

ALLIANCE MEETING SUMMARY April 6, 2022

President Lori Vinikoor called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. She then provided an update on local building prospects, a summary of which will be included in the Alliance Connection newsletter. Some highlights included a proposed "Micro-Communal" housing development in the city of Delray Beach, land being purchased in the Agricultural Reserve and some changes in land use, Big Apple Bazaar site plan should not include a fueling station, talks with the County regarding extending the timing on the southbound signal at the corner of Hagen Ranch Road and Atlantic Avenue to assist southbound traffic flow.

Lt. Michael Morales from Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office District 4 described the department's commitment to community outreach. One of those projects was to introduce therapy dogs to children at the elementary level to reduce, among other things, test stress. It has been proven to be effective.

PBC Fire Rescue Chief Pete Hund reminded the audience to change the batteries in their home smoke detectors. He then spoke about the department's new 100' aerial and their new command vehicle. A school resource officer will do a yearly inspection of each school. New stations are being built and/or expanded. The new Fire Rescue Administrator will be Patrick Kennedy.

State Senator Lori Berman told the assemblage that Palm Beach County was to receive a lot more money from the federal government. That influx will be spent on several important projects in Palm Beach County.

State Representative Kelly Skidmore spoke about a 'to-do' list of items that she will be addressing. Some of the items include making property insurance more affordable to the average homeowner; seeking proper maintenance for buildings in South Florida so we do not see another Surfside; proliferation of groundless lawsuits; and over-development, traffic and local issues that the state wants to control.

County Commissioner Maria Sachs is seeking to establish volunteerism to their communities for youngsters.

Vice Chairman of the PBC School Board Karen Brill assured the group that the newly instituted one penny sales tax is at work and improving schools. The past principal of Spanish River High School, who lost his job after stating that the Holocaust was not a proven fact, lost his final legal appeal. He will never be employed in Palm Beach County again.

Palm Beach County Clerk and Comptroller Joseph Abruzzo discussed his large department with over 650 employees. Some of the department's accomplishments (but not all) are: No vendor money may be accepted by any employee; Instituted a \$15 per hour minimum wage for employees; Increased investment in Israeli Bonds up to 10%; Updating website; Issuing paperless payments; Providing funds for caretaker help; How-to help with county webinar; Manage the passport office; Property fraud prevention. To access any and all departments, they can be reached at www.MyPalmBeachClerk.com

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM. The next meeting will be held on May 4, 2022 where our PBSO will be providing a "Security Seminar." Topics will include combatting fraud and keeping Palm Beach County safe.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Klausner, Secretary