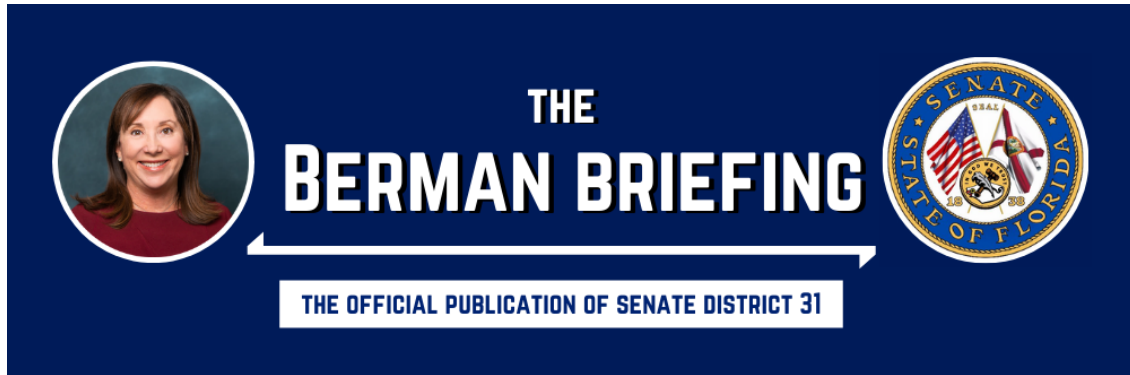


[View this email in your browser](#)



NOVEMBER UPDATE

Happy November!

As we turn the corner away from hurricane season and towards cooler weather and the holidays, allow us to stop and reflect what we are grateful for in our lives. Below you will find new updates on local resources as well as a legislative update as we approach our 2022 legislative session.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance to you.

All the best,

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

In this Issue...

- 2022 Legislative Update (including an update on bills filed);
- Committee week update;
- Statement on Surgeon General nominee;
- Food Assistance;
- Rental Assistance update;

- PBC Delegation Schedule/Workshops;
- Greenacres Community Conversations;
- Vaccine, Testing & Monoclonal Antibody Sites.

2022 Legislation Updates

At this time, I have now filed [13 bills](#) and several more are in the queue:

SB 388: Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

SB 388 will make Florida a national exemplar in reconciling inequities and historical injustices by creating the executive Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The legislation directs the Office, headed by the Chief Diversity Officer, to coordinate with agencies and create a strategic plan that establishes equity across state government, requires a review of agency policies and programs to assess whether underserved communities have unequal access to benefits and opportunities, calls for increased state investment in underserved communities within the Governor's recommended budget, and requires implicit bias training in Florida's agencies.

SB 436: Driving Under the Influence

Drug impaired driving is a growing problem nationwide and Florida is no exception. Florida is one of only six states where a driving under the influence with a combination of substances is not totally illegal. SB 436 seeks to change that by broadening the DUI statutes to include any and all impairing substances, or combination(s) thereof, in order for a drug not to necessarily be listed on a controlled substances list in order for the crime of driving impaired to be prosecuted.

SB 558: Court Recordings

This legislation requires that any court recording be electronically or stenographically recorded, made available to the parties for purchase, and at no cost to an indigent party seeking to appeal the court's ruling. The legislation stemmed from years of hard work with PBC NOW and "Families Against Court Travesties" (FACTS) and would help ensure all people have fair and equitable access to our court system, indigent or not.

SB 604: Safe Waterways Act

Nearly one million acres of coastal estuaries and nine thousand miles of Florida's streams and rivers are impaired with fecal indicator bacteria, but no statutory requirement exists to inform the public of this threat to their health. Our bill will require county health departments to post conspicuous signage at public bathing places which are impaired for fecal coliform bacteria.

[Click here for a full list of bills I've sponsored thus far.](#)

Committee Week Update

We are now at the halfway point of committee weeks. As you read this, we are traveling back to Tallahassee for our fourth committee week. The weeks of November 15th and November 29th remain.

Additionally, we are awaiting more details on the special session being called by the Governor, seeking to halt any vaccination requirements on small businesses. To clearly state my position, I am opposed to the purpose for this special session.

Senator Berman's Committee Assignments for the 2022 Session

- ***Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government***
- ***Education***
- ***Ethics and Elections***
- ***Finance and Tax***
- ***Transportation***



Statement on Surgeon General Nominee Dr. Ladapo

I will strongly oppose Dr. Joseph Ladapo's nomination during the Senate confirmation process.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacted a horrible toll on our country and state. I believe that our only way through it – and through any difficult challenge facing our society – is by putting politics aside and coming together. But Governor DeSantis decided early on he would politicize the pandemic and further divide our state. He's politicized mask use in our schools and businesses, even though it's conventional science and proven to reduce transmission. He's politicized vaccines through disinformation and attacked the Biden Administration for simply having a strong plan to end the pandemic. He's done nothing to protect lives and cares more about culture wars and outrage politics than what Floridians actually lose sleep over.

The latest manifestation of his war on public health is the nomination of Dr. Ladapo for Surgeon General. With just weeks on the job as interim Surgeon General, he's peddled in the same vaccine and mask conspiracies as the Governor, even refusing to wear a mask in the office of my friend and colleague, Senator Tina Polsky, who is battling cancer. Nothing could be more disrespectful and dangerous. I've opposed his nomination since it was announced, and following his recalcitrant outburst at my colleague, I'm only further convinced he is undeserving of his post.

Food Assistance

Click [here](#) to review an interactive map of food banks and resources. Cros Ministries also has multiple food banks throughout the county, all listed in the chart below.



CROS Community Food Pantries

Requirements to receive a Full Allotment of Food
Bring a photo ID and identification for all family members
Call 211 to verify hours of operation

Lake Worth Food Pantry Our Savior Lutheran Church 1615 Lake Ave., Lake Worth 33460 Monday – Friday 11:00am to 2:00pm	Mobile Food Pantry – Lake Worth Sunlight Community Church 1325 N A St., Lake Worth 33460 2 nd and 4 th Tuesday *Drive-Thru Pantry* 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm	Mobile Food Pantry – Lake Worth Lakeside United Methodist Church 1901 12th Ave. S., Lake Worth 33461 1st, 3rd, & 5th Thursday 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Mobile Food Pantry – Greenacres City of Greenacres Community Center 501 Swain Blvd., Greenacres 33463 2nd & 4th Thursday 4:00pm to 6:00pm	Mobile Food Pantry – Greenacres Legacy Church 400 Jackson Ave., Greenacres 33463 3rd Thursday 9:30am to 11:30am	Mobile Food Pantry – Greenacres Church in the Palms 3812 Jog Rd., Greenacres 33467 Saturday 8:30am to 10:00am
Mobile Food Pantry – Haverhill Haverhill Community Church 671 Haverhill Rd, Haverhill 33415 1st, 3rd, & 5th Tuesday 5:00pm to 7:00pm	Mobile Food Pantry – Riviera Beach St. George's Episcopal Church & Center 21 West 22nd St., Riviera Beach 33404 Wednesday 9:30am to 11:00am	West Palm Beach Food Pantry Urban League Community Service Center 2107 N. Tamarind Ave. West Palm Beach 33407 Friday 9:30am to 11:00am
Central Palm Pantry First Christian Church 215 S Congress Ave. West Palm Beach 33409 Monday and Wednesday 9:30am to 11:30am	Delray Beach Food Pantry Delray Beach NRC 141 SW 12th Ave., Delray Beach 33444 Monday – Friday 12noon to 3:00pm	Jupiter Food Pantry El Sol Jupiter's NRC 106 Military Trail, Jupiter 33458 Tuesday & Friday 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Mobile Food Pantry – Wellington Village Park 11700 Pierson Rd Wellington 33414 Friday 9:30am to 11:30am	Lighthouse Food Pantry – Belle Glade Community United Methodist Church 401 SW 1st St., Belle Glade 33430 Tuesday & Thursday 1:00pm to 3:00pm	Indiantown Food Pantry The Village Church of Indiantown 15364 SW Yalaha St., Indiantown 34596 Tuesday 11:00am to 4:00pm

CROS Administrative Office: 3677 23rd Ave. S., #B-101, Lake Worth, FL 33461
(561) 233-9009 • (561) 233-9819 fax • www.crosministries.org

Mission: CROS Ministries serves the hungry in Palm Beach and Martin Counties through community collaborations.

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Updated 9/23/2021

Palm Beach County is a Leader in Federal Spending by Directly Helping Families Dealing with COVID Crises and More Assistance is Available with ERAP2 Intake

Palm Beach County (PBC) has started accepting applications for ERAP2 allocations. Individuals experiencing a crisis during this pandemic, which has led to a financial impact, can apply for rental assistance at: www.RentalAssistancePBC.org.

To qualify for aid, applicants must rent in PBC. At least one person in the home must either prove loss of income directly or indirectly due to COVID-19 or experience any crisis during this pandemic. Households must also be at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Individuals qualifying for unemployment who demonstrate a risk of homelessness or housing instability and/or have incurred significant costs due to COVID-19 may also be eligible.

Priority is for the unemployed or those who have received an eviction notice. If a tenant's eviction is filed in court, the renter will be referred to the Legal Aid Society Palm Beach County (LAS) or Florida Rural Legal Services (FRLS). LAS and FRLS will work to provide free legal assistance and representation in landlord/tenant matters. Those eligible may receive assistance with past due payments.

In order to apply for rental and/or relocation assistance:

- evidence of COVID-19 direct or indirect impact
- evidence of crisis that impacts the inability to pay rent and utilities
- evidence of risk of homelessness or housing instability
- evidence of income eligibility
- valid government issued ID
- Social Security Number for all household members with a copy of applicant's social security card required. Case Manager may require copies of all household members' social security cards.

Rental support may be paid up to three months in advance and income must be recertified for each three-month period.

For rental assistance, landlords must be registered as vendors with PBC. Utility assistance is for electric, water, gas, sewer, trash removal and energy costs for eligible rental households only.

Applicants must submit all required documentation to expedite approval.

In-person assistance and mobile outreach are available for individuals who:

- lack computers or internet connection; or,
- lack the skills needed to use a computer; or
- have language barriers or developmental disabilities; or
- face other barriers preventing access to the online application portal for rental assistance.

Palm Beach County is one of a handful of Florida counties who exceeded the required 65% obligated funding threshold for ERAP¹ by the September 30th deadline. Thus far, we have expended 85% of the direct service dollars.

To view a detailed list of eligibility requirements and the mobile outreach schedule call (561) 355-4792 or visit www.RentalAssistancePBC.org.

Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation: 2021-22 Public Hearing and Workshop Schedule

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center
1977 SW College Dr, Belle Glade, FL 33430

WORKSHOPS

Joint Meeting with the Palm Beach County League of Cities

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 9:00 am – 10:30 am
Palm Beach Gardens City Hall
10500 North Military Trail
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Joint Meeting with the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Wednesday, November 10, 2021
Palm Beach Gardens City Hall
10500 North Military Trail
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

10:45 am – 12:15 pm

Joint Meeting with the Palm Beach County School Board

Wednesday, November 10, 2021
Palm Beach Gardens City Hall
10500 North Military Trail
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

This schedule is subject to change.

If you have any questions or need more information please contact the Delegation office at 561-355-2406 or 561-355-3452.

LET'S TALK...

A Series of Community Conversations



Join us once a month!

*Sessions are free. Space is limited. Masks are required.
Each session will also be available via GoToWebinar.*

ONLINE SAFETY: SEXTING & HUMAN TRAFFICKING, Thursday, September 30, 2021, from 6:30-8 p.m.

Presented by: Gregory Schiller, Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney's Office, Narcotics and Violent Crimes, Northern Division and Sgt. Carlos Lisboa, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Special Investigations Division, Human Trafficking - Missing Persons

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, Wednesday, October 20, 2021, from 6:30-8 p.m.

Presented by: Markos Fluery, AVDA Violence Prevention Educator and Melanie Rodriguez AVDA Victim Advocate

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE, Wednesday, November 17, 2021, from 6:30-8 p.m.

Presented by: Anne-Marie Brown, LCSW, MSW, MCAP, CIP, ICADC, Director, Childhood Trauma Response Program for Center for Child Counseling

DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS, Wednesday, December 8 2021, from 6:30-8 p.m.

Presented by: Dr. Karen Gilbert, DNP, MS, RN, CDP, Vice President of Education and Quality Assurance for Alzheimer's Community Care

Call 561-642-2090 to reserve your seat or register online at www.greenacresfl.gov/community-rec/page/lets-talk

Community Service hours for high school students that attend the in-person session!



Greenacres Community Center | Banquet Hall
501 Swain Blvd. Greenacres, FL 33463

561-642-2091 or 2090 | www.greenacresfl.gov



AVDA
A Community of Hope



Vaccine Sites

The county has a comprehensive list of vaccine locations, information and statistics [here](#).

Booster shots are now available to a certain criteria of the population. Refer to the CDC's guidance [here](#).

Schedule your booster at participating [CVS](#), [Walgreens](#) and [Publix](#) locations.

COVID Testing Sites

Palm Beach County is reminding the public that COVID-19 vaccination and testing locations are widely available for all Palm Beach County residents. This includes most commercial pharmacies, doctors' offices and public health sites. All testing locations can be found [here](#).

For more info on COVID-19, visit the Palm Beach County [COVID-19 website](#) or contact the Department of Health COVID-19 Call Center, available 24/7, at 1(866) 779-6121 or email: COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

Monoclonal Antibody Sites

Westgate Park and Recreation Center

3691 Oswego Ave.

West Palm Beach, Florida 33409

To make an appointment, [click here](#).

The monoclonal antibody treatments are available to individuals 12 years of age and older who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are at high risk for severe illness and hospitalization. The monoclonal antibody treatments are available at no cost to eligible individuals.

The antibodies help the immune system recognize and respond effectively to the

virus. According to the [treatment guidelines](#), they should be administered as soon as possible after diagnosis.

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