



From the desk of Commissioner Robert S. Weinroth

Safety Regulations Updated for Home Caregivers

The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) recently approved changes to the county's Home Caregiver Ordinance. Three years ago, the county partnered with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to pass this ordinance. Since then, over 11,000 applications have been processed to date.

I am thrilled to support changes to an ordinance that helps keep our most vulnerable residents safe (especially the elderly, sick and disabled).

The ordinance requires caregivers undergo a level 2 criminal background check. Once processed, and if no disqualifying offenses are identified, applicants are issued a photo ID and added to an online verification system available to the public on the Division of Consumer Affairs [website](#).

Anyone engaging the services of a home caregiver is urged to verify credentials both in person and online. Residents can verify that a caregiver has a valid ID badge by visiting www.pbcgov.com/consumer.

Currently, Palm Beach County is the only county in Florida with a protective ordinance of this type.

Preparing for the 2020 Census

Jobs Available

The U.S. Census is a decennial count of all people living in the United States on April 1 as mandated by our constitution and is based on the actual number of people dwelling in residential structures. The collected demographic data (including age, sex and race) is used to determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, and locally it is used to redistrict the areas represented by our state and county legislators. It is also used for determining federal funding allocations for health care, education, transportation, and senior services.

The 2020 Census is just around the corner and will be taken primarily online. The county along with other local government agencies will play an important role in educating and motivating our residents to participate.

Currently, there are census jobs available. For more information, visit <http://www.2020census.gov/jobs> or call 1-855-JOB-2020.

Interesting fact: The first national census was taken in 1790 under Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, and the results showed a total U.S. population of over 4 million with Virginia the most populated state and New York the most populated city.

Record-Breaking Tourism Numbers

Discover The Palm Beaches, the tourism arm for the county, announced record-breaking visitation numbers for 2018. Over 8 million visitors came to The Palm Beaches last year which resulted in a \$7.4 billion economic impact supporting more than 70,000 jobs in Palm Beach County! Tourism is the county's second largest industry after agriculture, and it plays a vital role in the lives of many people who live and work here.

Community Mourns Loss of Local Leader

We were sad to learn of Barbara Katz's passing last month. Barbara was an active civic leader in Palm Beach County where she served as president and board member of the Coalition of Boynton West Residential Association (COWBRA) for many years. Ms. Katz also served on numerous boards including the Palm Beach County Land Development Regulation Advisory Board and the Palm Beach County Zoning Commission.

Donations in Barbara's memory can be made to the National Council of Jewish Women Scholarship Fund. Please contact Sandy Hendrick at sandyhenrick@gmail.com for more information.

Nonprofit Spotlight

Tri-County Animal Rescue, located in Boca Raton, is a no-kill animal shelter that takes in over 170,000 unwanted pets from Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties each year. Since their inception, they have saved over 55,000 domestic animals from being euthanized by placing them in homes through adoption.

The Tri-County Animal Rescue also works with several organizations, businesses, and the local school district to educate the community on animal health and safety. Their mission is to shelter and provide a comfortable home for all animals in the facility until they can be placed in "forever" homes.

To learn more about adopting, donating or volunteering, visit <https://tricityanimalrescue.com>.

BCC Briefs for March 12, 2019

At the March 12, 2019, Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board took the following action:

Home Caregivers – adopted a series of amendments to the Palm Beach County Home Caregiver Ordinance. Changes include 1) allowing home caregivers to work up to 10 days of first assignment provided that required documents are submitted to Consumer Affairs within 72 hours; 2) deferring monetary fines or penalties for 18 months while home caregiver businesses transition home caregivers to Consumer Affairs for direct monitoring with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), and 3) removing the requirement for home caregiver agencies to advise Consumer Affairs that an employee or independent contractor has taken a leave of absence of more than 90 days. A resolution was adopted establishing fees and fines for the Home Caregiver Ordinance. Licensing fees for the five-year license increased from \$70 to \$100 for applicants requiring fingerprint checks and from \$20 to \$30 for applicants submitting an agency affidavit. The new fine schedule ranges from \$150 to \$500, depending on the type of violation. Previously, a fixed fine of \$500 was applied for all violations types.

Fire Rescue – approved an ordinance amending the Palm Beach County Fire Code to include annual inspections of certain apartments. This will enhance public safety, improve PBC Fire Rescue's ISO PPC rating, and lower insurance rates in the future for homeowners within Palm Beach County Fire Rescue's jurisdiction. Commissioners welcomed new Fire Rescue Chief Reginald Duren, who officially takes over as the department's top administrator on April 1.

Code Enforcement – approved seven new positions in the Code Enforcement Division: five code enforcement officers, one senior code enforcement officer and one special magistrate secretary.

Budget – approved a series of budget amendments and transfers totaling \$154.5 million in 172 funds for balances brought forward, operating expenses, reserves and other revenues. The amendments and transfers are necessary to adjust 2019 budgets to reflect the difference between actual and estimated revenue and expenditures of FY 2018.

Palm Tran funding – approved Federal Transit Administration (FTA) super-grant applications for several Palm Tran projects, including implementation of Palm Tran's Fare Technology Interoperability (FTI) project. No county funds are required. The board authorized an FDOT grant application for the acquisition of six replacement paratransit vehicles at a cost of \$484,916 with a 10 percent (\$48,492) required local match, and approved an FDOT public transportation grant agreement in the amount of \$831,945 with a required match in the same amount to purchase paratransit vehicles.

Palm Tran expansion – approved two amendments to the contract with The Morganti Group for the Palm Tran South expansion project separating the project into two parts and establishing guaranteed maximum pricing for each. Amendment 1 authorizes the addition of approximately 28,000 square feet of building space for offices, locker rooms, a training center for bus operators, and ancillary support space. Additional work will consist of a new 135-vehicle parking lot for employees and a new bus lift at the existing maintenance building. Amendment 2 authorizes the installation of closed-circuit TV, access control, fire alarms, an intercom system, tele-data, and A/V and cable TV systems.

Children’s Movement – approved a letter supporting the Children’s Movement of Florida’s efforts to prioritize state funding for early childhood development. The Children’s Movement has gathered over 100 letters of support from mayor’s across Florida requesting the governor prioritize funding for early childhood.

Island Cove – approved an Impact Fee Affordable Housing Assistance Program (IFAHAP) funding award in the amount of \$281,660 to the Delray Beach Housing Authority (DBHA) for the Island Cove project. Island Cove will have 54 deed-restricted, workforce townhomes for sale to households with incomes no greater than 140% of area median income (AMI). These funds are from interest earned by the Impact Fee Fund.

Juno Beach Pier – approved a lease agreement with Loggerhead MarineLife Center, Inc. for the continued management and operation of the Juno Beach Pier and concession building for the period of April 1, 2019, through March 31, 2024, at an annual rental rate of \$48,198.

Lake Okeechobee – adopted a resolution outlining concerns regarding the potential impacts of drastically lowering Lake Okeechobee water levels, communicating priorities, and providing recommendations on how lake operations should be implemented and evaluated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In January, the Army Corps initiated development of a new system operating manual that will include a re-evaluation of Lake Okeechobee operations and is expected to result in revised water level and discharge operations.

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