

**OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
JOINT WORKSHOP WITH
PALM BEACH COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

JANUARY 12, 2023

**THURSDAY
9:30 A.M.**

**ELS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
JUPITER, FLORIDA**

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION (DELEGATION) MEMBERS:

State Senator Tina Polsky, Chair
State Senator Gayle Harrell, Vice Chair
State Senator Lori Berman
State Representative Mike Caruso
State Representative Joseph Casello
State Representative Jervonte Edmonds
State Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman
State Senator Bobby Powell Jr.
State Representative Rick Roth
State Representative David Silvers
State Representative Kelly Skidmore
State Representative Emily Slosberg
State Representative John Snyder
State Representative Katherine Waldron

LEAGUE OF CITIES (LEAGUE) MEMBERS:

Dan Comerford, Mayor, Jupiter Inlet Colony
Shirley Johnson, Commissioner, City of Delray Beach
JohnPaul O'Connor, Mayor, City of Westlake
Richard Radcliffe, League Executive Director
Chelsea Reed, Mayor, City of Palm Beach Gardens
Paul Shalhoub, Mayor, Lake Clarke Shores
Molly Young, Mayor, Village of Tequesta

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:

Genaya Mercado, Delegation Aide, Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Victoria Nowlan, Executive Director, Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE STAFF PRESENT:

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk
Jillian Zalewska, Deputy Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rep. Roth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME REMARKS

(CLERK'S NOTE: Item III.D was taken up at this time.)

D. Legislative Delegation Member Introductions

(CLERK'S NOTE: Self-introductions took place at this time.)

A. Sen. Tina Polsky, Chair, Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

B. Vice Mayor Lawrence Gordon, President, Palm Beach County League of Cities

Mr. Gordon, Vice Mayor of Haverhill, made brief introductory remarks and invited the League of Cities (League) members to introduce themselves.

C. League Board Member Introductions

(CLERK'S NOTE: Self-introductions took place at this time.)

IV. PALM BEACH COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

A. Palm Beach County League of Cities 2023 Legislative Agenda Lawrence Gordon, League President Richard Radcliffe, Executive Director

Mr. Gordon stated the League's support for legislation regarding the utilization of monies from the Sadowski state and local housing trust funds. He discussed population growth in Palm Beach County and the high cost of housing related to the average income in the area.

Ms. Johnson discussed concerns about short-term rentals and provided information about a State law passed in 2011 that prevented the enactment of new local ordinances regulating such rentals. She stated that the League held the following positions:

- support for legislation restoring authority to local governments for the regulation of short-term rental properties as necessary for quality of life, public safety, and a fair lodging marketplace;

- support for legislation clarifying that existing, grandfathered municipal short-term rental ordinances could be amended without penalty; and
- opposition to legislation preempting municipal authority related to regulation of short-term rental properties.

Ms. Reed discussed issues surrounding mobility and transportation. She stated that the League supported legislation that defined and clarified mobility plans to provide a clear and concise regulatory framework for Florida cities to acquire, construct, and implement both traditional and alternative modes of transportation. She explained that the proposed legislation would accomplish the following three objectives:

- prohibit the imposition of a transportation or road impact fee within a designated area, eliminating double fees for developers;
- mitigate the transportation impacts of development; and
- within a mobility plan area, limit the right to impose mobility fees to the local government issuing the development's building permits.

Ms. Reed provided further information about the benefits of the mobility plan legislation.

Mr. Comerford discussed the League's legislative priorities regarding water, watersheds, and the need for a unified program. He stated that the League supported legislation that accomplished the following:

- establishment of a statewide, coordinated planning and prioritization approach to the water resource investments that funded Florida's current and projected water needs in an equitable manner; and
- authorization of comprehensive watershed management projects to qualify for funding under the State water protection and sustainability trust fund.

He noted that the programs addressed water supply, water storage, and wastewater management.

Mr. Shalhoub spoke about the legislative priority regarding property tax protection. He said that the League supported legislation that would maintain an equitable property tax system while preserving a municipality's ability to fund public infrastructure, police, fire, emergency services, and other essential services. The League's statement noted that any further erosions or exemptions from the property tax structure would unfairly shift the tax burden to the business community, renters, and others.

Mr. O'Connor discussed the following legislative priorities regarding transportation funding:

- support for legislation directing the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to provide financial assistance and incentives to facilitate the development and implementation of multimodal transportation plans that would optimize different modes of combined transport and address municipal transportation demands; and
- support for identification of additional transportation revenue sources to fund innovative infrastructure and transit projects to meet the surging transportation demands driven by population growth throughout Florida.

Ms. Young explained the League's enterprise fund transfer priority.

Mr. Gordon invited questions and comments from the Delegation.

Rep. Roth discussed legislation that would increase funding for affordable housing. He explained that approximately 48 percent of Sadowski funds were allocated to affordable housing and said that the current formula should be changed to increase that percentage.

Sen. Harrell inquired if the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) agreed with the mobility proposals presented by Ms. Reed.

Ms. Reed agreed that collaboration was necessary and said that she was not aware of the FAC's position.

Sen. Harrell said that ideas were needed regarding funding for roads and mobility. She also asked the League to support Legacy Florida 2.0 legislation, which would fund Indian River restoration.

Sen. Powell discussed the following items:

- affordable housing concerns and the allocation of Sadowski funds;
- regulation of short-term rentals and the possibility of establishing a statewide database; and
- the need for transportation solutions to facilitate east-west travel in Palm Beach County and reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.

Rep. Caruso requested the League's support for his proposed bill that would require septic tanks fifteen years or older to be serviced every five years.

Mr. Comerford expressed support for the proposal and provided details about the septic-to-sewer conversion project that had been completed in Jupiter Inlet Colony.

In response to comments from Mr. Comerford, Rep. Caruso said that the ultimate goal was conversion from septic to sewer systems.

Rep. Caruso spoke in support of transitioning to smaller from larger buses and requested additional information from Ms. Reed.

Ms. Reed spoke about the Go Glades system and said she had met with Palm Tran to discuss implementation of mobility-on-demand in Palm Beach Gardens.

Sen. Berman invited suggestions from the League regarding a bill she was working on to address changes in funding allocations for affordable housing. She also discussed the following:

- the Safe Water Act, which would require the Department of Health to notify cities and post signs when water was contaminated with fecal bacteria and would allow beaches to be closed; and
- the need to replace lost gas tax revenue due to the increasing use of electric vehicles.

Rep. Casello commented on the following items:

- the proliferation of short-term rentals and efforts to establish a statewide database of such properties;
- the need for alternative strategies to increase the supply of affordable housing units;
- the importance of water resources; and
- the possibility of charging a fee for electric cars that could be used to fund construction of charging stations

Rep. Skidmore spoke about the following:

- the effect of property insurance costs on housing affordability;
- her interest in working with Ms. Reed on mobility and transportation issues; and
- water resources and the “blue economy.”

Sen. Polsky said that affordable housing was Senate President Kathleen Passidomo’s first priority and that a comprehensive bill was forthcoming. She also discussed House Bill 735, a 2021 bill that preempted contracting licenses, and said she was working on a bill to address that issue.

Rep. Gossett-Seidman spoke about the need for a map showing the locations of septic tanks. She also discussed water resources and the Floridan aquifer.

Rep. Waldron commented on the following items:

- the effect of rising property insurance costs on housing affordability;
- concerns about developers' ability to buy out of affordable housing requirements;
- transportation and mobility; and
- options for affordable housing construction.

Rep. Roth stated that he wanted to follow up with League members, city commissioners, or mayors about the following issues: short-term rentals; transportation in relation to affordable housing; concurrency; bicycle safety; planned unit developments and sewer infrastructure environments; sales tax revenues; and an FDOT tax on charging stations.

In response to the Delegation members' comments, Ms. Reed explained that she was representing the League's priority regarding mobility fees and clarification of the State statute.

V. DISCUSSION AND CLOSING REMARKS

Sen. Polsky thanked the League members for attending and encouraged their continued involvement.

Rep. Casello said that he had available bill slots.

Sen. Polsky requested that Ms. Reed submit specific language regarding her legislative priority.

VI. ADJOURNMENT Time Certain 11:00 A.M.

At 11:00 a.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

Chair/Vice Chair