

## ALLIANCE MEETING SUMMARY May 5, 2021

Executive Vice president Lori Vinikoor opened the meeting at 10 am. She proceeded to tell the members about a meeting that took place with the Palm Beach County Commissioners about preserving the Agricultural Reserve. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Lieutenant Jeff Morales of the PBC Sheriff's Office discussed the excessive speeding on both Atlantic Avenue and Jog Road. Within a two week period the deputies stopped 236 vehicles, most of which were ticketed. He also warned against 'distraction burglaries' which are occurring in nearby Boca Raton.

Fire Rescue Chief Tony Tozzi is still with our district. The department is in the process of finding a new chief so that Chief Tozzi can relocate closer to his home.

State Senator Lori Berman announced that \$100 billion has been allocated for the state of Florida by the federal government. Palm Beach County will receive \$5 million, in addition to more funded health care. Among the items that Sen. Berman proposed for passage are a sales tax exemption for medical items such as walkers, wheelchairs, and other necessities. She also proposed that parents of students in grades K through 5 be permitted to request that those youngsters who have not adequately progressed this past school year be retained.

State Representative Emily Slosberg sponsored Gail's Law. This law requires a tracking system of rape kits. It provides accountability. Many kits have not been processed in decades! She is also promoting money for research for genetic diseases. School buses will have cameras mounted to show the license plates of reckless drivers, especially in the school pick-up zones.

Representative Kelly Skidmore announced that over \$1 million is coming to the district to be used for job training and related issues.

Robert Weinroth, PBC Vice Mayor, discussed the progression of the Agricultural Reserve over the past 25 years. He spoke of the need for affordable housing and announced that rental assistance is available for those who need it. The mass vaccination sites will close at the end of May. However, vaccines will be available in stores like Walgreens, Walmart, CVS, and others.

PBC Commissioner Maria Sachs covered many areas in her presentation to the Alliance delegates. She expressed the need for more fire stations for the emergency rescue. She reiterated the need for more traffic enforcement. The stakeholders of the 20,000+ acres of the Agricultural Reserve need to be represented at meetings concerning that area.

Supervisor of Elections Wendy Sartori Link announced that there will be special elections on November 2 and January 11. Voting procedure changes have been signed into law. Voting by mail has been extended, but only for one election cycle. A separate request must be filed for each election after that. Drop boxes will be provided for early voting, but they must be monitored by election staff, not the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Non-familial ballots are limited to only two per submission.

Dr. Jake Leech of the PBC Office of Resilience discussed the increasing number of hurricanes as well as the increasing strength of the hurricanes. Storms emanating in the Atlantic Ocean are called 'hurricanes'; storms emanating in the Pacific Ocean are called 'typhoons.' Our hurricane season will officially begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Updates can be found every six hours at [hurricanes.gov](http://hurricanes.gov).

Director of Emergency Management Mary Blakeney warned that an above average season is anticipated this year. She urged HOA and COA boards to make plans in advance. Communities should be trimming trees back, pruning the landscapes, cleaning the storm drains, and determining the special needs of residents. Also, they should have a list of emergency service providers and emergency provisions on hand, recognizing a responsibility to their homeowners.

The next meeting of the Alliance of Delray will be held on June 2, 2021 with Verdena Baker, PBC Administrator speaking on County Plans for COVID Stimulus Money. Lori adjourned the meeting at 11:08.

Submitted by: Carol Klausner, Director, Alliance of Delray Residential Associations