

July 2023



FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS  
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Happy Fourth of July from FBC-LEO!



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## President's Message



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends,

Last month we celebrated Juneteenth, recognizing African American culture and commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Juneteenth marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and to ensure that all slaves were freed. On May 20, 1865, 11 days after the end of the Civil War, Gen. Edward McCook rode into Tallahassee and read the Emancipation

Proclamation. For this reason, Emancipation Day is celebrated on May 20th in Florida.

Have a safe and wonderful Fourth of July!

Here are a couple of reminders as we gear up for August:

- Registration for the FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast/Business meeting is now open. Registration closes on Friday, August 4th. **Register** as soon as possible. Admission cannot be guaranteed onsite.
- Volunteers are needing to assist at the FBC-LEO Booth during the annual breakfast. Time slots can be viewed **here**.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Florida League of Cities' Annual Conference, August 10-12, 2023, to be held at the Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek in Orlando, Florida.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morris L. West". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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 Robin Wood, City of Quincy

**Members Highlight**

**Congratulations to the FBC-LEO members who received the Florida League of Cities' Home Rule Hero Award:**

- Mayor Michael Blake, City of Cocoa
- Commissioner Rufus Botel, City of Palatka
- Mayor Felicia Brunson, City of West Park
- Council Member Janet Hernandez, Village of Indiantown
- Council Member Jake Hill, Jr., City Lake City
- Commissioner Curtis Johnson, City of Fort Pierce
- Council Member NanDrycka King-Albert, City of Midway
- Commissioner Leo Longworth, City of Bartow
- Commissioner Janice Mortimer, City of Starke

- Vice Mayor Clara Murvin, City of Pahokee
- Commissioner Joshua Simmons, City of Coral Springs
- Council Member Teresa Watkins Brown, City of Fort Myers
- Mayor Steve Wilson, City of Bell Glade

**If you have an FBC-LEO Member and/or member city you would like to have featured in our monthly newsletters, please submit to [fbcleo@flcities.com](mailto:fbcleo@flcities.com).**

## 2023 FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast Meeting

**Keynote Speaker  
State Attorney, Monique H. Worrell  
Ninth Judicial Circuit Court**



Monique H. Worrell is the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court for the State of Florida. She was elected in November of 2020 and serves as the chief



prosecutor. Monique is the second African American elected as State Attorney, and the first of Jamaican descent.

She later became a clinical law professor at the University of Florida College of Law, where she trained law students who aspired to practice criminal law. Because of her passion for keeping youth out of the criminal justice system, Monique developed and implemented the Your Future, Your Choice program to teach youth their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Monique became a founding director of the University's Criminal Justice Center and developed a rigorous program that has produced many criminal law practitioners across the state of Florida.

Monique left the University of Florida to become the founding director of the Conviction Integrity Unit in the State Attorney's Office in Orange County, Florida, where she led the investigation of claims for wrongful conviction. It was that experience that made her realize that change in the criminal legal system was critical and must come from within.

She's an accomplished criminal justice attorney, with experience as a leader, advocate, educator, and administrator. Prior to being elected as State Attorney, Monique served as Chief Legal Officer at a non-profit organization focused on criminal justice reform.

Monique was elected to bring reform to a criminal legal system that is fundamentally flawed, in order to achieve equity and to move our system towards justice.

**Register today for FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast and Business Meeting**

**The deadline to register for the meeting is Friday, August 4, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

Click below to register.

**Register Here**

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellations must be sent to [fbcleo@fcities.com](mailto:fbcleo@fcities.com) no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 4, 2023, to be eligible for a refund. All refunds will be processed after the breakfast meeting.

## FBC-LEO Booth at the FLC Annual Conference



### Volunteers Needed!

FBC-LEO will have a booth in the exhibit hall at the **2023 Florida League of Cities Annual Conference**.

The conference will be held at the Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek, 14100 Bonnet Creek Resort

Lane, Orlando, FL 32821.

**We are asking FBC-LEO members to volunteer at the booth and interact with booth visitors.**

The dates to volunteer are August 10-11, 2023.

The purpose of the booth is to increase FBC-LEO's visibility and convey important information about the association and all that it has to offer.

**Click below for FBC-LEO booth sign-up and/or to view the FLC Conference Agenda.**

**Sign up no later than August 4, 2023.**

[View FLC Conference Agenda](#)

[Volunteer Sign-up Here](#)

If you have questions about time slots or duties, please contact Caressa Andrews-Moye at (850) 701-3621 or [candrewsmoye@flcities.com](mailto:candrewsmoye@flcities.com).

From our Partners



Are you interested in serving on a Florida League of Cities Legislative Policy Committee? Now is your chance! **Sign up** is now open to serve on a 2023-2024 committee. The FLC Legislative Policy Committees set the legislative agenda for the League and Florida's 411 municipalities.

The Committees include:

- Finance, Taxation and Personnel
- Land Use and Economic Development
- Municipal Administration
- Transportation and Intergovernmental Relations
- Utilities, Natural Resources and Public Works.

If you would like to serve on a policy committee, be sure to **sign up** by **August 14th**. If you served on a policy committee this past year, you still need to sign up again. Contact [medenfield@flcities.com](mailto:medenfield@flcities.com) for questions or **click here** to learn more.



In previous years, the League provided a complimentary hard copy of the annual Government-in-the-Sunshine Manual as part of our commitment to keeping Florida's city officials informed about evolving municipal issues.

The Manual is now available in PDF format, ensuring easier access.

To access the Government-in-the-Sunshine Manual in PDF format, please visit [\*\*2023 Sunshine Manual\*\*](#).

While the complimentary hard copy distribution is being discontinued, we understand that some officials may prefer a physical version of the Manual. . To purchase the bound copy, please visit [\*\*The First Amendment Foundation\*\*](#).

**Florida League of Cities, Inc.**  
**301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300**  
**Post Office Box 1757 (32302-1757)**  
**Tallahassee, FL 32301 | [Visit our website](#)**

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**Important information and might curtail some questions we've all been receiving about Form 6**

**[Resources for Full Disclosure of Financial Interest \(Form 6\)](#)**

Elected municipal officials will need to start filing Form 6 beginning in 2024 with the Commission on Ethics. The League held a webinar on June 20 related to the new law and Form 6, and this webinar can be watched here:

**<https://www.gotostage.com/channel/270e67f662b2489e858d9ea3c69164cf/recording/7953d2d8a121492fa008e4449c863268/watch?source=CHANNEL>**

If you have specific questions on the Form and its content there are helpful resources on the Florida Commission on Ethics' website, including a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) column linked here:

**<https://disclosure.floridaethics.gov/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f>**

It is important to note that elected municipal officials in office now will still file Form 1 for this year, and then file Form 6 next year instead of Form 1. Staff at the Commission on Ethics can also answer specific questions related to Form 6 by calling (850) 488-7864.

The Florida League of Cities will hold a workshop on Form 6 at the Annual Conference, August 11 at the Bonnet Creek Hilton; registration for this conference is now open, and linked here:

**[https://members.flcities.com/FLC/Events/Event\\_Display.aspx?EventKey=FLCAC23](https://members.flcities.com/FLC/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=FLCAC23)**

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## 2023 Meetings and Events



**SAVE THE DATE**



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

**Annual Breakfast Meeting**

Registration Cost:  
Member - \$50.00 per person  
Non-Member - \$60.00 per person

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

When: Friday, August 11, 2023  
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. ET

Where: Signia by Hilton Orlando  
Bonnet Creek

14100 Bonnet Creek Resort Lane  
Orlando, FL 32821

(In conjunction with FLC Annual  
Conference, August 10-12, 2023)

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



**Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials**