 42-unit apartment complex will be used in tandem with the Belle Glade Intake and Assessment Center to serve the Glades community by providing shelter for individuals with COVID-19 isolation needs. Once the pandemic is over, it will transition to a shelter facility providing services to help end homelessness. Twenty-

seven people from the Glades have been hired to staff the facility. Thank you to everyone who had a role in establishing this important shelter in record time!





Firefighter Cancer Awareness Proclamation

On January 15, I presented a proclamation proclaiming January as Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month. It's absolutely critical we recognize those firefighters battling cancer as well as remember those firefighters who have lost their lives to cancer. Firefighter occupational cancer is the leading cause of line of duty deaths in professional firefighters and has reached epidemic levels in the United States. Firefighters have a 9% greater chance of developing cancer and a 14% greater risk of dying from that cancer than the general population. Palm Beach County was the first government body in the State of Florida to provide cancer presumption coverage to our firefighters.

I was joined in this photo by PBC Firefighter Jeff Smith. I want to thank him and all our firefighters for their tireless efforts to keep us safe everyday! Our prayers go out to Jeff, who is bravely battling one of those cancers now.



Feminist of the Year Award

It was my honor to be named the 2020 Susan B. Anthony Feminist of the Year by the National Organization of Women, Palm Beach County Chapter. It has been my life's work to advocate for women, children, and families. It was even more meaningful to be honored in the year we celebrated the 100th anniversary of a woman's right to vote. Not all women were given that same access 100 years ago. Women of color had a much longer battle for that right, but it was a step on the right direction. I also want to recognize the many wonderful women in our community who, day after day, work tirelessly to help the less fortunate, break down barriers, and set positive examples for young girls—thank you for all you do!

Congratulations to my colleague, Commissioner Maria Sachs, for being named the 2021 Feminist of the Year.

**2021
Feminist of the Year
Maria Sachs**

Maria Sachs is recognized as the 2021 Feminist of the Year. She was elected a Palm Beach County commissioner in 2020 after serving many years in the Florida Legislature as a Representative of the 86th district and the Florida Senate 30th and 34th District. She has previously worked with our chapter to protect the rights of incarcerated women in Palm Beach County.

Born in Michigan, she moved to Florida and attended the University of Miami Law School. Upon graduation, she was offered a position with the newly appointed State Attorney, Janet Reno. Maria specialized in representing victims against violent crimes. She created the Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Inc.

Maria is founder of Women for Excellence, a professional women's organization with over 150 members. She was also the past president of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Broward chapter.



**2020
Feminist of the Year
Melissa McKinlay**

Melissa McKinlay is recognized as the 2020 Feminist of the Year. Because of COVID-19, the awards luncheon was cancelled. Presently she serves as a Palm Beach County Commissioner. She has spent over twenty years advocating on behalf of women, children and families as a legislative aide to the Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs office, and as a volunteer for members of Congress and U.S. Senate.

Melissa grew up in a family that discussed politics and policy on a daily basis-especially on issues surrounding mental health and social justice. She earned her degree from Florida State University with dual majors in Political Science and Sociology.

Her proudest accomplishments were being on the team that developed the Butterfly House, Palm Beach County's first sexual assault response service center and successfully promoting a legislative bill aimed at eliminating human trafficking.



Susan B. Anthony

*Feminist of the Year
Awards*



Pahokee Gym Ribbon Cutting

On February 16, the County unveiled its \$1.7 million Pahokee Gymnasium Renovation project and handed the keys back to the City. I'm looking forward to the City putting programs together to get our kids back in the gym as soon as possible!

It took awhile to get this done, but I'm proud to have pushed the effort to do a much bigger project than was originally planned. Thanks to a great county staff for working so hard to get this done!

Congrats, Pahokee. And congrats to longtime hometown hero, Coach Eddie Rhodes, whose name now graces this facility!



Scholarship Opportunity

The Alliance of Women Executives offers \$1500 scholarships to young women graduating from a Palm Beach County high school and continuing their education at Florida Atlantic University or Palm Beach State College. They will be offering a

minimum of 15 scholarships. The application can be found at www.aweinc.org/scholarship and applications are due April 11th.

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