



Vice Mayor Heather Moraitis



2022 City Commission Priorities

I love gathering every year with the City Commission for our annual goal-setting workshop at the historic Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club. We are committed to preserving public places and building new parks. I will continue to advocate for a 20 acre park at Lockhart, neighborhood parks, and the elevated park next to the Beach Community Center. Public safety, Infrastructure, transportation, traffic, resiliency, homelessness, historic preservation, and building a diverse economy are top priorities in 2022.

Sincerely,



Florida League of Cities Action Days in Tallahassee (FLC)

The Florida League of Cities (floridaleagueofcities.com) hosted it's annual Legislative Action Days in Tallahassee to champion local issues. I was in Tallahassee for the action days, with hundreds of other city elected officials from around the state, advocating for important issues that will affect our city and residents. Please review the issues (see below) that are being voted on during the final few weeks of session. Please keep following me on Facebook to receive action alerts!



City of Hollywood Commissioner Traci Callari, Lauderdale Lakes Commissioner Beverly Williams, Parkland Commissioner Bob Mayersohn and Vice Mayor Moraitis at the FLC Board Meeting.



Broward County elected officials meet with Florida House of Representative Felicia Simone Robinson to discuss legislative priorities.



Broward County elected officials meet with Senator Gary Farmer to discuss legislative priorities.



The Department of Education's Senior Chancellor Henry Mack and Vice Mayor Moraitis discuss career technical training programs.

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

SUPPORT HB 105 (Fine) and SB 224 (Gruters)
Summary: HB 105 and SB 224 authorize cities and counties to restrict smoking within the boundaries of any public beach or park they own.

- We support these bills because they would restore local decision-making and reverse the current smoking preemption on cities.

TREE PROTECTION

SUPPORT SB 518 (Brodeur) and HB 1555 (McClain)
Summary: SB 518 and HB 1555 amend current law provisions that prohibit local governments from requiring permits for the removal of "dangerous" trees on residential property.

- We support these bills because they would close loopholes and create standards that clarify the process for the removal of "dangerous" trees on residential property. Of note: current law exemptions from municipal tree ordinances have caused litigation and abuses, including the clear-cutting of land pre-development and the removal of healthy trees that present little, if any, risk to persons or structures.

CYBERSECURITY ASSISTANCE

SUPPORT HB 7055 (Giallombardo)
Summary: HB 7055 would appropriate \$37 million to the Florida Center for Cybersecurity to provide cybersecurity training for local government employees as well as another \$30 million for a grant program that would provide cybersecurity infrastructure and technical assistance to cities and counties. It also requires local governments to adopt cybersecurity standards, outlines reporting requirements for cyber and ransomware incidents and prohibits local governments from paying ransom demands.

- We support this bill because cyberthreats are only increasing, and this legislation would provide additional resources for cities to mitigate risk.

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

CS/SB 974 (Gruters) – Oppose Amendment that Increases Limits (Barcode 368554)
Summary: CS/SB 974 increases the limit to \$300,000 per claim and \$400,000 per incident. Current law sets the statutory limits at \$200,000 per claim and \$300,000 per incident.

- We oppose the amendment that would increase the limits to \$1 million per claim and \$3 million per incident, which are unreasonably high.

OPPOSE CS/HB 985 (Beltran)

Summary: CS/HB 985 increases the limit to \$1 million per claim and no per-incident limit.

- We oppose unreasonably high increases in sovereign immunity limits because it would create a financial hardship for cities, significantly increase insurance premiums and become an additional burden on taxpayers.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

OPPOSE CS/HB 325 (Fischer)
Summary: CS/HB 325 limits what local governments can regulate regarding short-term rentals, particularly for cities that do not currently have a registration program.

- We oppose this bill because it effectively prohibits cities from adopting a registration program if they do not have one already.
- We oppose this bill because it puts significant new responsibilities on the Department of Business and Professional Regulation with no meaningful enforcement.
- We oppose this bill because cities need more tools to regulate short-term rentals, not fewer.

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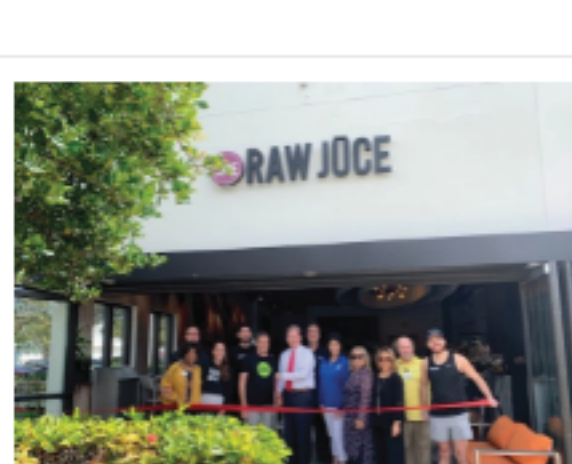
Out and About in the Community



It was so great to celebrate at the opening of Morea, located at 701 North Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard. Morea's unique menu is bursting with fresh Mediterranean fare paired with dynamic cocktails and impressive wines. Located in the Paramount building, the patio offers impeccable views which makes for an amazing dinner atmosphere.



The Fort Lauderdale Navy League's annual Seven Seas Gala celebrated the sea services including the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and Sea Cadets. George (USNA 92') and I met Colonel James McDonough, USMC Commandant of Midshipmen, US Naval Academy (USNA), and his lovely wife Kim at the Gala. We also spent time with Lieutenant Commander Crystal McFadden Combat Systems Officer, PCU Fort Lauderdale (LPD 28) and some of the crew from the USS Fort Lauderdale. The city can't wait to commission the USS Fort Lauderdale in 2022!



RAW JUCE located at 1904 N Federal Highway is now open! RAW Juce (purerawjuice.com) has a reputation for going the extra mile to provide their customers with the highest quality and best organic ingredients in the industry. We look forward to this new, healthy addition in our city!



The Broward Education Foundation's mobile delivery team dropped off a special gift for Broward County Public School teachers and counselors at Floranada Elementary School in District 1. Each teacher received a Yoobi box chock full of school and art supplies, including a variety of pens, glue, glue sticks, Lysol wipes and disinfectant spray. 48 boxes, enough for every classroom, were delivered, totaling almost \$13,000 in value.



The City of Fort Lauderdale took the historic step to memorialize Ruben Stycor, who was lynched in 1935. We dedicate the section of Davie Boulevard from I-95 to US 441 after him, which is near where the horrific events occurred. This memorial will serve as a daily reminder of the progress we've made over the past 87 years and of how far we still have to go.



The City Commission recognized BSA Nautical Troop 33 in Fort Lauderdale! This is an all-female unit of BSA (formerly Boys Scouts of America) and they are the FIRST Nautical Female Scout Troop in the world! This group is led by longtime Fort Lauderdale resident, Quinn Goodchild. As a Nautical Troop in Fort Lauderdale, the girls focus on high-audience water related activities like boating, fishing, scuba diving and canoeing. It was wonderful to honor such an amazing group of young ladies and we will look forward to hearing about their upcoming hike at the Philmont Scout Ranch in the mountains of New Mexico this summer!

To discuss any issues in your neighborhood, please join our District 1 meeting. Please contact District 1 Assistant **Melissa Whiddon**

mwhiddon@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-5033, for any questions or to schedule an appointment.

STAY CONNECTED



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