

Alliance of Delray Meeting Summary February 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Schulbaum at 9:30 am. Bob named the members of the Board who are candidates for reelection in March. He then requested that anyone else interested in running for the Alliance Board declare and submit a resume. No one responded. Bob then introduced Lt. Mike Morales of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Lt. Morales greeted the audience with the good news that crime was down in Palm Beach County. He attributed that to several factors, among which are: people are taking measures to prevent crimes and more deputies are quite visible in the area.

Chief Tony Tozzi of Palm Beach County Fire Rescue addressed the threat of the coronavirus. He assured the audience that hand washing was most important for all individuals. It is recommended that everyone maintain a 'personal space' and keep a comfortable distance from others. However, he noted that Palm Beach County has a plan in place in case of an outbreak here.

Nicole Carson of the Office of the Supervisor of Elections explained the Presidential Preference Primary which will be held on March 17, 2020. That will narrow the number of candidates in each party to one. In order to vote in this primary you must be registered by February 18. Early voting will take place beginning March 7 and end on March 15, between the hours of 10 am and 6 pm.

Board of Education member Karen Brill discussed the firing of the principal who refused to deny the reality of the Holocaust.

Lori Vinikoor, Executive Vice President, announced the Get to Know Palm Beach County Expo, to take place on Friday, February 7, 2020.

Verdenia Baker, County Administrator, delivered an update on the penny tax. She noted that Palm Beach County has a AAA bond rating because of the strong economy. However, there remains a strong need for an infrastructure sales tax. The surtax is providing for parks, roads, and environmental concerns. Each penny is divided for capital improvements, not for operating expenses, with 50% going toward schools, 30% for the county and 20% for cities. Many projects are underway and once the 2.7 Billion dollars that is needed is collected, the tax will end and at this point, projections are possibly 9 years instead of 10 if the economic boon continues.

The 2020 census will optimally net \$24 billion dollars during a ten year period and possibly add one or two additional government representatives for Palm Beach County.

At the next Alliance meeting on March 4, 2020 special guest speakers Nick Uhren, Executive Director of the Transportation Planning Agency will provide an update on the expansion of Atlantic Avenue and Steve Abrams, Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, will discuss the future of Brightline and Tri-Rail. Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Submitted by Carol Klausner, Director