
JANUARY 2019

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

First and foremost, Happy New Year to all! It is hard to believe another year has gone by.

As we enter the new year and many of us make resolutions, my hope is that we will have civil and politically significant discourse this legislative session. I am looking forward to serving you in the Florida Senate after eight years in the Florida House.

Here is a brief recap of some December highlights.

State Innovation Exchange (SiX) Conference

In early December, I attended a conference in our nation's capital with legislators from around the country. The primary focus of SiX is to promote progressive policies and values. Nine legislators from Florida attended, where we had productive dialogue and speakers on reproductive health, fair wages, racial justice and sexual harassment, among other subjects.



Committee

Week

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government met during our first committee week. The meeting was more introductory but I look forward to a deeper dive in January and as we begin to craft our 2019-2020 budget. While in Tallahassee, I met with multiple people on a wide range of topics. All Senators took part in ethics training, which is now a requirement of the Senate. I am pleased to say that this training was informative and important for us to successfully operate our branch of government conflict-free.

Annual Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce - Legislative Luncheon

Each year, the Delray Beach Chamber along with Bethesda Hospital East, sponsor a legislative luncheon where the members of the delegation are asked relevant questions related to the upcoming legislative session that may affect small and/or local business owners. I enjoy this event each year as the questions are challenging and vital to promote the economic future of our community.

Cultural Council of Palm Beach County

Joined by Todd Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator, and Christine Shaw, Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation, I was pleased to serve on a panel to assist members of our local arts and cultural community to help explain the legislative and appropriations process so they may be better equipped to advocate for full and additional funding of the arts in our community. The group asked great questions and it was a mutually informative exchange of knowledge. At the end, the panelists were asked to list a word that we each felt defines the arts the best in our eyes; we were asked to write this on a piece of paper and hold it up for the audience. I chose enlightenment. A fun time was had and I feel the arts community is more ready and knowledgeable to work with legislators from throughout the state who sit on the respective committees to make these funding determinations for the next fiscal year.



The delegation held its second public hearing in December. The focus of this meeting was our local bills. Both passed at this meeting and will be heard again on the House floor during session. Presenters offered their thoughts and ideas on a variety of issues surrounding our county and state, as is often the case at delegation meetings.

Please continue to keep in touch with my office with any questions or concerns, as we will be traveling more to Tallahassee now that 2019 is upon us.

Best

Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Berman" followed by a horizontal line.

Lori Berman, State Senator for District 31

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