

ALLIANCE of DELRAY MEETING May 1, 2024

Video link <https://youtu.be/QuRLYreZARO>

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by President Lori Vinikoor. John Gentithes, Vice President, welcomed the guests. **Sgt. Mike Bryant** of the Palm Beach County Sheriffs Office warned of the abundance of on-line phone scams. He cautioned against giving any information. Palm Beach Fire Rescue **Chief Bill Stanbury** reported that Palm Beach County Fire Rescue received at least 1000 more calls than any other district. Additionally, he reminded the audience that hurricane season begins on 6/1/24.

Lori apprised the audience that for the July 3, 2024 meeting the Alliance will hold a Meet the Candidates for law and order symposium. She also informed the group that the Ag Reserve project (Park West) has been postponed until August.

State Senator Lori Berman announced that \$17 million was allocated to Palm Beach County. She added that despite objections, the 6 week abortion bill was passed in Florida. **State Senator David Silvers** urged the membership to vote for Amendment Four, which eases the restrictions of the bill. **State Representative Kelly Skidmore** was concerned with the economics of a clean and healthy ocean. She also noted that in Palm Beach County sickle cell anemia was being studied and often successfully treated in 'centers of excellence'.

Karen Brill, PB School Board Chairman, explained that schools will not permit racial or religious bullying. School grounds are kept safe for everyone. Most importantly, there have been no books banned.

Tommy Strowd, Executive Director of the Lake Worth Drainage District, spoke of the Communities' Role in Drainage. Many marshes and swamps have been reclaimed for agriculture. The Clean Water Act was designed to prevent flooding. Flood control is a tiered system, LWDD being a second tier. That is, it is an automated system that also uses manual adjustments. For additional information, their phone number is (561) 498-5363. In case of flooding, he urged that you do not walk or drive through flood water. It may well be deeper than you think. The water is unsanitary, coming from streets, canals, and/or lakes.

Palm Beach County Water Utility Department Deputy Director Kristin Berntsen reported that the three types of water that the department is responsible for are drinking water, waste water, and reclaimed water. The county has over 4000 miles of pipes. The cost to the Palm Beach County customer is 29% below the Florida state average. We are supplied by the Biscayne aquifer, the Floridian Aquifer, and reclaimed water. Water from the Green Cay and Wakodahatchee nature sites is used, treated, and returned to the sites. Future innovation, construction, and upgrades are planned, as well as much public outreach.

Lori reminded the attendees that the annual breakfast will be held on June 21. She then adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Klausner