

August 2021



FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

In This Issue

- **President's Message**
- **Member News**
- **FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast & Business Meeting**
- **Volunteers Needed for FBC-LEO Booth**
- **Task Force on Abandoned African-American Cemeteries**
- **Events & Training Opportunities**

President's Message



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends,

As we prepare to come together again, from August 12 – 14th at the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference, I've been reflecting on my experience as FBC-LEO President since taking office last August. This past year has had its fair share of difficulties and challenges, but despite all that we've faced, it has been deeply rewarding for me, personally, and for us as an organization. We have accomplished so much together, over the past year, and I am so grateful for your dedication and contribution to our success.

Since last August, we have successfully launched a Healthy Living Webinar Series, conducted several business meetings via zoom, provided and awarded an individual board member-funded \$1,000 scholarship opportunity to a Florida student, held an amazing spring conference in Lake Buena Vista, and achieved our membership goal of reaching 100 active members in 2021! When the association was established, our meetings could be held in a hotel room, but today, we are over 100 members strong and growing. We did not let the challenges we've faced stop us from growing and we will continue to press forward, working diligently together to achieve our goals in the coming year.

As a reminder, the FBC-LEO 2021 Annual Breakfast and Business Meeting will be held at 7 a.m., Friday, August 13th, in conjunction with the FLC Annual Conference at the Orlando World Center Marriott. We are so pleased that the speaker for this event is Congresswoman Val Demings. **We are still in need of volunteers to staff our FBC-LEO Booth at the Annual Conference. If you would like to volunteer, please [click here to sign-up](#).** We look forward to seeing you there.

Teresa Watkins Brown

President Teresa Watkins Brown
Councilwoman, City of Fort Myers

Member News



Welcome to our new FBC-LEO Members

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

- Von Johnson, Head of External Affairs, Teach For America Florida
- Nancy Metayer, Commissioner, Coral Springs
- Matthew Pigatt, Mayor, Opa-Locka
- Christina Romelus, Commissioner, Boynton Beach

- Joshua Simmons, Commissioner, Coral Springs

FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast & Business Meeting

Don't wait, register today. Slots are filling fast.

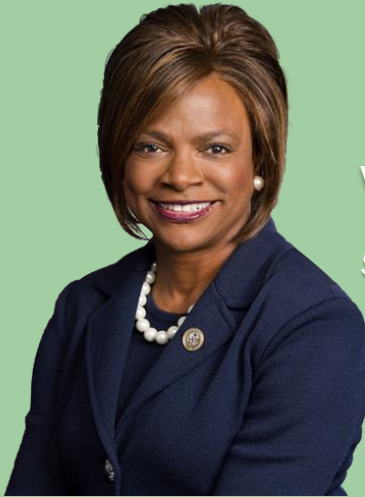
FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast & Business Meeting

August 13, 2021

7:00 a.m. ET

Orlando World Center Marriott

Grand Ballroom 7



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE **VAL DEMINGS**

Serving Florida's 10th Congressional District

Congresswoman Val Demings will be the guest speaker at the FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast and Business meeting in August. Congresswoman Demings represents Florida's 10th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast and Business Meeting registration fee is \$50.00.

The deadline to register for the meeting is Friday, August 6, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Click the "Register Here" button below to register.

Register Here

Volunteers Needed for FBC-LEO Booth

Please volunteer today! There are many open slots!



Volunteers Needed!

FBC-LEO will have a booth in the exhibit hall at the **2021 Florida League of Cities Annual Conference**. The purpose of the booth is to increase FBC-LEO's visibility and convey important information about the association and its activities.

We need FBC-LEO members to help with the booth. Depending on the slot selected, volunteers will either set up or break down the booth and interact with booth visitors.

The conference will be held at the Orlando World Center Marriott (8701 World Center Dr., Orlando, FL 32821).

The dates to volunteer are August 12-13, 2021.

If you would like to volunteer, please click the "Volunteer Here" button below.

Please sign up no later than August 6, 2021.

If you have questions about time slots or duties, please contact Nykie Cooper at 850.701.3664 or ncooper@flcities.com.

Volunteer Here

Task Force on Abandoned African American Cemeteries



On June 4, 2021, Governor DeSantis signed into law **CS/CS/HB 37 (Chapter 2021-60, Laws of Florida)** relating to Abandoned Cemeteries. The bill created a 10-member Task Force on Abandoned African American Cemeteries. The purpose of this task force is to:

1. Study the extent to which unmarked or abandoned African American cemeteries and burial grounds exist throughout the state.
2. Develop and recommend strategies for identifying and recording cemeteries and burial grounds while preserving local history and ensuring dignity and respect for the deceased.

Jaha Cummings, Councilman, City of Punta Gorda and FBC-LEO Historian, has been appointed to the Task Force.

Councilman Cummings is asking the FBC-LEO membership to provide information regarding abandoned African American cemeteries in their municipality to ensure that any abandoned cemeteries in their city/county can be duly noted as part of the committee's work. A brief, one-page, historical background of the cemetery's establishment, current condition, impending threats, etc., would be helpful.

Please send this information to Councilman Jaha Cummings at jcummings@cityofpuntafordafl.com by September 20.

For more information about the task force, [click here](#).
[Click here](#) to read an article about the task force.

Events & Training Opportunities

#FLCities Strong Webinar Series

August 9, 2021
10:00 a.m. ET



With budgets in development and a multitude of needs being identified, the August FLCitiesStrong will explore two critical pieces of the budget and resource planning puzzle: the water we drink and the federal funds we will spend.

Click the "Register Here" button to register for the August FLCitiesStrong broadcast!

Register Here

Florida League of Cities 2021 Annual Conference

**Orlando World Center Marriott
August 12-14, 2021**



The FLC Annual Conference is an opportunity for municipal officials and senior staff to enhance leadership skills, learn from municipal experts, share ideas with peers, discuss strategies for Florida's future and hear about the latest in products and services for municipal governments. [Learn More](#)

This year's conference will include breakout sessions, committee meetings, keynote presentations, awards and more. Additionally, the FLC 2022 Legislative Action Agenda to guide advocacy efforts at the state Capitol, will be discussed and adopted. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, network and share!

Find Us on Social Media



Click on the icons below to follow us on Facebook, Indeed, YouTube and Twitter!



**Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected
Officials**