

# GALT MILE NEWS

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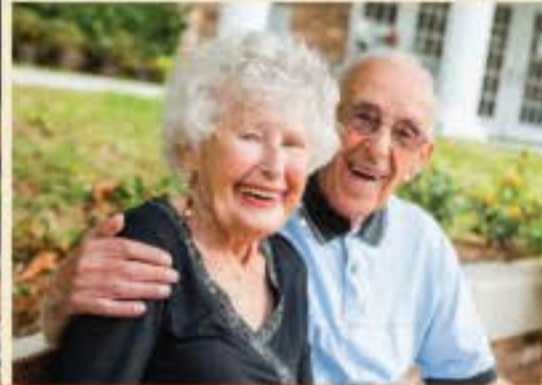
INSIDE: ELSS: bumps in the road



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# ELSS

## BUMPS IN THE ROAD

By Eric Berkowitz

On April 18, 2019, testimony from bill sponsor Representative Michael Grieco (D - Miami Beach), Galt Mile President Pio Ieraci and Association Advocate Elyn Bogdanoff convinced the House Commerce Committee to approve opt-out House Bill 647 (HB 647) by a vote of 19 Yeas vs. 1 Nay, after which it was sent to the full House for a floor vote.

By April 25, Senator Ed Hooper's (R - Palm Harbor) punitive Senate Bill 908 was DOA, as its companion House Bill 723 was frozen on the calendar in the other chamber. These skewed bills sought to levy a \$500 per day penalty for high-rise associations that fail to install an Engineered Life-Safety System (ELSS) by the statutory deadline.

The full House approved HB 647 by a vote of 103 Yeas vs. 7 Nays on April 26. While our opt-out bill was overwhelmingly supported in the House, Hooper leveraged the Senate's "Old Boy Network", bartering political capital to buy two of the three vetting committee chairs in the Senate, who stalled our companion Senate Bill 1152 in their respective committees (Community Affairs; Rules). To circumvent this roadblock, Rep. Grieco sent his successful House Bill 647 directly to the Senate for its approval, obviating the legislation's reliance on the frozen companion Senate Bill.

### Hooper Runs a Shell Game

Fearful of the opt-out bill's growing momentum, Hooper colluded with Fire Sprinkler Association lobbyists to derail HB 647 if it passed in the House. Dipping into the Fire Sprinkler Association's bottomless wallet, they retained high-powered Nick Iarossi of Capital City Consulting (CCC) - among the State's most powerful lobbying juggernauts (along with Southern Strategy Group (SSG), Ballard Partners and Ron Book). By manipulating rules and purchasing lawmakers, CCC specializes in capsizing legislation. For an astronomical fee, CCC built Hooper a protocol trap door with a set of instructions.

When the "House-approved" opt-out bill was sent to the Senate, Hooper countered by filing what's called a "Strike-All Amendment", which substitutes new language for the bill's existing text. Hooper's amendment replaced the opt-out language with the predatory demands of his ill-fated SB 908, including the \$500 per day non-compliance penalty.

He additionally salted in a few land mines. Hooper sought to functionally neuter an existing statutory provision that had empowered association homeowners to legally forgo a full fire sprinkler retrofit, a maneuver that could cripple future efforts to enact an ELSS opt-out and shield abusive local fire marshals who exceed their authority.

As the session winds down each year, scores of scrambling lawmakers with legislation stranded on committee calendars desperately try to amend their otherwise doomed provisions into any surviving bill. One consequence is the formation of "trains" - huge eclectic bills that blend productive provisions with half-baked measures and pork-pie rip-offs. Each issue added to a train requires another approval in both chambers. These questionably vetted mega-bills are added to the hundreds of last-minute votes already scheduled on the House or Senate floor. As a result, frenzied lawmakers often rubber-stamp scores of bills they know nothing about. Exploiting the attendant confusion, Hooper solicited Senate approval for the hijacked opt-out bill as Friday afternoon came to a close - too late for a challenge.

### Bogdanoff Battles Back

Since Hooper morphed HB 647 into swill, Bogdanoff met with lawmakers and bill proponents to craft a salvage plan. After futile discussions with a recalcitrant Hooper, they decided to ditch the mutated HB 647 and recruit an alternative vehicle for its key provisions. On May 2, Senator Jeff Brandes (R - St. Petersburg) twice attempted to amend the opt-out language into House Bill 1703 (HB 1703), a Housing and Development bill that was passed by the full House and poised for Senate approval.

When a Point of Order raised by Hooper forced Brandes to withdraw his amendments, Bogdanoff brokered a compromise. Although another amendment offered by Brandes on May 3 lacked the opt-out language, it extended the installation deadline from December 31, 2019 to January 1, 2024. Bogdanoff's response would stop certain local Fire Marshals from threatening to "red tag" associations that missed the approaching installation deadline, add four additional opportunities to enact an ELSS opt-out, debunk bogus testimony by fire sprinkler lobbyists that the mandate only affects a handful of Floridians, and refute the legal basis for the State Fire Marshal's current policy.

The amendment requires the Office of State Fire Marshal to collect data on the 4,037 Florida Associations that legally opted out of a full fire sprinkler retrofit, and submit those findings to the Governor, Senate President and the Speaker of the House.

Continued on page 7





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# EDITOR'S COMMENTARY:

## Heather Moraitis' APRIL 2019 Newsletter

By Eric Berkowitz

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

*\*In her April 2019 Newsletter, District 1 City Commissioner Heather Moraitis describes the rebirth of an iconic Fort Lauderdale site that will once again house a major sports team - at least for two years. The City approved a plan to transition Lockhart Stadium from a browned out wasteland overgrown with weeds to a major league soccer venue with an 18,000-seat modern stadium, a training academy, administrative offices, a community center, a dog park, a running trail, playground, public park and facilities that will accommodate a second professional soccer franchise from the United Soccer League (USL). She also applauds the "Uptown 5k on the Runway" - a Run / Walk event at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport; congratulates the Westminster Academy men's basketball team for winning their third consecutive FHSAA Class 4A Basketball State Championship; and celebrates April as Water Conservation Month by promoting the Broward Water Partnership's (BWP) Conservation Pays program.*

### Reincarnating Lockhart

*Lockhart Stadium owes its suddenly bright future to two converging events, competing private sector development bids and the recent approval of a Parks Bond issue. Led by soccer superstar David Beckham, Miami Beckham United will temporarily deliver Inter Miami CF (AKA - Club Internacional de Fútbol Miami), his soccer franchise in the Major League Soccer (MLS) organization.*

*The Beckham group plans to begin demolition in July and open for business by March, 2020. Two years later, Beckham's team will occupy a brand-new 25,000-seat stadium in a planned \$1 billion commercial complex called Miami Freedom Park, replacing the 73-acre city-owned Melreese golf course in Miami. Thereafter, Beckham will still maintain the Lockhart training facility.*

*While the Fort Lauderdale sports venue will also be used by local schools, the city could later cut a deal with another professional sports club, perhaps the FXE Futbol franchise that made a losing bid to build and occupy Lockhart. Miami Beckham United will invest \$60 million to develop the Lockhart complex. As a consequence of the March 12 voter approval of a \$200 million Parks Bond, another \$25 million could be funneled into Lockhart improvements.*

### Lockhart is Born

*Lockhart Stadium and the adjacent Fort Lauderdale Stadium baseball park were built in 1959. Named for former city commissioner H. Y. "Doug" Lockhart and dedicated at a football game on September 18, 1959, the sports complex was originally expected to host football games and track and field competitions for four local high schools (Fort Lauderdale High School, Stranahan High School, Northeast High School, and Dillard High School).*

*After twenty years of hosting high school football and track events - and occasional state football and soccer competitions, in 1977 Lockhart Stadium became the home field of the Miami Toros of the original North American Soccer League (NASL) - who rebranded themselves as the Fort Lauderdale Strikers.*

*This launched Lockhart's long association with soccer. At the November 23, 1980 World Cup qualifier in Lockhart, the United States men's national soccer team orchestrated the first U.S. defeat of Mexico in over 46 years, winning by 2-1. When the Strikers moved to Minnesota in 1982, Lockhart returned to hosting high school sports and the occasional Miami Dolphins pre-season scrimmage.*

*The Miami Fusion F.C. of Major League Soccer (MLS) renovated the stadium in 1998, increasing seating capacity to 20,000 and redesigning the field expressly for soccer. Since all other MLS teams typically played in football stadiums, this was a sea change that triggered the league's eventual trend toward soccer-specific stadiums. As the Fusion was contracted by the league in 2002, Lockhart was refitted once again in 2003 for use by the Florida Atlantic University Owls college football team until 2011, when the Owls relocated to their on-campus FAU Stadium in Boca Raton.*

*During this period, the stadium hosted D.C. United's high-profile 1998 victory over Vasco da Gama in the Interamerican Cup, Billy Graham's final South Florida crusade in 1985, and the 2007 Caribbean Carnival for Broward County (after Miramar gave them the boot).*

### Fight for Lockhart

*Two years after moving to Lockhart Stadium from Miami in 2009, Miami FC also changed its name to the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, although the team abandoned Lockhart in 2016 and moved to a stadium at Central Broward Regional Park. Within months, the Strikers were disbanded and Lockhart became an empty shell. A \$70-million Water Park proposal for Lockhart Stadium by Schlitterbahn was legally challenged and tied up in court by the owners of competing Rapids Water Park in Riviera Beach, in cahoots with FXE Futbol. Having achieved their objective of discouraging a prospective competitor, Rapids Water withdrew its rival water park proposal, but FXE Futbol still had plans for Lockhart*

*Led by Managing Director John P. Reynal, in 2017 FXE Futbol proposed renovating Lockhart Stadium for a future Division II USL Championship squad. While Beckham's Inter Miami CF is in the top-tier Major League Soccer organization, FXE Futbol has applied for a second tier United Soccer League franchise. For the next two years, Reynal sought approval from the league and the City to develop a complex at Lockhart that included soccer and multi-purpose fields, park space, dining and retail options, and a Topgolf facility.*

*On January 28, 2019, Miami Beckham United (representing Inter Miami CF) submitted a competing proposal to the Fort Lauderdale City Commission for the design, construction and maintenance of a state-of-the-art soccer training facility, a multi-purpose sport stadium and a sport-centric community destination in the Lockhart site.*

*At an April 2, 2019 meeting, the City Commission unanimously conferred a higher rank on Inter Miami's plan for the Lockhart Stadium site. To shed light on the Commission's preference for Beckham's bid over Reynal's problematic proposal, Mayor Dean Trantalis explained "FXE Futbol did not have a commitment from their league and therefore even if we approved them there was no saying they'd ever have a team playing here." City officials also cited how Beckham's star power would guarantee his venture's success.*

*Skull-blocked by the adverse Commission vote, on April 15, Reynal sued Fort Lauderdale for violating State law by neglecting to convene a third-party professional review of the competing proposals, and filed an April 23 injunctive motion to block the impending demolition. To Reynal's dismay, on May 3, Broward Circuit Judge Raag Singhal denied the motion, citing how FXE Futbol failed to provide "evidence of the likelihood that its proposal would have been ranked first if any such 'professional review' had been performed on the proposals." In short, the Commission's rationale for selecting Beckham proved legally bulletproof, and the demolition should begin in July. Read Commissioner Heather Moraitis' April 2019 newsletter elsewhere in this edition. - [editor]\**



The data would be predicate to a request for a Declaratory Statement by Florida CFO Jimmy Patronis (AKA – State Fire Marshal). Specifically, it would ask whether local Fire Marshals have the right to require the installation of fire sprinklers in associations that opted out in compliance with State law.

As questionably interpreted in a May 4, 2016 Declaratory Statement, the office of State Fire Marshal contends that although demanding fire sprinklers in associations that opted out violates State law, mandating sprinklers under the guise of an ELSS complies with the Florida Fire Prevention Code. A legally accurate response by the State Fire Marshal to this new inquiry should demonstrate that the current policy is based on the mistaken premise that an Administrative Code trumps State Law. It doesn't.

#### Sweating It Out

Approved by the full Senate on May 3 by a vote of 26 Yeas vs. 13 Nays, the newly amended HB 1703 was then passed in the House by a floor vote of 66 Yeas vs. 42 Nays, engrossed, enrolled and lined up for the Governor's desk. Unfortunately, there is a downside to hitching a ride on another lawmaker's bill. Since other provisions in HB 1703 promote the interests of developers, some proponents expressed concern about how a controversy surrounding those measures could impact the bill's enactment.

To avoid overwhelming the Governor's office, literally hundreds of engrossed bills are sent to his desk a few at a time. As of May 17, HB 1703 was still awaiting Gubernatorial review. Nine years ago, Bogdanoff admonished, "Until an approved bill survives a veto, there are no guarantees." That said, on May 17, she popped off a brief update "Here with Brandes and the Gov. I was told by Brandes we are good." Always cautious, she later added "The bill has not yet been presented to the Governor. I know they are analyzing it but he cannot do anything until he receives it."

In navigating a litany of bear-traps conceived by Hooper and an army of well-funded lobbyists, Senators Jason Pizzo and Jeff Brandes, Representatives David Grieco, Bob Rommel, Chip LaMarca – and especially Elyn Bogdanoff – stretched a seven-month ELSS installation deadline to 2024, providing several million threatened Florida residents with a variety of regulatory and legislative opportunities to beat back this \$multi-billion scam (unless the bill is drop-kicked by the Governor). We are lucky to have them. •

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# *From the Desk of* **Commissioner HEATHER MORAITIS**

By Heather Moraitis

## **New Life for Lockhart Stadium**

Great news for the Lockhart Stadium site! Earlier this month, the City Commission took a major step toward redeveloping this important property. We unanimously voted to enter into an agreement with Miami Beckham United, a group led by soccer legend David Beckham, on a visionary project for the 64-acre site.

The Beckham group is ready to invest up to \$60 million to transform the property into a "soccer-centric community destination." Preliminary plans call for the construction of a new state-of-the-art 18,000-seat soccer stadium where Beckham's Major League Soccer (MLS) team, Inter Miami CF, would play its first two seasons. An interim agreement is currently being negotiated that will allow the Beckham Group to expeditiously move forward with site preparation and demolition so that the stadium can be completed by February 2020 in time for the start of next year's MLS season.

In addition to the stadium, the Lockhart site would serve as Inter Miami's base of operations, main training center, home to a United Soccer League (USL) farm team, and headquarters for a youth soccer academy that would groom the next generation of elite soccer players. The complex would also include team and administrative offices, locker rooms, weight rooms, classrooms, dining facilities, medical and rehabilitation facilities, and practice fields.

The Beckham group would bring millions of dollars in public enhancements to the property including the development of a public park, dog park, playground, public multi-purpose fields, and a walking/jogging/fitness trail. The Commission is also committed to building an additional stadium that our local public schools could use for football and other athletic activities.

I'm excited about partnering with the Beckham group to bring significant improvements to the site and expand public access to new facilities and amenities in our community. The group's investment, coupled with the recent passage of the Parks Bond, will provide additional options to fund even more enhancements and amenities on the property, like the new community center.

This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime project that offers our City a unique opportunity to create a family-oriented destination on one of our largest remaining unused tracts of land, and in doing so,

leave a lasting legacy for future generations to use and enjoy.

I have already had numerous meetings and discussions with many of you, regarding the community amenities and I plan to continue to seek your input, thoughts, and ideas as this project moves forward. Please keep an eye out for more details and further updates in the months ahead!

## **Uptown 5k on the Runway**

Trustbridge Hospice Foundation partnered with the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport to host a 5k on the airport's runway, and for the first time in FXE's history, people, not planes took off from the runway during this inaugural run/walk event!

## **Congratulations WA Men's Basketball Team**

The WA Men's Varsity Basketball Team accomplished a historic feat yesterday afternoon, with a 77-73 win over Seffner Christian in Lakeland. The victory was the third consecutive FHSAA Class 4A Basketball State Championship for the team.

This marks the first time in WA school history that a team sport has won three straight state championships. It is also noteworthy that this has only occurred one other time in the sport of men's basketball by a Broward County school.

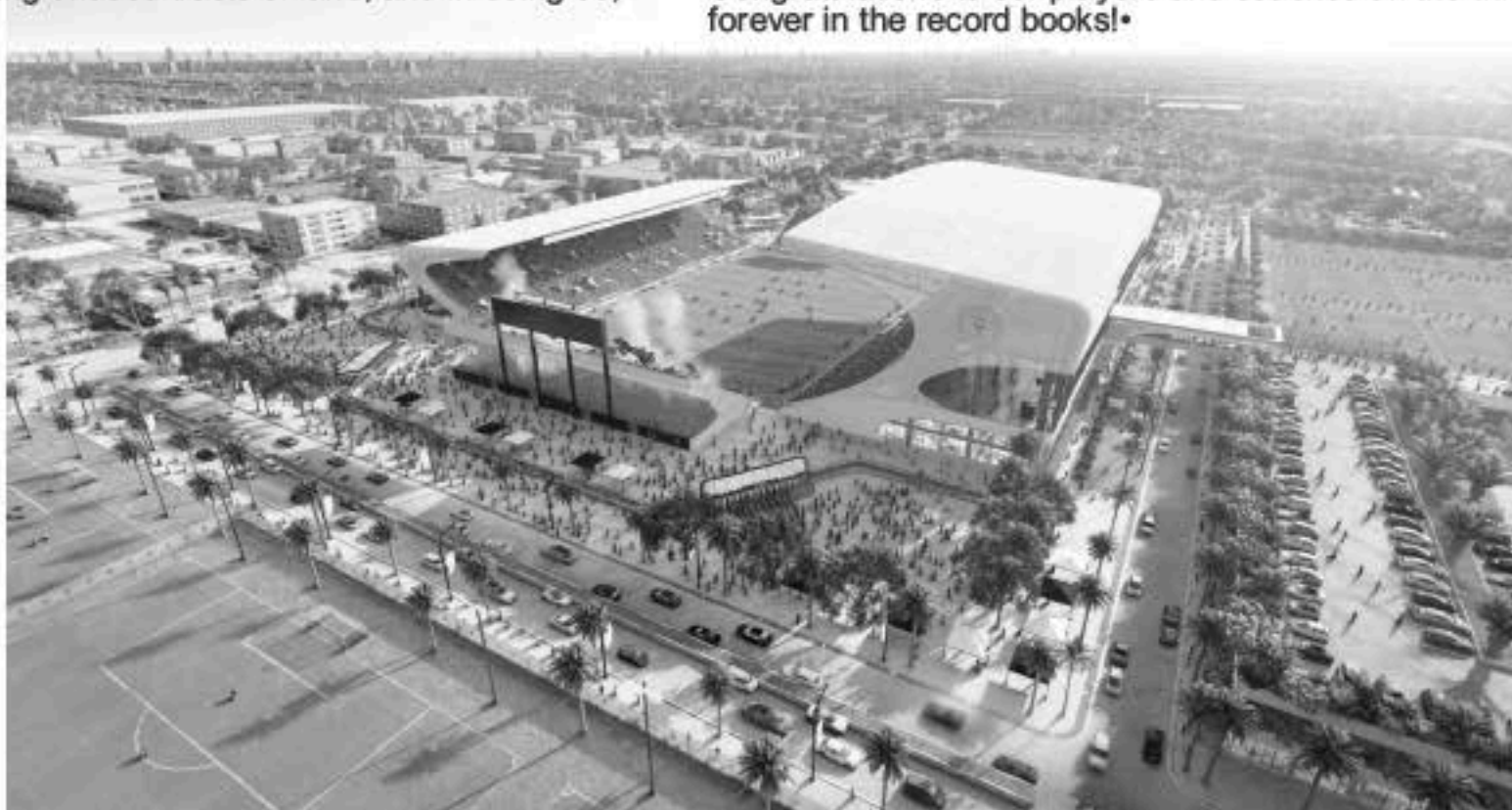
There was a large contingent of students and fans that made the trip to Lakeland to support Coach Ehren Wallhoff and the team. Those who remained in school were able to view the game at an all-school "watch party" in the Kennedy Fellowship Hall.

It was fitting that the Lions were led yesterday by seniors, Sam Griffin and Chase Johnston. Sam tallied 24 points to lead the team and Chase totaled 19. Freshman Ben Middlebrooks contributed 18 points on perfect 8 for 8 shooting.

The Lions finished with an amazing 25-4 record after a rigorous regular season schedule. The season also included extraordinary accomplishments, such as Chase Johnston surpassing the national record for total three-pointers made in a career and Sam Griffin breaking the 1,000 point mark for his career.

Coach Wallhoff's program has indeed reached "dynasty" status! Congratulations to our players and coaches on the three-peat. You are forever in the record books!•

Rendering of  
Lockhart Stadium





# EDITOR'S COMMENTARY:

## Lamar Fisher's APRIL 2019 Newsletter

By Eric Berkowitz

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

*In his April 2019 Newsletter, District 4 Broward Commissioner Lamar Fisher marvels at how Broward County's Traffic Engineering Division Management Center struggles to keep traffic moving on County and City roadways; reviews the benefits (and limits) of a Text-to-911 emergency service that was recently integrated into Broward's county-wide Emergency 911 Dispatch System; applauds the cost-saving opportunities for constituents who participate in the recent revival of Solar Co-ops in Broward County; and supports the newly launched Ride Safe Campaign at Fort Lauderdale - Hollywood International Airport, which urges travelers to avoid using unauthorized ground transportation providers, given the attendant risk for rip-offs, robberies – or worse.*

### **TEXT-TO-911: WHEN CALLING IS NOT AN OPTION**

Twelve years after mandated by Broward voters in 2002, Broward County finally implemented a Consolidated Emergency Dispatch System on October 1, 2014, as eleven unlinked call centers (i.e. public safety answering points – or PSAPs) in 31 Broward municipalities were reconstituted as 3 regional PSAPs in Coconut Creek, Sunrise and Pembroke Pines. The PSAPs use the same technology platforms and operate under common call taking and dispatch protocols, enabling each center to seamlessly manage calls from anywhere in the County. The new Regional 911 System serves 29 of Broward's 31 municipalities, as Coral Springs and Plantation opted to fund their own PSAPs with city taxes.

Text-to-911 was developed to address the communication constraints placed on certain callers by affliction or circumstance. It is especially useful for people who may be deaf, hard-of-hearing, speech impaired or if speaking aloud might prove dangerous (i.e. active shooter incidents, home invasions, domestic violence, etc.). When a Text-to-911 message is received by phone carriers that support texting services, it is sent to their text control centers which then forward the message to the appropriate 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Broward County.

To use the service, first silence the phone (or device), open the message App and enter 911 in the "TO" field. After entering your location and a brief detail of the emergency, hit "SEND" - and if possible - get to safety.

### **SOLAR POWER CO-OP IN BROWARD**

District 4 Broward Commissioner Lamar Fisher notes that Broward County expects to source 20% of its energy from renewables, although County plans for alternative energy are more extensive. In 2008, Broward County passed a resolution which establishes a community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target of 80 percent below 2007 emissions by 2050.

While installing solar panels will diminish the carbon footprint and reduce contributions to global warming and sea-level rise, most people are far more intrigued by the prospect of saving a bundle. A Solar Co-op seeks to expand the availability of less expensive solar power by cutting the initial installation costs.

In discussing how bulk purchasing will facilitate the transition to solar power, Chief Resilience Officer of

Broward County Dr. Jennifer Jurado explained, "Solar co-ops bring technical support and economies of scale through the collective purchase power of our diverse community members. All of our residents deserve the benefits that come with this investment, including dramatic energy savings on a monthly basis."

In short, a competitive bulk price for 30 panel installations is a fraction of the vendor charges for individual customers. State and federal rebates, incentives, or tax credits for solar equipment or energy efficiency improvements further mitigate the initial costs. The largest regulatory offsets are the federal renewable energy tax credits for businesses and residences.

You can start small. In fact, the most cost-effective solar energy projects are water heating systems. Solar hot water systems are inexpensive - and provide residents with a wide range of alternative configurations. Neither condos, co-ops nor HOAs can stop you. The Florida Solar Rights Act prohibits neighborhood or condo associations from barring homeowners from installing solar panels on their residences.

To install a system that will pay for itself many times over, you need to know the ropes. The informational sessions referenced by Fisher will fill the bill. Hosted by the non-profit Solar United Neighbors, the next meetings are scheduled for 6 p.m. on May 21, 2019 at the Pompano Beach Cultural Center (50 W. Atlantic Boulevard) in Pompano Beach and for 6 p.m. on May 22, 2019 at the Miramar Branch Library (2050 Civic Center Place) in Miramar. Read Commissioner Lamar Fisher's April 2019 Newsletter elsewhere in this edition. – [editor]\*





## BROWARD COMMISSIONER

# LAMAR FISHER

## APRIL 2019 UPDATE



Dear Residents,

It is an honor and privilege to be your voice and to represent you, the citizens of our coastal communities from Deerfield Beach to Fort Lauderdale. As your County Commissioner, I look forward to continuing to improve our resident's quality of life by focusing on several key issues in our community. Here are some recent headlines from around the County.

**Broward County's Traffic Engineering Division** As a new County Commissioner, I'm having the great pleasure of learning the ins and outs of County Government. One of the exciting parts of my new role is getting a behind the scenes look at the amazing work that is being done by the 6,000+ county employees in different departments and divisions through out the organization.

Most recently I had the opportunity to tour Broward County's Traffic Engineering Division Management Center and Operations Building. I was amazed to learn about the County's role in signal coordination on such a large and robust traffic system. The system includes over 1,400 signalized intersections, over 28,000 signal heads, over 1,200 school zone flasher locations and 100,000's of signs and pavement markings. Traffic control devices on County and City roadways are maintained 24/7. State roadways signalization is also controlled by the County unless roadway construction projects are underway, which then reverts the signalization to State officials during the construction period and back to the County once construction is complete. The value in operating all the signals is that we have one unified and cohesive signal system across the entire County.

Most impressive is that approximately 90% of trouble calls are responded to in less than 1 hour by County's dedicated and talented personnel. We often talk about the equipment and technology but forget about the people that operate and maintain the system. Broward County has the most dedicated and talented field personnel you can find. They work hard every day, in traffic – in the heat and humidity and that shows with the superb response times!

**Text to 911** On Tuesday, April 2, Broward County officially launched the new Text-to-911 emergency service. Text-to-911 allows you to send text messages to local 911 dispatch centers during an emergency, when calling is NOT an option. Text-to-911 is another tool for people to get help in a life-threatening emergency. It is not a substitute for calling 911 and is designed to help the hearing and speech impaired who may not be able to communicate by calling 911, or anyone who fears they'll put themselves in danger by speaking out loud. Below are several important factors to know before using the new text to 911 service.

- Call if you can, text only if you can't.
- Know your exact location.
- Cell phone providers only offer text messaging as a "best efforts service;" delivery of text messages are not guaranteed, can be delayed by your carrier and may not be received in a timely manner.
- DO NOT send photos, videos, or emoji's.
- Keep text messages plain and easy to understand - no slang or abbreviations.
- Texts to 911 have a 160-character limit for a single text.
- The Text-to-911 system currently processes texts in English; language translation is currently not available.
- You must have text messaging included on your wireless phone plan.
- If texting to 911 is not available in your area, your phone carrier will send you a message requesting that you make a voice call to 911.
- Text-to-911 is not a social media app. It is to be used for EMERGENCIES only.
- Misuse of 911 can result in criminal charges, fines, and jail time.

**Broward County Solar Co-op** Broward County has formed a solar co-op which saves residents money and makes going solar much easier with the help of nonprofit, Solar United Neighbors. Solar United Neighbors expands resident's access to solar by educating them about the benefits of distributed solar energy, helping them organize group solar installations, and strengthening Florida solar policies and its community of solar supporters. Broward County supports the Solar Co-op as one of its strategies for reaching its goal of sourcing 20% of its energy from renewables and reducing emissions to mitigate climate change impacts. Residents can visit one of the informational session being held around the County for more information, please visit <http://www.broward.org/Climate/Pages/GoSolar.aspx> for a list of these informational sessions and other resources.

**FLL Update** Broward County's Fort Lauderdale Airport (FLL) has recently launched a Ride Safe Campaign to remind travelers to make smart decisions and not risky ones when considering the options for ground transportation at FLL. Unauthorized transportation providers are being put on notice to cease or desist from soliciting passengers on the curb, which is an illegal activity at the airport. In addition to posting Ride Safe messaging in baggage claim areas and on flight information display system screens in the terminals, we're also promoting the campaign via social media and conducting undercover stings to identify offenders.

For your safety and the security of your personal belongings, remember to always visit the Ground Transportation desk in baggage claim at each terminal or speak with uniformed airport personnel at designated curbside stands to find a legitimate provider. For more FLL News please visit <http://www.broward.org/airport>.

Once again, I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your County Commissioner. Please sign up at [Broward.org/Commission/District4](http://Broward.org/Commission/District4) to receive email updates from our office. You can also follow me on Twitter and like my Facebook page. 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 [LFisher@broward.org](mailto:LFisher@broward.org).

Best regards,

Lamar P. Fisher  
County Commissioner  
District 4



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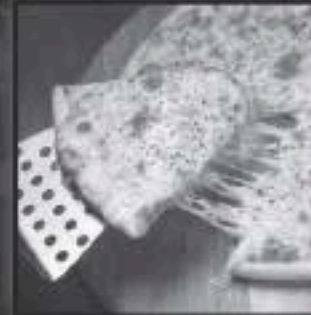
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# JUNE/JULY

| SUN   | MON   | TUE  | WED   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>9</b> Intergalactic Bead & Jewelry Show<br>South Florida Fair Grounds<br>Info: 1-888-729-6904<br><br>Dig The Beach Volleyball Fort Lauderdale<br>Fort Lauderdale Beach<br>(1100 Seabreeze Blvd.)<br>7 a.m. to 6 p.m.<br>Info: 561-241-3801 | <b>10</b><br><br><br>Director's Book Club<br>Broward County Library - South Regional<br>(Pembroke Pines)<br>2 to 4 p.m.<br>Info: 954-201-8840   | <b>11</b><br><br>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk<br>Museum of Discovery and Science<br>9 p.m. to 1 a.m.<br>Tix.: 954-713-0930<br><br>A Bronx Tale: The Musical<br>(Through 6/23)<br>Au-Rene Theater<br>Tix. and Info: ticketmaster.com | <b>12</b><br><br><br>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk<br>Museum of Discovery and Science<br>9 p.m. to 1 a.m.<br>Tix.: 954-713-0930   |
| <b>16</b> Father's Day Special<br>Bonnet House Museum & Gardens<br>9 a.m. to 4 p.m.<br>Info: 954-563-5393<br><br>Father's Day FREE LauderAle Brewery Cruise<br>LauderAle Brewery (3305 SE 14th Ave.)<br>Noon to 3 p.m.<br>Info: 954-675-8679  | <b>17</b> Full Moon Drum Circle<br>ArtsPark at Youngs Circle<br>7 to 9 p.m.<br>Info: 954-926-0204<br><br>Commissioner Heather Moraitis:<br>Pre-Agenda Meeting<br>BHIP AUD A&B, 6 p.m.<br>Info: 954-828-5033 | <b>18</b><br><br>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk<br>Museum of Discovery and Science<br>9 p.m. to 1 a.m.<br>Tix.: 954-713-0930<br><br>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting<br>City Hall, 6 p.m.                                      | <b>19</b> BINGO<br>Regency South Party Room<br>7 p.m.<br>Info: 954-547-4063<br><br>Juneteenth Celebration<br>Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, Delray<br>5 to 9 p.m.<br>Info: 561-279-8883  |
| <b>23</b> Intergalactic Bead & Jewelry Show<br>Emma Lou Olson Civic Center<br>Info: 1-888-729-6904<br><br>Dig The Beach Volleyball Pompano Beach<br>Pompano Beach<br>(222 N Pompano Beach Blvd.)<br>7 a.m. to 6 p.m.<br>Info: 561-241-3801    | <b>24</b><br><br><br>Commissioner Heather Moraitis:<br>Pre-Agenda Meeting<br>BHIP AUD A&B, 6 p.m.<br>Info: 954-828-5033   | <b>25</b><br><br><br>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk<br>Museum of Discovery and Science<br>9 p.m. to 1 a.m.<br>Tix.: 954-713-0930  | <b>26</b> BINGO<br>Regency South Party Room<br>7 p.m.<br>Info: 954-547-4063<br><br>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk<br>Museum of Discovery and Science<br>9 p.m. to 1 a.m.<br>Tix.: 954-713-0930 |
| <b>30</b><br><br><br>Fort Lauderdale Neighbor Day<br>NSU Art Museum<br>Noon to 5 p.m.   | <b>1</b><br><br><br>Commissioner Heather Moraitis:<br>Pre-Agenda Meeting<br>BHIP AUD A&B, 6 p.m.<br>Info: 954-828-5033  | <b>2</b><br><br>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk<br>Museum of Discovery and Science<br>9 p.m. to 1 a.m.<br>Tix.: 954-713-0930<br><br>Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting<br>City Hall, 6 p.m.                                       | <b>3</b> BINGO<br>Regency South Party Room<br>7 p.m.<br>Info: 954-547-4063<br><br>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk<br>Museum of Discovery and Science<br>9 p.m. to 1 a.m.<br>Tix.: 954-713-0930  |
| <b>7</b><br><br><br>SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch<br>Riverwalk<br>11 a.m. to 2 p.m.<br>Info: 954-396-3622   | <b>8</b><br><br><br>Commissioner Heather Moraitis:<br>Pre-Agenda Meeting<br>BHIP AUD A&B, 6 p.m.<br>Info: 954-828-5033  | <b>9</b><br><br><br>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk<br>Museum of Discovery and Science<br>9 p.m. to 1 a.m.<br>Tix.: 954-713-0930   | <b>10</b> BINGO<br>Regency South Party Room<br>7 p.m.<br>Info: 954-547-4063<br><br>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk<br>Museum of Discovery and Science<br>9 p.m. to 1 a.m.<br>Tix.: 954-713-0930 |

JUNE 14: Summer Nights, Jaco Pastorius Park, Movie: Cars 3, 6:30 to 10 p.m., Info: 954-630-4507  
 JUNE 14: Sunset Kayak Tour, Park and Ocean, 4:30 to 6:15 p.m., Info: 954-563-2900  
 JUNE 15: Late Night & Dino Safari, Flamingo Gardens, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Info: 954-473-2955 x125  
 JUNE 20: HITOMI SAITO Artist Reception at Las Olas Capital Arts, 6 to 9 p.m., Info: LasOlasCapitalArts.com  
 JUNE 20: Art Stroll, Green Turtle Plaza, 5 to 8 p.m., Info: 954-909-2200  
 JUNE 21: Carter Park Jamz, Joseph C. Carter Park, Movie: Relaxation Band (Old School), 7 to 10 p.m., Info: 954-828-5363  
 JUNE 23: Caribbean Village Festival, Miramar Regional Park Amphitheater, 1 to 10 p.m., Info: 754-209-9928  
 JUNE 28: Romeo & Juliet, Pompano Beach Cultural Center, 1 p.m., and 7 p.m., Info. and Tix.: 954-545-7800  
 JULY 4: Lauderdale-by-the-Sea July 4th Events and Fireworks, El Prado Park, Info: 954-640-4210  
 JULY 4: Hollywood Beach Fourth of July Celebration, Hollywood Beach, 2 to 10 p.m., Info: 954-921-3404  
 JULY 4: Old Fashioned Fourth & BBQ, Flamingo Gardens, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Info: 954-473-2955 x125  
 JULY 4-7: Florida Supercon, Miami Beach Convention Center, Info: 800-598-1055  
 JULY 6: FlockFest, Sebastian Street Beach at A1A, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Info: 214-773-9098



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## THE FUN CONTINUES!

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>13</b></p> <p>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk<br/>Museum of Discovery and Science<br/>9 p.m. to 1 a.m.<br/>Tix: 954-713-0930</p> <p>BYOB PAINTING CLASS - MYSTERY PAINTING<br/>902 N. Flagler Drive<br/>7 to 9 p.m.<br/>Info: artsandcraftsocialclub.com/</p> | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>Friday Night SoundWaves<br/>Performer: All Star Soul Band<br/>Las Olas &amp; A1A<br/>6 to 9 p.m.<br/>Info: fridaynightsoundwaves.com</p> <p>Bank of America Starlight Musicals<br/>Performer: Breeze (Classic Rock)<br/>Holiday Park, 7 to 10 p.m.<br/>Info: 954-828-5363</p>                       | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>Father's Day Fishing Tournament<br/>Royal Palm Park<br/>7 to 10 a.m.<br/>Info: 954-630-4507</p> <p>Stonewall Parade &amp; Street Festival<br/>Wilton Drive in Wilton Manors<br/>3 to 11 p.m.<br/>Info: 754-200-2979, Ext 602</p>  |
| <p><b>20</b></p> <p>JA Fellows Rosé Soirée<br/>Pelican Grande Beach Resort<br/>4:30 to 6:30 p.m.<br/>Info: 954-979-7108</p> <p>G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Meeting<br/>Nick's Italian Restaurant<br/>11 a.m.</p>  | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Friday Night SoundWaves<br/>Performer: Joel DaSilva &amp; Friends<br/>Las Olas &amp; A1A<br/>6 to 9 p.m.<br/>Info: fridaynightsoundwaves.com</p> <p>Bank of America Starlight Musicals<br/>Performer: Valerie Tyson Band (R&amp;B / Soul)<br/>Holiday Park, 7 to 10 p.m.<br/>Info: 954-828-5363</p> | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>Extreme Kayak Fishing Summer SLAM Series<br/>Leg One<br/>222 South Pompano Beach Blvd., Pompano<br/>Beach Fishing Pier, and Public Beach<br/>10 a.m. to 5 p.m.<br/>Info: joe@extremekayakfishing.com</p>                          |
| <p><b>27</b></p> <p>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk<br/>Museum of Discovery and Science<br/>9 p.m. to 1 a.m.<br/>Tix: 954-713-0930</p>  | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Friday Night SoundWaves<br/>Performer: Alex DiLeo<br/>Las Olas &amp; A1A<br/>6 to 9 p.m.<br/>Info: fridaynightsoundwaves.com</p> <p>Bank of America Starlight Musicals<br/>Performer: Joey Gilmore Band (Blues)<br/>Holiday Park, 7 to 10 p.m.<br/>Info: 954-828-5363</p>                           | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>Martina McBride<br/>Seminole Casino<br/>8 to 10 p.m.<br/>Info: 954-977-6700</p>   |
| <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Family Celebration and Fireworks Show<br/>Fort Lauderdale Beach<br/>12:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Family Activities, DJ Music<br/>&amp; Games<br/>4 p.m.: Live Music &amp; Entertainment<br/>9 to 9:30 p.m.: Fireworks!!!<br/>Info: 954-396-3622</p> | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Friday Night SoundWaves<br/>Performer: Shane Duncan<br/>Las Olas &amp; A1A<br/>6 to 9 p.m.<br/>Info: fridaynightsoundwaves.com</p> <p>Bank of America Starlight Musicals<br/>Performer: N2Nation (Motown)<br/>Holiday Park, 7 to 10 p.m.<br/>Info: 954-828-5363</p>                                  | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>City Bikes Independence Day Sprint<br/>Triathlon   Duathlon<br/>Tradewinds Park, Coconut Creek<br/>6:45 a.m.<br/>Info: 954-213-6699</p> <p>North Beach Art Walk<br/>Broward Art Guild<br/>7 to 11 p.m.<br/>Info: 954-537-3370</p>  |
| <p><b>11</b></p> <p>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk<br/>Museum of Discovery and Science<br/>9 p.m. to 1 a.m.<br/>Tix: 954-713-0930</p>  | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>Bank of America Starlight Musicals<br/>Performer: Samantha Russell Band (Country)<br/>Holiday Park, 7 to 10 p.m.<br/>Info: 954-828-5363</p>   | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>Boca Burger Battle<br/>Sanborn Square Park, Boca<br/>6 to 10 p.m.<br/>Info: 561-338-7594</p> <p>Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics<br/>Drop-off Events<br/>Mills Pond Park<br/>9 a.m. to 2 p.m.<br/>Info: 954-828-8000</p> |

JULY 13 - 14

**The International Mango Festival**  
Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami  
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Tix: [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

JULY 19

**Air Supply**  
Seminole Casino Coconut Creek  
8 p.m.  
Tix and Info.: [www.fairchildgarden.org/](http://www.fairchildgarden.org/)

JULY 23 - 27

**BugFes-By-The-Sea**  
Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami  
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Tix and Info.: [www.fairchildgarden.org/](http://www.fairchildgarden.org/)

JULY 24 - AUGUST 4

**Cirque Du Soleil - Corteo**  
BB&T Center  
Tix and Info.: <http://bbt.centersunrise.org>

**FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS, GO TO THE CALENDAR AT [WWW.GALTMILE.COM](http://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 Hub, 300 S. Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd., 7 to 11 a.m., Info: 954-709-3197

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](http://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

Fridays (through May): Friday Night Music, El Mar Drive between Village Grille/Pump and 101 Ocean, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., Info: [www.lbtsevents.com](http://www.lbtsevents.com)

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

Tuesday & Thursdays (Through April): Seaside Yoga and Meditation, El Prado Park, 7 to 8 a.m., Info: 954-850-7361 (weather permitting)



# EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

## State Rep. Chip LaMarca's APRIL 2019 Newsletter

By Eric Berkowitz

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

*In his late-session legislative updates, District 93 Statehouse Representative Chip LaMarca's April message distinguishes between Vacation Rental bills that empower local governments to protect home values and those that destroy residential communities. In May, LaMarca announces annually enacted Sales Tax Holiday events that offer back-to-school savings or tax-free hurricane preparedness supplies; notes the funding of clean water standards, Everglades Restoration, Beach Renourishment and other critical environmental priorities long neglected by the previous administration; and applauds passage of a comprehensive firefighter cancer benefits program that will help plug a nationwide gap in the safety net of afflicted firefighters.*

### VACATION RENTALS DILEMMA

*While short-term vacation rentals can be a win-win for visiting tourists and local landlords, if they aren't properly regulated, they can undermine the character (and home values) in a Condominium, Cooperative, or Homeowner Association, increase the tax burden on their residents, and endanger prospective tenants. While few homeowners will complain if a nice family rents the property next door for the season, they will understandably object if the same property is used by a slime ball to set up a Meth Lab.*

*The vacation rental market has long contributed to the State's tourism economy, although sea changes during the past decade triggered a growing controversy. When upside down mortgages left families insolvent during the recession, speculators who swooped in to graze on hundreds of thousands of foreclosed homes either flipped selected properties or repeatedly rented them out. It was no coincidence that these rentals expanded epidemically near popular vacation sites like Orlando and along coastal tourism Meccas like Miami and Fort Lauderdale. This overnight proliferation of homes in residential neighborhoods that functionally serve as flop houses (commercial properties) set the stage for a regulatory tug-of-war in Tallahassee.*

*Some of the new landlords applied for state and local lodging licenses although many did not. Local taxes collected from tourists by hotels, bed & breakfasts or vacation rentals support the maintenance of roads & infrastructure - and help fund local public services (i.e. police, fire, EMS, etc.) - which are used by millions of visiting tourists each year. Since these expenses are otherwise funded with taxpayer dollars, when landlords who operate functionally commercial properties fail to collect sales and "tourism" taxes (or pocket those revenues), you pay the resulting shortfall.*

### ERASING LOCAL LAWS

*Zoning laws ordinarily protect home values by preserving the character of residential neighborhoods; and prohibiting homeowners from turning adjacent properties - or condominium / cooperative units - into industrial or commercial venues. In contrast, vacation rental advocates claim that homeowners have the right to use their properties as they see fit, even if it morphs thriving neighborhoods into ghost towns. By operating transient motels as vacation rentals, speculators dodge compliance with these zoning*

*laws to make a fast buck - at the expense of nearby home values.*

*While Florida lawmakers struggled to balance the right of investors to turn a profit, the right of association homeowners to protect their home values and residential character, and the right of local governments to regulate local businesses - the playing field was turned on its head by the emergence of Airbnb, HomeAway and other "sharing" services that enable any homeowner to list a property, a spare bedroom - or a damp mattress on the garage floor - on the internet. Since the listing companies' online rental transactions are nearly impossible to track, speculators that operate "below the radar" often ignore licensing requirements and dodge compliance with community association rules and local laws - frustrating local governments - and taxpayers forced to pick up the fiscal slack.*

### BUYING BLOCKBUSTING LAWMAKERS

*The \$38 billion vacation rental goliath Airbnb dispatched lobbyists and purchased lawmakers in key markets to shield its business model from meddlesome local regulations. Amid a blizzard of Airbnb legal actions against Florida jurisdictions perceived as "uncooperative", former Statehouse Representative Michael Horner (R - Kissimmee) spearheaded company plans to mute local governments, filing House Bill 883.*

*Enacted on June 2, 2011, the law preempted cities and counties from prohibiting or regulating short term rentals. As a concession to millions of angry homeowners and the Florida League of Cities, Horner agreed to grandfather local regulations adopted prior to June 1, 2011. Horner later resigned following discovery of his name on the client list of an Orange County brothel.*

*Following a statewide outcry by local governments, in 2014, the legislature passed Senate Bill 356, which eased the broad state preemption on regulation of vacation rentals, allowing local governments to regulate short-term rentals through life safety and building codes, but Section 509.032(7), Florida Statutes, preserved the prohibition on local governments against regulating the duration and frequency of these rentals, or enforcing zoning laws that bar the commercialization of residential neighborhoods - and community associations.*

### 2019 BAD BILLS

*Focused on obliterating any threat to its bottom line, AirBNB spends 100s of \$millions in Florida jurisdictions to quash local laws that protect the rights of its residents. Early each year, AirBNB goes shopping in Tallahassee. In 2019, they bought Statehouse Representative James "J.W." Grant (R - Port Charlotte) and Florida Senators David Simmons (R - Seminole) and Manny Diaz, Jr. (R - Hialeah), who all filed bills to eliminate the limited rights of local governments to regulate vacation rentals. Grant filed House Bill 987, Diaz sponsored Senate Bill 824 and Simmons filed two bills on behalf of AirBNB - Senate Bills 812 and 814.*

*On the bright side, since randomly turning homes into flop joints would also endanger lawmakers' families, these bills all died on the calendar. Less encouraging is the fact that AirBNB will once again go shopping in December, and buy more lawmakers to refile a 2020 version of their mercenary legislation, Read Rep. Chip LaMarca's April and May 2019 updates elsewhere in this edition. - [editor]\**





Serving District 93

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE Chip LaMarca

## APRIL 2019 UPDATE

### Vacation Rentals

I filed HB 1129 in order to provide greater accountability and transparency for the short-term rentals industry, by expanding the definition of "hosting platform". It would require the license number to be displayed in all advertising rentals, and list information in regards to the short-term rental property. This bill will combat the unlicensed commercial operators from developing in the community. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation would collect information relating to booking short-term rentals, along with informing the city where the property resides, in order to protect our communities from commercial interests.

However HB 987, in regards to vacation rentals, does not hold the same level of accountability that the State of Florida needs. I am not in support of this bill.

### May 17, 2019

The 2019 Legislative Session had concluded, and my first as your State Representative, I wanted to update you on several important legislative items.

Once again, the Florida House delivered for Florida's families by passing over \$121 million in broad-based tax cuts. Working closely with our Senate partners, we fulfilled our commitment to bring meaningful tax relief to Florida's families and small businesses.

### Sales Tax Holidays

The Legislature approved another Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday from August 2-6, 2019 where clothing priced \$60 or less, school supplies \$15 or less, and computers and accessories priced \$1,000 or less per item and purchased for personal use will be exempt from state and local sales tax. The tax package also called for another 7-day Hurricane Sales Tax Holiday where sales taxes will be waived for many disaster preparedness supplies including flashlights, portable generators, and batteries from May 31 – June 6, 2019.

### Environmental Priorities

I am proud of the House's commitment, along with the Governor, to provide real environmental funding. Our balanced state budget funds a number of critical environmental priorities, including \$686.8 million dedicated to water quality and protection. \$50 million is dedicated for water storage and treatment projects North of Lake Okeechobee, along with funded research that will help prevent harmful algae and red tide by creating the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative. Also, we were successful in receiving \$40 million in reoccurring annual statewide beach nourishment funding.

### Firefighter Benefits Bill

This Legislature was able to accomplish what none other was able since 2004 – pass a comprehensive firefighter cancer benefits program. Nationwide, 70% of firefighter line-of-duty deaths in 2016, was cancer-related. This bill grants certain benefits to a firefighter upon receiving a diagnosis of cancer. This is a great victory for our brave men and women who protect and serve our communities every day and I was proud to be a cosponsor and vocal advocate of this great legislation.

Last week, I had the honor of attending the Firefighter Benefits Bill signing in Palm Beach with the Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis. As the Statewide Fire Marshall, CFO Patronis was the biggest advocate for getting this important bill passed. Also in attendance, was former CFO Jeff Atwater who originally filled this bill in 2004 as a state Senator from Palm Beach.

As always, it is an honor to serve you as your State Representative in Tallahassee.

Best Wishes,

Representative Chip LaMarca  
Florida House District 93



Governor Signs Firefighter Cancer Bill





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A black and white photograph of a roll of paper, likely a blueprint, with architectural drawings and text. A pen is resting on the roll. The background is a dark, semi-transparent banner.

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Learn more at [www.symphonywaterways.com](http://www.symphonywaterways.com)

Celebrating

## FLAG DAY

Entertainment by Tony!

Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>  
@ 4:00pm

RSVP to (754) 212-1870

SYMPHONY AT THE WATERWAYS | 3001 E. Oakland Park Blvd | Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306

ALF #12940



# Market Share Report: Top Office

Published: March 2019  
Location: Broward County  
Date Range: 3/1/2018 - 2/28/2019  
Price Range: \$0 - No Limit  
Source: Trendgraphix, Inc.



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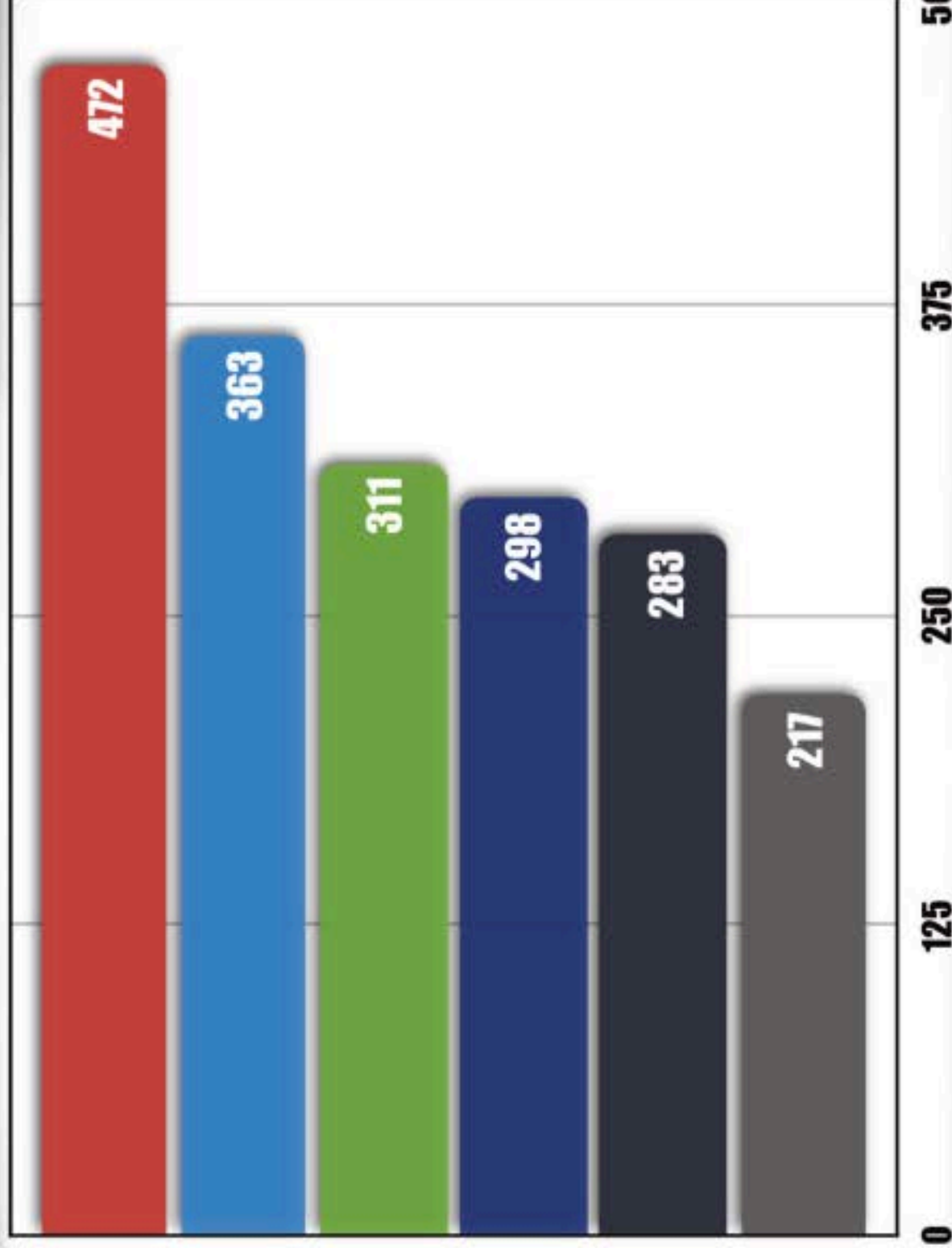
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