

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION****ADDRESS:** 2300 North Jog Rd
West Palm Beach, FL 33411**PHONE:** (561) 233-5311**FAX:** (561) 656-7963**E-MAIL:** ocrnews@pbcgov.org**WEBSITE:** <http://pbcgov.com/ocr>

Glades Technical Advisory Committee Minutes

Speaker: Mr. Danny Martel, Econ. Council of PBC &
Mr. Oscar Alvarez & Mr. Jeremy Dennis), Contractor's Certification

Facilitator: Derrek Moore, Senior Planner

Scribe (recorder): Derrek Moore, Senior Planner

Date/Time: March 24, 2016, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: City of Pahokee Marina

Meeting Attendance:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Pastor Patti Aupperlee | First United Methodist Church of Pahokee |
| 2. Mayor Keith Babb | Mayor of the City of Pahokee |
| 3. Regina Bohlen | Exec. Dir. for City of Pahokee's Chamber of Comm. |
| 4. Leondre Camel | City Manager – City of South Bay |
| 5. Pooneh Charkhian, Esq. | Florida Rural Legal Services |
| 6. Gary Blake, Sr. | Youth Empowerment Center |
| 7. Leondre Camel, City Manager | City of South Bay |
| 8. Barbara Davis | Rep. Rader's Office |
| 9. Dr. JoAnn Finney | Delta Sigma Theta Sorority |
| 10. Sgt. Jeff Garten | PBSO |
| 11. Greta Godaert | City of Pahokee - Resident |
| 12. Comm. Felisia Hill | Commissioner – City of Pahokee |
| 13. Jimmy Kellerher | IBEW |
| 14. Mayor Joe Kyles | Mayor - City of South Bay |
| 15. Hamilton Lawson | Belle Glade - Resident |
| 16. Bettye Lawson | Delta Sigma Theta Sorority |
| 17. Jean LeStrage | Community Partners |
| 18. Cartheda Mann | Delta Sigma Theta Sorority |
| 19. Cynthia McMillan | Farm Worker Career Dev. Program |
| 20. Cylenthia Mann, Director | Bridges at Pahokee |
| 21. Lois Monroe | Farm Worker Council - PBC |
| 22. Derrek Moore | OCR Senior Planner |
| 23. Martie Parker | City of South Bay |
| 24. Louis Philor | FL. Dept. of Health - PBC |
| 25. Eddie Lee Rhodes | Belle Glade – Resident – Tri-Cities Educ. Comm. |
| 26. Rick Roche | CAO – Lakeside Medical Center HCD |
| 27. Donia Roberts, Esq. | LORE |
| 28. Michelle Rodriquez | Community Partners |
| 29. Milagros Rodriquez | PBC Healthcare District |
| 30. Trenesia Rozier | Bridges of Belle Glade |
| 31. Un'Tavious Scott | Bridges of Pahokee |
| 32. Dorothy Walker | Bridge Solutions |

33. Ralph Walker
34. Chandler Williamson
35. Lisa Wilson

2SBW
City Manager – City of Pahokee
Commissioner McKinlay's office

Some Attendees Did Not Sign-In

Meeting Minutes

1. Prayer & Pledge:

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and introduced **Pastor Patti Aupperlee** (City of Pahokee -) to lead us in prayer. She also led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Welcome & Presentations:

Mr. Moore welcomed the attendees and opened the meeting by introducing Mr. Danny Martel, Esq., President & CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County. Mr. Martel began by providing an overview of the Economic Council. Additionally, Mr. Martel discussed the Council's relationship with the County, Commissioner McKinlay's office, and the Business Development Board.

Mr. Martel briefly mentioned the County's one cent sales tax proposal. He mentioned the need for residents in the Glades to make sure that dollars are redirected to the Glades. He further stated that Glades' children should be receiving the same education as the children on the coast. We should expect the same quality of education, services, and life in the Glades that is enjoyed on the coast. He mentioned that the three primary areas of focus for the one cent sales tax revenues will be directed towards: 1) Infrastructure, 2) Education, & 3) Economic Development.

Mr. Martel also mentioned the upcoming Agriculture Summit scheduled to showcase at Palm Beach County's Convention Center on May 5, 2016. People and organizations will be coming to the summit from all over the world. PBC is at the forefront of the global economy. There are jobs available to young people coming out of college with majors focused in agriculture. They require high level skills. They are not in the areas that most people think of when they think of agriculture and farming. They are in areas like: Biology, Chemistry, and Agronomics. After talking about Palm Beach County and the U.S. economies, Mr. Martel entertained questions.

Q & A:

Mr. Eddie Lee Rhodes asked if the Economic Council is working closely with the Business Development Board. Mr. Martel responded that Mrs. Kelly Smallridge (BDB President & CEO) and he talk at least once a week about things that they are working on for PBC. Mr. Rhodes further commented that the studies have shown that the Glades area contribute quite a bit to the County and U.S. economies. He asked how Glades' residents can make sure that we get our fair share of dollars back into the Glades? He also stated that we have been slighted in the past and we need to make sure that we get our fair share of the revenues that come from the one cent sales tax and general revenues generated annually from the Glades. What can we do different to ensure that we get our fair share? We also need to make sure that the Economic Council is aware of our needs.

Mr. Martel responded that we need to make sure that we present our concerns and needs to the Board of County Commissioners.

Mrs. Cartheda Mann asked Mr. Martel about the job creation agenda for Palm Beach County. She also asked about the Intermodal Logistics Center (ILC)? **Mr. Martel** mentioned that the delay in the Panama Canal project is a massive boost to the Florida economy and ILC. The Glades need a massive manufacturing facility to boost its economy. Trucks come into Florida with containers; however, they are empty on their return out of the state. We need to fill those containers returning out of the state. **Mr. Martel** mentioned that Florida Crystals is the best organization to answer specific questions about the ILC. **Mr. Moore** informed the group that Mr. Gaston Canteens & Mrs. Carolyn Villanueva (Florida Crystal's Admin.) are on the future speaking schedule for GTAC. They will be advised of the questions posed at today's meeting for response when they come to speak at GTAC.

Mr. Javin Walker stated that the Tri-cities area is oftentimes neglected. He further stated that the level of neglect that the Glades have suffered over the past years should lead to better representation for the area. **Mr. Martel** concurred with Mr. Walker and explained that Glades residents must speak up and make their voices heard and known to ensure that they get their fair share of the resources being made available across Palm Beach County.

Mayor Joe Kyles shared that PBC Code Enforcement came out with Mrs. Verdenia Baker, County Administrator, and other PBC officials to tour the area to personally see the condition of the cities up close and personal. He applauded Mrs. Baker's commitment and effort in coming out & bringing staff to take the tour. He went on to say that we have the right people in place to make a difference and change how things have been previously done. He made reference to Sen. Abruzzo, Rep. Rader & Comm. McKinlay. Mayor Kyles recommended and requested that Mr. Martel bring his board out to the Glades to also take a physical tour of the area.

Mr. Martel wrapped up his discussion and the Q&A time with the group by reiterating his ties, connections and commitment with and to the Glades. He offered his contact information and said that he will come back periodically to speak and meet with the group. The group thanked him for coming out to meet with them.

Special Presentations:

Mr. Moore introduced **Ms. Oscar Alvarez, Palm Beach County's Director of Contractor's Certification Division**. **Mr. Jeremy Dennis, Field Investigator**, joined Mr. Alvarez for the discussion about his division. Mr. Alvarez gave an overview of his division and Mr. Dennis shared with them his role and day-to-day responsibilities in the division.

Mr. Alvarez opened the discussion up to questions.

Q & A:

Mrs. Martie Parker (S. Bay) asked, what is the length of time the process takes to become a licensed PBC contractor? **Mr. Alvarez** responded, that it depends upon the specific license that an individual or business is seeking; however, it typically takes, on average, 2 to 3 months. He went on to discuss the availability and cost of the test for becoming a licensed contractor in PBC.

Ms. Greta Godaert asked about regulations of volunteer work on buildings in the permitting process. **Mr. Alvarez** responded that the permitting process is typically the same, because it's the work on the structures that trigger regulation. He added that you will need to check with your local city building depts. to determine specific requirements for work done within your respective municipality. There are 44 trades regulated by the County. You should make sure your contractor and the sub-contractors used by the contractor are licensed. Be sure to watch out for the unlicensed sub-contractors.

Mr. Rhodes asked Mr. Alvarez if his department does state, local or what licensing? Also, does your

department assist people in becoming licensed contractors? **Mr. Alvarez** responded that his dept. only handles PBC Contractor Certifications. He also stated that while his dept provides some support towards getting people licensed, he is working on providing more assistance to those that want to become licensed PBC contractors. He will be coming back to discuss this item later in the year.

Mr. Un'Tavious Scott inquired about the background checks required for the licensing process. He asked if there are certain offences that will prevent someone from becoming a County Contractor? Additionally, is there anything that your office can do to assist with overcoming the criminal offense impediment(s) in place at the County? **Mr. Alvarez** stated that the background check is in place to protect the public from people that have committed certain crimes that might place the consumer at risk or in danger. It's another screening tool to make sure that all necessary information is collected to ensure the safety of the public. There is no one crime or offense that will preclude someone from becoming a PBC contractor.

Mrs. Mann asked about the timeline for completing the training and licensing process. **Mr. Alvarez** reiterated that it depends upon the individual and area of interest; however, on average, the process can be completed within 2 to 3 months. The cost ranges from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00.

Mayor Keith Babb asked if Mr. Alvarez has anyone in the Glades. **Mr. Alvarez** stated that at this time, all of his staff members are presently located in West Palm Beach.

Mr. Kellerher stated that his union conducts background checks and that certain offenses will preclude you from working on certain jobs/projects, but not on others.

Mr. Alvarez reiterated that the purpose of the background check is not designed to preclude people from becoming contractors. It is in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the public.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Mar 29 - Education Forecast – Dolly Hand – Belle Glade – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Mar 31 - Community Conversation – PBC Youth Services–Mary Evans Ctr. – BG 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 2 - I Love Pahokee Day – Pahokee Parks & Recreation - 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Apr. 7-9 - Q-Fest – Celebrity Golf Tournament, Celebrity Basketball Game, Picnic
- Apr 9 - Free Legal Fair – Belle Glade - 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Apr 10 - Glades Career Readiness Roundtable - West Tech 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
- Apr 12 - LORE mtg. – Belle Glade – 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Apr. 16 - Black Gold Celebration – Belle Glade Marina – 7 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Apr. 16 - Prenatal Education Fair – Bridges of BG – 10:00 a.m.
- Apr. 22 - Black Violin Show – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Apr. 23 - Earth Day (Great American Cleanup) – Pahokee's Rotary Fishing Tournament
- Apr. 28 - GTAC Meeting – Mr. Jon Van Arnam & Ms. Hazel Lucas – Belle Glade Civic Ctr.
- Apr 30 - Women of Wisdom – Pahokee – 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Apr. 30 - Fashion Show – City of Pahokee Parks & Recreation Dept.

Participant Updates/Comments

Ms. Lois Monroe provided her number (561-992-0603) and mentioned that her office is here to assist farm workers that need assistance. She is a part of Farm Share. She also mentioned that her agency has funds to support farmers with mortgage payments, career development, tuition payment, vocational school support, GED support, and many other services.

City Manager Leondre Camel announced that Eagle Management has a Property Manager's position available. The contact person is Monica Garcia. She can be reached at 786-985-0841.

Vice-Mayor Felisia Hill thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

Mayor Keith Babb also welcomed everyone and emphasized the effort to secure jobs for local residents. He mentioned the Sunshine Bio-Mass recycling project in Pahokee. He also encouraged everyone to continue to come to the meetings by referring to the list of outstanding speakers that OCR has lined up to come out to the Glades to speak with residents.

Mr. Moore thanked everyone for coming out again.


3. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

The next meeting will be held April 28, 2016, at the City of Belle Glade's Civic Center. Mr. Jon Van Arnam, (Deputy County Administrator for Palm Beach County) & Ms. Hazel Lucas, J.D., (Managing Attorney for Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc. of Palm Beach County & the President of the Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County) will be the guest presenters/speakers.

DAM 

Date: April 27, 2016

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director 

8/4/2016
Date