Flagler County
Board of County Commissioners
Workshop
Monday, March 20, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.
Emergency Operations Center, Building 3, 1769 E. Moody Blvd., Bunnell, FL 32110

**Workshop Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge to the Flag and Moment of Silence
3. Welcome: Flagler County Board Chair
4. Proposed Property Swap of Property Off A1A (Hammock Dunes Bridge Expansion area with Property Near the Government Services Building in Bunnell for a Future Library Site and Future Public Works, General Services Expansion
5. Legislative Items Update and Discussion
6. Fire Mitigation Discussion
7. Public Comment
8. Adjournment

While this is a workshop only and no decisions are expected to be made by any of the governmental bodies, if a person decides to appeal any matter that may be discussed for a future proceeding, a record of the workshop may be needed and, for such purposes, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the workshop is made.
Planning for Flagler’s Future
Ideas for Today and Tomorrow
Genesis

- Regional Library Site
- Expansion of Public Works Yard
Future Road and Development Parcels
Subject Oare Parcels

Proposed Library Site

Proposed Public Works Expansion
County Owned Land
Proposed Land Trade
Combined Parcels
Benefits to the Community

- Expedite Construction of a Regional Flagler Public Library
- Save Tax Payer Dollars through a Land Trade Utilizing processes Governed by Florida Statutes
- Provide New Residential Product Line to Hammock Dunes Community
- Protect Aesthetic and Environmental Integrity along SR A1A
Centralize elements of County Government with new Library

Expansion of Flagler County Public Works Facility

$300-400,000 Addition to Flagler Tax Rolls

No Impact to SR A1A (Buffers, Access Thru Hammock Dunes Main Gate)
Just a Thought...
RESOLUTION 2017-___

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO RETAIN AND CONTINUE TO FULLY FUND ENTERPRISE FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the County to stimulate economic growth in Flagler County by attracting new businesses and encouraging the expansion and retention of existing businesses within Flagler County; and

WHEREAS, Flagler County was one of the hardest hit communities during the economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, the creation of new and retention of economically productive jobs for residents within Flagler County is beneficial to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the diversification of targeted industry within Flagler County will provide for a more stable and growing economy; and

WHEREAS, the growth of local businesses helps to keep taxes low for Flagler County and Florida residents; and

WHEREAS, the growth of local businesses (new and existing) provides career opportunities for Flagler County and Florida residents; and

WHEREAS, in Flagler County, economic development efforts included business recruitment/retention/expansion, entrepreneurship, workforce recruitment and training, marketing, property assessments and more, having resulted in an estimated $79M annual earnings; over 1,500 direct and indirect jobs; and capital investment of over $15M; and

WHEREAS, state and local marketing is necessary and effective when competing against other states that also actively market to draw businesses to their region; and

WHEREAS, attracting new businesses and expanding existing businesses in the area are deemed important diversification and job creation programs for the continued economic success of the County’s residents; and

WHEREAS, efforts through our economic development alliances and performance-based incentives have recently and repeatedly demonstrated success in bringing businesses and jobs to Flagler County that would not have otherwise become available; and
WHEREAS, performance-based incentives, such as the State of Florida Qualified Target Industry (QTI) and Quick Response Training (QRT) programs are investments in our businesses and residents that have proven to bring solid return on the investment; and

WHEREAS, programs, such as the QTI and QRT provide an added bonus to smaller communities, such as Flagler County, in order to provide for a more level playing field when we are competing with larger, more urban communities or other states; and

WHEREAS, Enterprise Florida has in recent years modified the incentive program agreements to be performance-based; and

WHEREAS, successful economic development today requires a focused entity with a proactive program to market, recruit and expand businesses, negotiate incentives, direct investment, and provide ongoing services on a Statewide and local level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners does hereby recommend the continuance and full funding of the State program, Enterprise Florida, including its incentive programs, in accordance with the recommendations of Governor Rick Scott.

ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2017.

Board of County Commissioners
Flagler County, Florida

Nate McLaughlin
Chair

ATTEST:

Tom Bexley, Clerk of the Circuit Court
And Comptroller

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Al Hadeed, County Attorney
RESOLUTION 2017-___

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF THE
FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO RETAIN AND CONTINUE TO FULLY
FUND VISIT FLORIDA, AS RECOMMENDED BY FLORIDA
GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT.

WHEREAS, tourism is of critical importance for the overall health of the Flagler
County and the State of Florida economies; and

WHEREAS, tourism revenue helps keep taxes low for Flagler County and Florida
residents; and

WHEREAS, without travel, Florida residents would owe $1,535 more in state and
local taxes to sustain their current level of essential services; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, visitors to Florida spent $108.8 billion generating $11.3
billion in state and local taxes (nearly 30% of total tax receipts) and supporting 1.4
million Florida jobs; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, out-of-state visitors to Flagler County created $332 million
in direct visitor spending, generating $28 million in state and local tax revenues and
supporting 5,063 jobs as a result of direct, indirect and induced employment; and

WHEREAS, without travel, Florida’s 5.4% unemployment rate would have
reached 20% in 2015; and

WHEREAS, since 2010 travel jobs in Florida have increased by 20% (highest
rate in the U.S.); and

WHEREAS, for every $1 the state invests in the state program, VISIT FLORIDA,$3.20 in tax revenue is generated; and

WHEREAS, for every $1 Flagler County invests in Palm Coast and the Flagler
Beaches, $9.94 in tax revenue is generated; and

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2015, VISIT FLORIDA’s total budget increased $43.3
million resulting in a visitor spending increase of $30 billion; and

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2015, traveler spending in Florida grew 38%; and

WHEREAS, with only a 2 percent reduction in travel, Florida would lose $2.2
billion in travel spending, $225 million in tax revenue, and 28,000 jobs; and
WHEREAS, the State of Florida and Flagler County should take note of the cautionary tales of cutting tourism funding in states such as Colorado, Pennsylvania and Washington; and

WHEREAS, state marketing is necessary and effective when competing against other states that also actively market to draw tourists to their destinations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby recommends the continuance of and the full funding of VISIT FLORIDA, in accordance with the recommendations of Governor Rick Scott.

ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2017.

Board of County Commissioners
Flagler County, Florida

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Nate McLaughlin
Chair

ATTEST:

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Tom Bexley, Clerk of the Circuit Court
And Comptroller

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Al Hadeed, County Attorney
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE HB 17 AND SB 1158 WHICH WOULD PREEMPT LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOME RULE AUTHORITY AND THREATEN THE EXISTENCE OF NUMEROUS AND WIDE-RANGING REGULATIONS OF COMMERCE AND BUSINESSES CURRENTLY IN EFFECT IN THE COUNTY UNLESS SUCH REGULATIONS ARE EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY GENERAL LAW.

WHEREAS, prior to 1968, Florida counties and municipalities could exercise only those powers specifically granted by the Florida Legislature; and

WHEREAS, due to the inability of counties and municipalities to act without specific legislative authorization, in 1967 alone, the Florida Legislature enacted 1,125 special or local laws; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Florida voters amended the state constitution to confer upon charter counties broad “home rule” powers and further authorize the Legislature to grant such home rule powers to non-charter counties and municipalities as well; and

WHEREAS, as a non-charter county, Flagler County’s (“County”) home rule authority flows directly from Article VIII, Section 1(f), of the Florida Constitution, pursuant to which the County is expressly granted “shall have the power of self-government as is provided by general or special law,” and may, further, “enact county ordinances not inconsistent with general law or special law”; and

WHEREAS, HB 17, if enacted, would prohibit counties and municipalities from adopting or imposing new regulations on a business, profession, or occupation not expressly authorized by general law and require the repeal of existing regulations; and

WHEREAS, SB 1158, if enacted, would preempt the County’s authority to adopt and enforce regulations relating to commerce, trade, or labor unless expressly authorized by law, and further prohibits any local regulation having an adverse impact on economic growth, business competitiveness, and productivity; and

WHEREAS, HB 17 and SB 1158 represent the antithesis of the home rule concept, pursuant to which the County has creatively solved problems and addressed local issues and concerns unique to the County and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of HB 17 and/or SB 1158 would impact the validity and enforceability of numerous existing County regulations that are not expressly authorized by general law but rather have been enacted pursuant to the County’s home rule authority, including but not limited to ordinances, comprehensive plan provisions,
resolutions, and other regulations pertaining, for example, to: building height, density, lot occupancy, and other land development standards and restrictions; signage; noise; landscaping; short term vacation rental, the operation of adult entertainment establishments; the location of businesses selling alcoholic beverages; home businesses; property maintenance standards and requirements; the preparation and review of commercial site plans; prohibitions against nuisance accumulations; the location of gas stations and wireless communications facilities; utilities; special events; and live entertainment; and

WHEREAS, in the event the County is unable to regulate these and other matters of local importance, the burden and responsibility for addressing such issues would shift back to the Florida Legislature, a 160 member body that is constitutionally focused on matters of State-wide importance, which meets only once a year for 60 days, and is located outside the geographic limits of Flagler County, making it difficult for local citizens to effectively petition the Florida Legislature for change; and

WHEREAS, the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners strongly believes that opposing HB 17 and SB 1158 is in the best interest of County residents and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Flagler County, Florida hereby expresses its opposition to HB 17 and SB 1158, wishes to protect Home Rule authority and respectfully encourages all members of the Florida Legislature to oppose such bills.

ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2017.

Board of County Commissioners
Flagler County, Florida

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Nate McLaughlin
Chair

ATTEST:

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Tom Bexley, Clerk of the Circuit Court
And Comptroller

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Al Hadeed, County Attorney
RESOLUTION 2017-____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT RESTORES LOCAL ZONING AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES, THEREBY PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF FLAGLER COUNTY'S NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, prior to 2011 Florida's cities and counties regulated local land use issues and decisions under the Home Rule authority granted them by the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Florida Legislature enacted House Bill 883 (Florida Chapter 2011-119, Laws of Florida)(hereafter "HB 883") which preempted the local regulation of a specific land use commonly called, "short-term vacation rentals" (transient rentals less than 30 days in duration and commonly located in residential areas); and

WHEREAS, the preemption bill provided for very little oversight from the State for short term vacation rentals and, for example, did not provide for staffing for mandatory or randomized inspection of the short-term vacation rental units and applied relaxed standards for short-term vacation rentals when compared to hotels, motels, and bed and breakfast establishments; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 883 prevented local communities from enacting new regulations necessary to address any negative impacts caused by short-term vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 720 of Florida Statutes provides for the formation and operation of homeowners' associations, independent of government authority; and

WHEREAS, homeowners' associations may or may not exist in all single- and two-family residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, homeowners' associations may not legally be able to fully address all issues regarding short-term vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Florida Legislature enacted Senate Bill 356 (Florida Chapter 2014-71, Laws of Florida) (hereafter "SB 356") which rescinded the previous preemption on local regulation of short-term vacation rentals, but provided that a local law, ordinance, or regulation adopted after June 1, 2011 may not prohibit short-term vacation rentals or regulate the duration or frequency of rental of vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, SB 356 returned some local control back to communities to mitigate the effects of short-term vacation rentals in an attempt to make them safer, more compatible with existing neighborhoods, and accountable for their proper operation; and

WHEREAS, single family residential neighborhoods and their required infrastructure are generally designed to accommodate typical single-family residential homes with two to three persons per household on average; and

WHEREAS, local governments apply design standards tailored for residential neighborhoods for their roads, driveways, emergency services planning, public shelters,
emergency evacuation plans, solid waste collection, utilities, buffers, and are also tailored in assessing their infrastructure impacts and their corresponding fair and proportionate impact/connection fees; and

WHEREAS, permanent single-family home residents inherently understand and know their physical surroundings, to include any safety gaps and potential risks to their families because they have daily familiarity with their homes and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, short-term vacation rental occupants, due to the transient nature of their occupancy, are unfamiliar with local hurricane evacuation plans, the location of fire extinguishers, residence exit routes, pool and home safety features, and other similar safety measures that would readily be provided to guests in traditional lodging establishments; and

WHEREAS, SB 356 enabled local governments to address life safety concerns by working collaboratively with both the residents and those representing the vacation rental industry to address the concerns; and

WHEREAS, Flagler County needs to retain its Home Rule authority in order to effectively work for its respective communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners does hereby support legislation that restores local zoning authority with respect to short-term rental properties thereby preserving the integrity of Flagler County’s neighborhoods and communities.

ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2017.

Board of County Commissioners
Flagler County, Florida

Nate McLaughlin
Chair

ATTEST:

Tom Bexley, Clerk of the Circuit Court
And Comptroller

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Al Hadeed, County Attorney
RESOLUTION 2017-____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE RELOCATION OF
FLAGLER COUNTY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT 5 TO DISTRICT 2.

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is an executive agency that reports directly to the Governor and is statutorily responsible for coordinating the planning and development of a safe, viable, and balanced state transportation system serving all regions of the state; and

WHEREAS, the FDOT is a decentralized agency and is composed of seven geographic districts, with Flagler County being located in District 5; and

WHEREAS, FDOT District 5 presently covers nine (9) counties: Brevard, Flagler, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter and Volusia; and

WHEREAS, FDOT District 2 presently covers eighteen (18) counties: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee, Taylor and Union; and

WHEREAS, FDOT District 2 which has twice as many counties as in District 5; and

WHEREAS, Flagler County is a member of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), which is an independent organization responsible for the planning and programming of all Federal and State transportation funds with in District 5; and

WHEREAS, TPO is the primary forum which member local governments and citizens voice concerns, identify priorities, and plan for transportation improvements for all modes of transportation; and

WHEREAS, if Flagler County were to be added as the 19th county in District 2, it will become lost among the other counties and would be less effective in advancing its transportation needs for roads and airport infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Flagler County's travel market, the governance structure of inclusiveness and the relationship with FDOT District 5 and the TPO in gaining the necessary financial support is critical to the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners does hereby oppose the relocation of Flagler County from the Department of Transportation District 5 to District 2.
ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2017.

Board of County Commissioners
Flagler County, Florida

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Nate McLaughlin
Chair

ATTEST:

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Tom Bexley, Clerk of the Circuit Court
And Comptroller

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Al Hadeed, County Attorney
RESOLUTION 2017-____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF THE
FLORIDA LEGISLATURE OPPOSING HB 7065 WHICH WOULD
CREATE ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO THE
AUDITOR GENERAL AND EXPAND PUBLIC NOTICE OF TAX
INCREASES AND NEW TAX-SUPPORTED DEBT ISSUANCE AND
ADVOCATING FOR ADDITIONAL TIME TO BRING FORTH
MEANINGFUL TRANSPARENCY LEGISLATION.

WHEREAS, local governments, which includes over 400 cities, 134 Counties and
School Districts and over 100 Special Districts, are continuously working to enhance
transparency and listen to citizens for ways to better make information available to the
public; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous provisions contained within Florida Statute
Chapters 125, 129 and 200 requiring public hearings and notice of meetings to inform
citizens; and

WHEREAS, local governments have processes in place to meet the standards of
public notice and budget the cost associated with running ads in the newspaper to
providing such notice; and

WHEREAS, proposed HB 7065 requires an additional layer of public notices
related to debt by requiring the publication of a debt affordability ratio, which is a ratio
that measures the relationship between debt service obligations and the ability to repay
the debt; and

WHEREAS, local governments using the common financing mechanism known
as “covenant to budget and appropriate” which includes all legally available revenues
except property taxes, will be confused by the application of the proposed legislation;
and

WHEREAS, debt burden alone is not a good indication of financial responsibility
and debt ratios vary widely even among highly rated issuers; and

WHEREAS, HB 7065 would require additional procedures from the independent
auditor for reporting to the Auditor General which will require additional fees; and

WHEREAS, non-compliance with the new proposed legislation that would have
an effective date of July 1, 2017, requires evidence of corrective action to the Auditor
General and failure to comply could adversely impact the local government revenue
sharing; and
WHEREAS, adequate rules and incentives for reporting can be created and complied with absent the threat of decreased revenue sharing; and

WHEREAS, advocating for additional time is necessary to allow for the ability to bring forth meaningful transparency legislation that is clear and supports the current requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners do hereby oppose the current legislation for expanded public noticing of tax increases and new tax-supported debt issuance and the presentation of the debt affordability ratio calculation.

ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2017.

Board of County Commissioners
Flagler County, Florida

Nate McLaughlin
Chair

ATTEST:

Tom Bexley, Clerk of the Circuit Court
And Comptroller

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Al Hadeed, County Attorney
RESOLUTION 2017-____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE HB 7063 WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT EXTENDING OR INCREASING LOCAL OPTION TAXES IF THE ADOPTED MILLAGE RATE IS IN EXCESS OF ROLLED BACK RATE IN ANY OF THREE PREVIOUS YEARS AND REQUIRE REFERENDUM TO INCREASE PROPERTY TAX, LOCAL OPTION TAXES AND NEW TAX SUPPORTED DEBT WITH APPROVAL OF 60 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS VOTING ON THE BALLOT.

WHEREAS, general elections occur in November every two years, and budget decisions are proposed and ad valorem tax rates are adopted annually; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers are represented by their elected officials to make decisions regarding budgeted expenditures and debt; and

WHEREAS, Local Option taxes are shared between Counties and Cities and are enacted for specific endeavors such as growth management, infrastructure, supporting tourism and are not levied to fund general fund operations; and

WHEREAS, local government accounting principles require segregation of legally restricted revenues in Special Revenue Funds; and

WHEREAS, requiring a general election and 60% majority voters in favor of levying local option, property taxes and new tax supported debt would require great expense and hinder a local government's ability to respond timely to financial needs; and

WHEREAS, a restriction on the ability to increase debt would cause reserves to diminish and higher interest rates for bonds resulting in increased costs to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners respectfully requests that the Legislature examine this issue and advocate for additional time to work with the 400 cities, 134 Counties and School Districts and over 100 Special Districts that this legislation will impact.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners does hereby oppose HB 7063 titled, "Local Government Fiscal Responsibility," as it prohibits local governments from enacting, extending or increasing taxes otherwise authorized under specified conditions and requires local governments to receive voter approval for issuance of any new tax-supported debt with a term of more than five years.
ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2017.

Board of County Commissioners
Flagler County, Florida

Nate McLaughlin
Chair

ATTEST:

Tom Bexley, Clerk of the Circuit Court
And Comptroller

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Al Hadeed, County Attorney
March 20, 2017

Honorable Travis Hutson
312 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Honorable Paul Renner
1102 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Legislators:

As locally elected leaders, we are struggling with several pieces of legislation being brought forward for your consideration under the pretext of transparency, fiscal responsibility, or based on a single problem issue somewhere in the State.

Much of the legislation seems to be negative and ideologically driven with no real understanding of what local government does, or how it operates; or what it actually takes to govern on a local level. Many times these bills will add new costs to the taxpayers, increase local taxes through tax shifts (creating new winners and losers) or force services to be cut when local revenues are eliminated or capped. Some of the specific legislative proposals would specifically hamstring a community hit a natural disaster like Hurricane Matthew from financially being able to navigate the disaster, much less replenish reserves and afford rebuilding. We are hoping that you will be our legislative protectors from such poor, ill-conceived legislation.

As a main theme, we seek with all legislation that crosses your desk is that you continually support us and voter approved, constitutional home rule. Just as Tallahassee disagrees with preemption and dictation from Washington, management of our local interests from Tallahassee is equally frustrating. Local leaders, the closet to the people and your constituents, are elected to make decisions to provide services, deploy resources, recruit development and, overall, create great Florida communities the way local residents want. We would appreciate being able to share with you our perspectives and feedback on issues that impact us locally.

The second theme, we also ask you to protect us from is micromanagement of local revenues. All communities face drastically different problems/expenses that require the maximum flexibility to solve local problems with local revenues. The proposal to cap

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Nate McLaughlin
District 4

Donald O’Brien Jr.
District 5

http://www.flaglercounty.org
revenues, mandate reserve level, and one-size fits all similar measures, are the equivalent of asking a homebuilder to build a house with only a screwdriver.

We have attached a series of County positions on various pieces of large legislation in the House and Senate (see listing below):

As always, we appreciate your efforts and the communication you have with us, our cities and residents. We are available to discuss any of the specific with you further.

Sincerely,

FLAGLER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Nate McLaughlin
Chair, District 4

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
Vice Chair, District 1

Gregory Hansen
Commissioner, District 2

David Sullivan
Commissioner, District 3

Donald O'Brien
Commissioner, District 5

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2017 Resolution – Enterprise Florida
2. 2017 Resolution – Visit Florida
3. 2017 Resolution – Home Rule Authority
4. 2017 Resolution – Short-Term Vacation Rental
5. 2017 Resolution – DOT District Change
6. 2017 Resolution – Additional Public Notice Requirements
7. 2017 Resolution – Local Option Taxes
Hurricane Matthew Flood
Vegetation Issues
What Happened?

• Approximately 1200 acres of the barrier island flooded during Hurricane Matthew.

• Seawater desiccated plants, killing a large portion.
Post Hurricane

Warm and dry winter. La Nina conditions have faded, but a rain deficit remains.
Post Hurricane

- Natural Communities (maritime hammock, coastal strand) can always burn. Hardwood hammock less likely to burn.
- Oaks have desiccated and dropped leaves raising ignition potential and increasing rate of fire spread.
What are we doing?

• Working with Florida Forest Service to create 1.25 miles firebreaks between County property and homes.

• Promoting Firewise and encouraging residents to take appropriate protective measures.
HMGP Grant

• Requesting $50,000 to install 27 miles of defensive lines throughout Flagler County.

• Grant would require cooperation of private landowners.
Additional Options

1. Regulatory enforcement proactive program.
   – Staff identifies properties and starts code enforcement process. Unpopular (draconian).

2. Palm Coast style reactive program.
   – Reactive, not proactive. Manpower intensive, Palm Coast has 2 Urban Foresters, is hiring a 3rd.

3. County noticing program
   – Fire Rescue identified properties of concern and County notifies owner. County maintains a list of vendors who can conduct work.

4. Do nothing.
Suggested solutions

• Identification of “properties of concern”.
• Further Firewise promotion, especially with HOA’s.
• For property owners within the affected area – County staff will defer to homeowners requests to consider trees as “Damaged trees” (LDC 6.01.06(6)) and exempt from the requirements of Index Tree Removal and Protection code.
Properties of Concern

- Neighborhood survey undertaken by Fire Rescue.
- County website created with list of contractors, Firewise information, etc.
- Flagler County Land Management will send a letter to property owner advising them of the dangers existing on the lot, recommending vegetation work, referencing County website.