

May 2021

FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS of Local Elected Officials, Inc.

President's Message



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends,

In the July 2020 issue of our newsletter, we expressed that the murder of George Floyd propelled us into the largest civil rights movement in history. People in all 50 states and more than a dozen countries stood in solidarity throughout the last year, protesting systemic racism globally. After months of unrest that still persists, we all bore witness to the moment on April 20, when former Minneapolis officer, Derek Chauvin, was found guilty on all charges. While we recognize the significance of this decision as an inflection point in our nation's history of oppression, we are certain that we will need the support of each other, as municipal leaders, to continue the work that is ahead.

To keep us better informed and connected to meet these challenges, FBC-LEO is moving forward with our recruitment and rebranding efforts. In March, we unveiled the newly designed FBC-LEO logo at our Spring Conference, where we had record attendance. Please visit the new [FBC-LEO Apparel Site](#) to order merchandise displaying our updated logo, before the conference season begins. This purchasing link will be active until July 1st. The final phase of our rebrand concludes today with the launch of the [new FBC-LEO Website](#). Additionally, the FBC-LEO Board has voted to have an official presence at the upcoming FLC Annual Conference in August by securing a booth to promote our organization to potential members.

The FBC-LEO 2021 Annual Business Meeting will be held in conjunction with the FLC Annual Conference in August, so we look forward to seeing you all there. Please continue to send ideas and resources for upcoming educational opportunities. We look forward to seeing you all at the FLC Annual Conference, August 12 -14, 2021!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Watkins Brown".

President Teresa Watkins Brown
Councilwoman, City of Fort Myers

New FBC-LEO Website



We are proud to announce that the final phase of our rebranding efforts is complete with the launch of our new website. We have grown and evolved over the years, and we are refreshing our brand to better reflect who we are and who we aspire to be as an organization.

[Visit Our New Website](#)

Member News



Welcome to our new FBC-LEO Member

Warmest welcome! We are delighted to have you as members of the FBC-LEO organization and look forward to getting to know you.

- Valeria Bland Thomas, City Attorney, City of Palatka, Supporting Member

Welcome to the FBC-LEO Board



At the April Board of Directors meeting, Palatka Commissioner Rufus Borom was appointed to the Regional Coordinator/Membership Director - South position.

Congratulations, Commissioner Borom! Welcome to the FBC-LEO Board of Directors..



At the April Board of Directors meeting, Midway Councilwoman Nandrycka King Albert was appointed to the Parliamentarian position.

Congratulations, Councilwoman King Albert! Welcome to the FBC-LEO Board of Directors.

We know that Commissioner Borom and Councilwoman King Albert will serve the membership well in their new positions and we thank them for their willingness to serve.

FBC-LEO Shirts Available



The ordering window is open from now until July 1, 2021. Purchase your shirt now to wear at the FLC Annual Conference in August!

There are many great colors and styles to choose from. Short sleeve and long sleeve shirts are available.

Click the "View Shirts" button below to view available options and to place your order.

If you are paying with a city/town/village credit card and need the sales tax turned off, please call Full Press Apparel before placing your shirt order. The phone number for Full Press Apparel is (850) 222-1003.

View Shirts

Questions?
Contact FBC-LEO

Mental Health Awareness



Since 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in May in the United States. It's a time to raise awareness about mental health and reduce the stigma associated with mental or behavioral health conditions.

The National Institute of Health (NIH) estimates that 51.5 million adults in the U.S. are living with a mental illness, yet less than half of them are receiving mental health services.

Caring for your mental health includes tending to your emotional, psychological and social well being. "Self-care looks different for everyone, and it is important to find what you need and enjoy. It may take trial and error to discover what works best for you. In addition, although self-care is not a cure for mental illnesses, understanding what causes or triggers your mild symptoms and what coping techniques work for you can help manage your mental health."

Visit the NIH website for self-care tips and information on when to seek professional help.

FLC Legislative Policy Committee Sign-Up

The Florida League of Cities' legislative policy committees set the legislative agenda for the League and Florida's 411 municipalities. If you would like to serve on a legislative policy committee for 2021-2022, please click **HERE** to sign-up. You will need to have your FLC username and password to register. This is the same information you use to register for a FLC event such as Annual Conference. If you need assistance signing up, please let me know. If you served on a policy committee this past year, you still need to sign-up again for 2021-2022. **Please complete sign-up by May 7** (*members can only serve on one committee at a time*). Appointment letters will be mailed in mid-May.

Click here to view the meeting schedule and committee descriptions.

American Rescue Plan Act Resource Center

The screenshot shows the FLC website's resource center for the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act. At the top, there is a navigation menu with a search bar. The main heading is "2021 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT RESOURCES". Below this, a paragraph states: "The Florida League of Cities established this webpage to help share the latest information regarding the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act with our 411 municipal members. We encourage you to check back to this page frequently for the latest news, information and guidelines regarding implementation of the Act." Below the text is a row of six colored buttons: "FUNDING" (blue), "GUIDANCE" (dark blue), "RESOURCES + UPDATES" (orange), "STAY INFORMED" (green), "EVENTS + EDUCATION" (yellow), and "FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS" (dark blue).

FLC Launches American Rescue Plan Act Resource Center

Last week the Florida League of Cities launched the FLC American Rescue Plan Act Online Resource Center dedicated to providing the latest information, resources and guidance on implementing the Act.

The League will continue to update each section as new information is provided by the U.S. Treasury Department, the National League of Cities or from other partner stakeholders, so we encourage you to check back to the site often.

Visit ARP Online Resource Center

If you have any questions about the American Rescue Plan Act for Florida cities, please contact Allison Payne at apayne@flcities.com.

Additionally, the National League of Cities is compiling questions that need clarification in the Treasury Guidance. [Click here](#) to submit any questions you have on implementation.

Events & Training Opportunities

FLC Post Legislative Session Webinar
Thursday, May 6, 2021
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET



Join the FLC Advocacy Team for a post-session update on the League's priority issues.

[Register here.](#)

#FLCities Strong Webinar Series

May 10, 2021
10:00 a.m. ET



FLC University is hosting the latest installment of their popular **#FLCitiesStrong** webinar series on **Monday, May 10 at 10:00 a.m. ET.**

With the 2021 Florida Legislative Session wrapping up, May's broadcast will turn your attention to the importance of advocating for your city year-round. They'll also take a look at the American Rescue Plan and how it will affect every city in the state and nation.

This month's guest speakers will include:

- **Greg Ross, Cooper City Mayor and FLC FAST Committee Chair**
- **Dominick Montanaro, Vice Mayor of Satellite Beach and FLC Advocacy Committee Chair**
- **Irma Esparaza Diggs, NLC Senior Executive and Director of Federal Advocacy**
- **Scott Dudley, FLC Director of Field Advocacy and Federal Affairs**
- **Allison Payne, FLC Field Advocacy and Federal Affairs Manager**

We hope you will join guests and co-hosts **Dr. Scott Paine** and **Shwanda Barnette** for this free webinar! Click the button below to register.

[Register Here](#)

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Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials