



Purple Alert Update



In 2021 I sponsored and passed a "Purple Alert", the first of its kind in Florida. A year after its implementation, a press release has been sent out by FDLE highlighting its success.

For Immediate Release

July 18, 2023

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is celebrating the first anniversary of the Florida Purple Alert, which launched July 1, 2022. Since its inception, 255 Purple Alerts have been issued, and 250 individuals recovered.

FDLE Commissioner Mark Glass said, “Largely because of the public’s participation, the Purple Alert is a proven resource helping law enforcement safely locate missing individuals. Our Purple Alert program is a model for other states to adopt.”

Senator Lori Berman said, “We fought hard to honor the life of Joshua Marshall, a young man who wandered and tragically drowned in a retention pond. Josh may have been saved had the Purple Alert existed at that time. Passing this law two years ago was a giant step forward in improving public safety and disability rights in Florida, and I am confident it has already, and will continue to, save lives.”

Representative Joe Casello said, “It gives me great pride whenever I see a Purple Alert come up on my phone or on the highway to know that I played a part in making sure that these alerts are going out and helping people that were falling through the cracks. As a former first responder, I understand how important it is to make sure as many people as possible have the right information to bring someone home safe. Over 250 alerts later, we see the progress that has been made.”

FDLE’s Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) launched the Florida Purple Alert last July. The Purple Alert is used to assist in the location of missing adults suffering from mental, cognitive, intellectual or developmental disabilities, and who do not meet the criteria for a statewide Silver Alert. Purple Alerts engage the public in the search for the missing person and provide a standardized and coordinated community response.

When Purple Alerts are issued, the information is distributed to citizens who have signed up to receive the alerts and displayed on dynamic highway message signs when applicable. The alerts are also posted on the FDLE public website.

Citizens play an important role in saving lives. When receiving a Purple Alert, they should make note of the alert and call 911 if they have information relating to the whereabouts of the missing person.

Sign up to receive Florida Purple Alerts today through email or text messages at <http://www.missingchildrenalert.com/>.

Learn more about Purple Alerts at <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/PurpleAlerts/Purple-Alert-Plan.aspx>.

For Further Information Contact:
FDLE Public Information Office
(850) 410-7001v

Community Connections

Achievement Centers for Children and Families

The Achievement Centers for Children and Families has been a staple in Delray Beach for decades providing an essential service for generations of children's to provide a safe, educational place when school isn't available.

I had the opportunity to receive a tour of all the excellent things they are doing as well as see for myself the pride that the employees have to improving these children's lives.

We are currently discussing potential avenues for the state to aide in their mission to expand on the work they are already providing in District 90



Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce

I had the pleasure of being the main speaker at the recent Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs meeting.

During the meeting we spoke about issues effecting residents and the business community alike such as property insurance and the housing crisis.

You can watch the entire presentation [here](#).

Animal Shelter Waivers

Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control Celebrates "DOGust" with Waived Adoption Fees

Palm Beach County Department of Public Safety's Division of Animal Care and Control (PBCACC) is excited to announce "DOGust," a month-long celebration dedicated to finding loving homes for shelter

dogs. To address the increase in the number of abandoned, stray and surrendered animals in recent months and ease overcrowding, the shelter is offering waived adoption fees.

August 1st marks the universal shelter pet birthday, emphasizing the significance of every shelter animal finding a caring home. PBCACC recognizes the importance of this occasion and aims to make a difference for the furry friends in need.

The shelter is currently operating above capacity, which limits the care that can be provided to each animal. To alleviate this strain and give these dogs a chance at happiness, PBCACC urges the community to consider adopting a furry friend locally, rather than seeking a pet from outside the county. Adopting a dog not only brings joy and companionship to the family but also saves a life and opens up space in the shelter for another animal in need.

"During 'DOGust,' we want to remove any barriers to adoption and find caring homes for our wonderful community dogs," said Jan Steele, division director.

For those looking to help their community animals but cannot adopt, PBCACC offers a two-to-six week foster program called Foster2Rescue. Through this program, community members give PBCACC dogs the opportunity to enter the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League Adoption program directly after fostering. PBCACC welcomes individuals and families interested in fostering to email ACCFoster@pbcgov.org to get started. Supplies are provided for free.

To explore the wide array of pets available for adoption or fostering, interested individuals can browse the online gallery of adoptable pets at <https://secure.co.palm-beach.fl.us/snap/home> or visit the PBCACC in person. No appointment needed. Adoption Center hours are Monday through Friday, noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Adoption fees are waived for all adoptable pets.

PBC Animal Care & Control is located at 7100 Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach, just west of the Florida Turnpike. For more information, please call (561) 233-1200 or visit the website, www.pbcgov.com/animal



Assistance

If needing of assistance please contact our office. Our office is here to help you.

Troy Gras: 850-717-5090 Troy.Gras@myfloridahouse.gov

Brian Bees: 561-292-6015 Brian.Bees@myfloridahouse.gov

Florida House of Representatives | [Website](#)



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