

June 2023



FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

FBC-LEO acknowledges all fathers!
Happy Father's Day!



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President's Message



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends,

Happy Father's Day to all fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, uncles and those who have stepped into a fatherly role.

In acknowledgement of Men's Health Awareness Month, it is important that we become and stay active. As men, we play important roles to our families, friends, and communities; therefore, let's strive to live a healthy and productive life. June is also National Gun Violence Awareness Month. Gun violence is one of the leading causes of premature deaths in the United States. All children should feel safe in their communities and schools. Wearing orange this month signifies that we are fighting in hopes of a future free of gun violence.

Registration for the FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast/Business meeting on August 10th at 7:00 a.m. will open soon. More information regarding the Breakfast/Business meeting is forth coming. I hope to see everyone at the Florida League of Cities' Annual Conference, August 10-12, 2023, to be held at the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek in Orlando, Florida.

Nominations are being accepted until June 16th, for the following FBC-LEO Board positions: Treasurer, Assistant-Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Parliamentarian, Regional Coordinator/Membership Director (North), Regional Coordinator/Membership Director (South), Historian, Chaplain and Sergeant-At-Arms. Please submit your nominations by using the button below.

[Submit Nominations Here](#)

Morris L. West

President Morris West
Commissioner, City of Haines City

New Member News



Welcome the newest FBC-LEO Member:

We are thrilled to have you as a member of the FBC-LEO organization and look forward to getting to know you.

- Commissioner Mary Mathis, City of Plant City
- Mayor Pro tem Braheem Russ, City of Midway

Member Highlight



We would like to highlight the new Mayor of Gretna, Mayor Gary L. Russ, Jr. Mayor Russ is a native of Gadsden County, Florida. He has served on the Gretna City Commission since 2019. Mayor Russ is a graduate of Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University's (FAMU) College of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities. Mayor Russ also received a Master of Social Work degree within the same week of being elected Mayor.

Through life's many endeavors and tribulations, he has worked to transform his community by renewing and developing himself. Mayor Russ has over five years of experience in working in customer service, almost five years of experience in behavioral, mental and psychiatric health and two years in the medical field as a combat medic in the Army Reserves. In addition to his service to his community, he has served for five years as an educator in Gadsden County Public Schools, where he currently serves as a full-time middle school Civics teacher at James A. Shanks Middle School in Quincy, Florida. He also serves as the Vice-President of the Gadsden County Classroom Teachers Association.

Mayor Russ' aspiration in life is to be an influential vessel of change that strives for the betterment, empowerment, and continued success of his community. His life's motto is to "accept nothing less than the best", and lives by the words of the great Malcolm X, "Education is the passport to the future. The future belongs to those who prepare for it today!"

If you have an FBC-LEO Members and/or member city you would like to have featured in our monthly newsletters, please submit to fbcleo@flcities.com.

Events and Training Opportunities

FLCitiesConnect



Reserve Your Seat for IEMO in Palm Beach Gardens June 9-11

The **Florida League of Cities** and the **John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government** are proud to bring you the **Institute for Elected Municipal Officials (IEMO)**.

This educational program is specially designed for newly elected officials and those with less than one term in office. IEMO is a two-day program held Friday through Saturday and is offered four times per year at several locations throughout the state.

This intensive academic program offers a comprehensive overview of Florida municipal government, presented by a faculty of top professionals in the field. IEMO I will be held June 9-11 in Palm Beach Gardens.

[Register Here](#)

June 9-11
Palm Beach Gardens
[Institute for Elected Municipal Officials](#)

June 20
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
[FLC University Quarterly Ethics Webinar](#)

All times Eastern unless otherwise noted

From our Partners



This summer, the [National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials \(NBC-LEO\)](#) is excited to host its annual conference in the jubilant "city with soul," Jackson, Mississippi! Join your peers June 13-16, 2023, for four days of

empowering conversations, leadership development, mobile tours, and a chance to connect with local leaders like yourself while exploring issues unique to your role as an African American local elected official.

[Register Here](#)

2023 Meetings and Events

SAVE THE DATE

Be sure all of the upcoming FBC-LEO events are on your calendar.

**Annual Breakfast Meeting
Registration opening soon**

Friday, August 11, 2023
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. ET
Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek
(In conjunction with FLC Annual
Conference, August 10-12, 2023)

Find Us on Social Media



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



Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials

