



Weiss Words Newsletter



GREGG K. WEISS

*Palm Beach County Commissioner
District 2*



July 1, 2026

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The Word

As with most of our newsletters, I want to talk about traffic for a bit. Specifically, about the plan that's supposed to help fix it.

As we've told you before in this newsletter, Palm Beach County is putting together its first-ever Countywide Transportation Master Plan (CTMP). Here's how you can think of it: right now, our 39 cities and towns each plan their own roads, sidewalks, and bike lanes. There's no shared vision tying it all together. The CTMP is meant to change that.

The county hired an engineering firm called [WSP](#) last June to lead the work. Over the past year, they've held public meetings and collected close to 1,500 survey responses from residents, plus dozens more from local businesses and technical stakeholders. The CTMP covers everything: major roads, neighborhood sidewalks, transit, bike lanes, even freight. The goal is to anticipate and get the county ready for growth all the way through 2050.

So what did the survey respondents actually say? Traffic congestion was, by far, the number one concern. And it's not just frustration with being stuck, it's the impact traffic is having on our economy: 6 out of 10 local businesses surveyed said the current system



has a negative impact on their operations, mostly delays affecting employees and deliveries.

A few other things stood out. Almost everyone still drives; 93% of residents say a personal car is their main way of getting around. But when asked what to prioritize going forward, people wanted more options: better commuter rail, more sidewalks, improved bus service. And there's an appetite for smarter, simpler fixes too, things like better-timed traffic signals - something we call adaptive signal technology, which came up again and again in the comments. People also kept pointing to the same structural gap: we have decent north-south roads, but not enough ways to get east and west.

Now we're at a key step. The [draft recommendations](#) are out, but the county wants your feedback before anything gets locked in. To gather your feedback, there are four Open House meetings that you can attend:

Four [Open House meetings](#), all from 6:00-8:00pm:

- Tuesday, June 30, Belle Glade Public Library
- Wednesday, July 1, Palm Beach Gardens Public Library
- Wednesday, July 8, Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center
- Thursday, July 9, Huteson Agricultural Services Center, West Palm Beach

If you can't make it, you can [comment online here](#) through July 10.

One thing worth knowing: this plan won't force any city to do anything. It's more like a shared foundation. Each city gets to pull from it and decide what fits them, while making sure the roads that cross city lines actually connect. But what goes into this document now will shape funding and projects for years. That's why it's worth your time.

After July 10, the comment window closes and the plan moves toward being finalized. So if you've got thoughts on how this county should move, please take a moment to share them.

The final plan is expected to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, August 26.

We will keep you posted on the progress.

Happy 4th of July!

Thanks for being a reader.

Free Meals for Students This Summer

The School District of Palm Beach County's School Food Service will be providing summer meals at various school and community sites. Anyone 18 years old and younger



can receive free meals, but you must remain on site while you eat. Exact dates vary by site. No application or registration is necessary. Just show up at one of the designated locations, which you can find by [clicking here](#).



Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary at the Library

The Palm Beach County Library System is hosting over 80 events to celebrate American 250. These family friendly events include such activities as lectures on the Constitution and American History, trivia challenges, Jazz music concerts, crafting sessions and more.



[Click here](#) or on the image below to view the list. Use the options on the left side of the events page to limit the search by location, age group, or date.



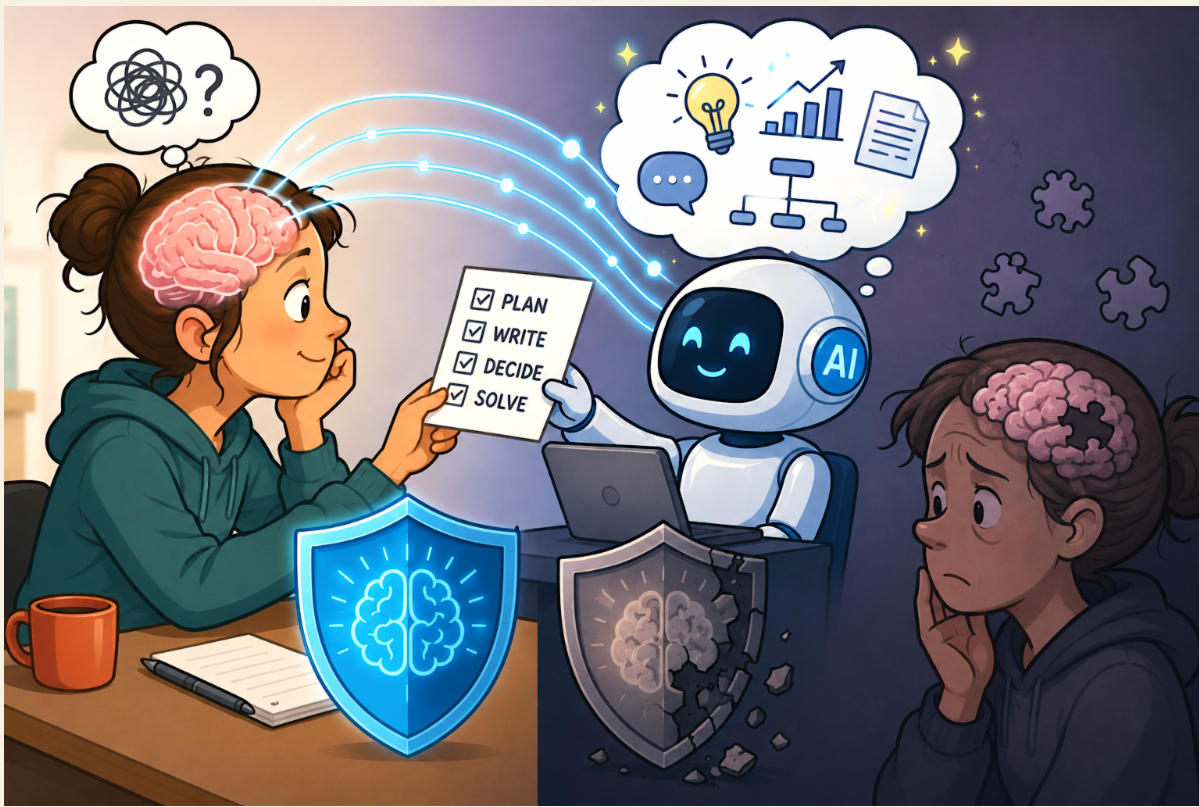
AI Insights

How You Use AI could weaken your brain's defenses against dementia

Most of us in the District 2 office didn't grow up with AI, which means that even if we're using AI our default is to review and revise content with critical thinking skills that have been honed over many years. But what if AI is baked into your learning experience from the start, and you rely on it for processing mental activities? Does prolonged use of AI affect your brain's cognitive functioning at any age?

Those are some of the questions theoretical neuroscientist Vivienne Ming investigates in this [Business Insider article](#).

[AI-Generated Summary of Article](#)



AI You Can Use

👋 Happy July 4th, everyone! Here's a fun way to learn more about the ideas that shaped the nation: [Humy.ai's America 250](#) experience. It works like a guided conversation: you chat with AI versions of figures like Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere and John Hancock, and the system is designed to answer in ways that reflect what those figures actually wrote or believed, using curated primary sources as its backbone. It's grounded in primary sources, but like any AI tool, it can simplify or miss details, so it's best used as an engaging starting point for learning rather than a [final authority](#).



AI Calendar

Note: Not all events listed are open to the public.

July 21, 2026 @ 9:30am: AI presentation at Valencia Pointe Clubhouse. Contact Melba Pena for more information.

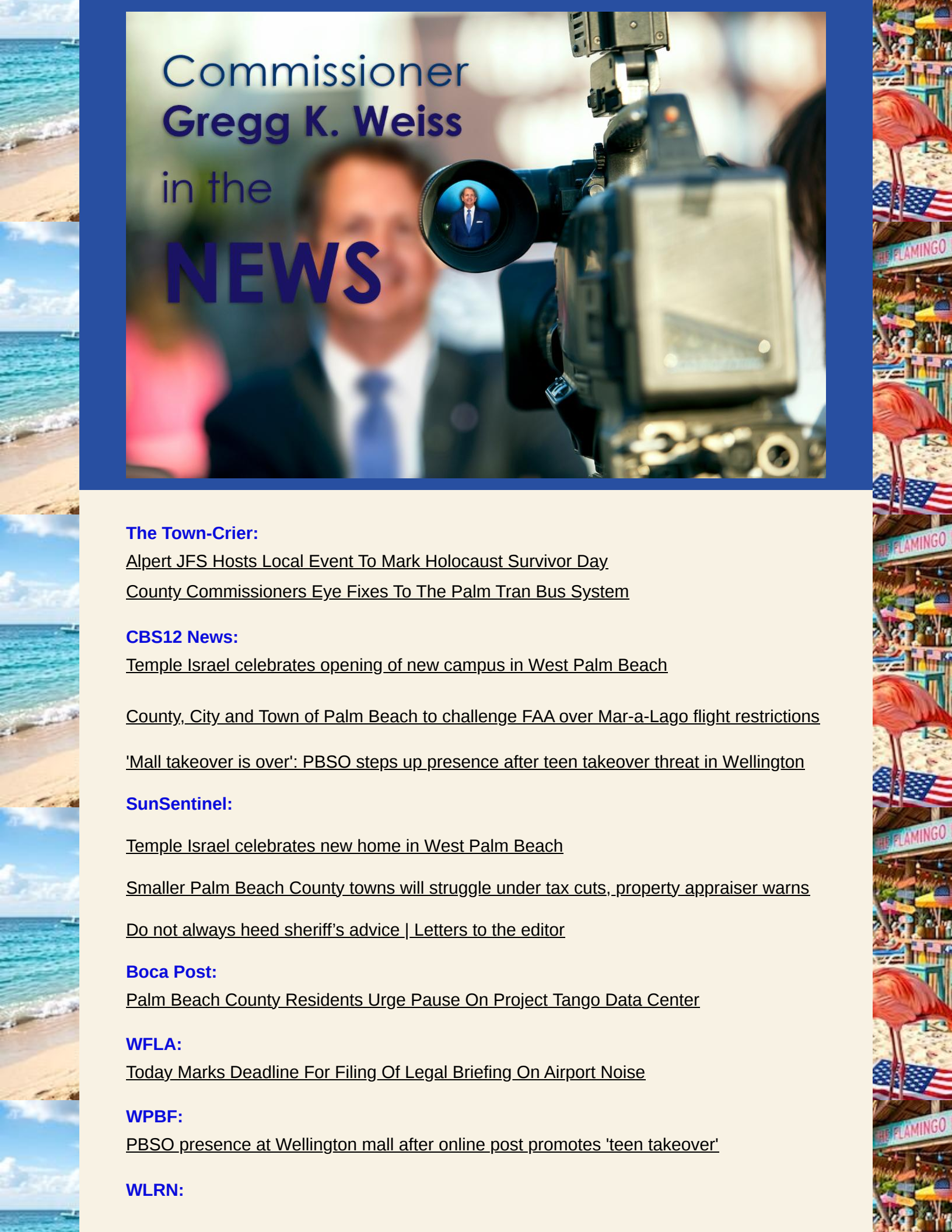
If you would like to invite Commissioner Weiss to give a presentation in your community on artificial intelligence or any other topic, contact our office at district2@pbc.gov or 561-355-2202.

Spotlight

Thomas Witkop

Meet Thomas Witkop, the newest member of Team Weiss. After working as a teacher, community organizer, and congressional candidate, Tom joined Team Weiss in June. He's energetic and bright, and has hit the ground running. Tom says he wanted the job because he "shares Gregg's values" - he cares about the environment, believes in technology that serves the people, and government that puts people first. If he's not scheduling or helping out constituents, you can find Tom snorkeling or taking his two rescue dogs for a hike. Welcome to the team, Tom!





Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss in the **NEWS**

The Town-Crier:

[Alpert JFS Hosts Local Event To Mark Holocaust Survivor Day](#)

[County Commissioners Eye Fixes To The Palm Tran Bus System](#)

CBS12 News:

[Temple Israel celebrates opening of new campus in West Palm Beach](#)

[County, City and Town of Palm Beach to challenge FAA over Mar-a-Lago flight restrictions](#)

['Mall takeover is over': PBSO steps up presence after teen takeover threat in Wellington](#)

SunSentinel:

[Temple Israel celebrates new home in West Palm Beach](#)

[Smaller Palm Beach County towns will struggle under tax cuts, property appraiser warns](#)

[Do not always heed sheriff's advice | Letters to the editor](#)

Boca Post:

[Palm Beach County Residents Urge Pause On Project Tango Data Center](#)

WFLA:

[Today Marks Deadline For Filing Of Legal Briefing On Airport Noise](#)

WPBF:

[PBSO presence at Wellington mall after online post promotes 'teen takeover'](#)

WLRN:



Public pays twice: Palm Beach Commissioners get rides from deputies, plus car allowance

Secret park deal, E.R. Bradley's controversy heat up West Palm Beach mayoral election

WPTV:

Palm Beach County bracing for largest department budget cuts in history due to potential property tax cuts

Palm Tran could face major cuts from property tax loss ahead of tax vote in November
Woodlawn Cemetery revitalization plan draws pushback from commissioner, families in West Palm Beach

Palm Beach County leaders push to end Mar-a-Lago flight restrictions when Trump not in town

WPTV on YouTube:

Woodlawn Cemetery event space proposal sparks backlash in West Palm Beach

Palm Beach Post:

School board asks Palm Beach County to answer data center concerns

Boynton Beach wants county to buy fire, water departments for \$470M+

Weiss wants West Palm to ban events at renovated Woodlawn Cemetery

Antisemitism won't stop county Jewish community from living with pride

Hoodline:

Lake Worth Beach Woman Dies After Slamming E-Scooter Into Parked Pickup

Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM):

Jewish Mayors and Municipal Leaders Association Launches at Miami Beach Event

AOL:

After contentious debate, county airport, PBI, will be named Trump

West Palm Beach deserves better than backroom 'park' deal | Opinion

Weiss wants West Palm to ban events at renovated Woodlawn Cemetery

Palm Beach County signs off on controversial Trump airport trademark deal

92.1 Real Radio | Florida News:

Today Marks Deadline For Filing Of Legal Briefing On Airport Noise

BIG 105.9 Florida News:

Palm Beach County Asking Secret Service To Reverse Flight Path Change

yahoo/news:

Antisemitism won't stop county Jewish community from living with pride

The Telegraph (free account creation required):



Commish in the Community

Celebrations, anniversaries, meeting with agencies, recognizing community leaders, joining neighbors' festivities and going to neighborhood meetings ... Commissioner Weiss spends a lot of time in the community.

"As an elected official, I want to be part of the community I represent," said Commissioner Weiss. "I want to understand the issues in my district, and that's why I spend many evenings attending events to listen and learn."

If you'd like to invite Commissioner Weiss to your event, let us know.



Unveiling: Ilene Long Old Trail Park Sign

Palm Beach County celebrated a woman who dedicated decades of her life to the neighborhood by renaming a local park in her honor. The Ilene Long Old Trail Park sign was unveiled on June 8th with Gregg providing warm words for Long, who moved to the area in the 1940s and became the heartbeat of her community — founding the Old Trail Neighborhood Watch, pushing for street lighting, organizing annual cleanups, and building relationships with county staff to make sure her neighbors' voices were heard. She was also a key advocate for the very park that now carries her name. Ilene Long passed away in May 2025 at age 88.



AI Goes to the Vi at Lakeside

A packed audience filled the Vi at Lakeside community room as they listened to Gregg give a presentation on artificial intelligence (AI) June 8, with a dash of Tariff updates thrown in for good measure. The updated presentation included examples of AI agents, which can perform tasks autonomously or with minimal human interaction. Audience members had great questions, and we appreciated the warm welcome!



African American Museum & Research Library Giving Gathering

The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties hosted a "Giving Gathering" on the evening of June 4th to share how the community can support the [African American Museum & Research Library \(AAMRL\)](#) through philanthropy. Slated to open in 2028, the AAMRL is a transformative project that will serve as a cornerstone of West Palm Beach's historic Coleman Park neighborhood. Gregg was happy to attend and show his support for this wonderful project.



Holocaust Survivor Day Proclamation

Gregg was proud to present a proclamation on June 4th recognizing this day as Holocaust Survivor Day in Palm Beach County. Holocaust Survivor Day was established in 2021 to ensure that survivors are recognized with dignity and appreciation. Locally, Alpert JFS serves over 200 Holocaust Survivors across five counties, providing essential services that support their health, independence and well-being.



Dreher Park Clean Up

Members of the Cox Science Center and Aquarium, Skanska Construction, Boys & Girls Club of Palm Beach County, and the Dreher Park Neighborhood Association showed up in force bright and early on the morning of May 30th to help beautify Dreher Park. Gregg joined in to help remove an amazing 212 pounds of trash from our community park. Community pride in action!





Ribbon Cutting for New Affordable Homes in Lake Worth Beach

The Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County (CLT) and the Treasure Coast and the Lake Worth Beach CRA (CRA) celebrated the building eight affordable villas in Lake Worth Beach at a home dedication ceremony on May 29th. With land donated by the CRA, the CLT along with Palm Beach County financed the construction of these 3-bedroom, 2-bath villas for households making less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI). In Palm Beach County, 80% of AMI for a 4-person household is \$82,240. The CRA also donated funds to the homeowners for down payment assistance. Gregg is a staunch advocate for affordable homeownership and was delighted to be part of this celebration.



West Palm 100 Event Benefitting Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida

Drive Shack was shakin' with supporters and [Adventurefuls](#) (yum!) May 21st as Gregg joined in this [West Palm 100](#) event benefitting the [Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida](#). Girl Scouts create the world they want to live in and strive to make it better every single day. They explore their strengths, take on new challenges, and can always be themselves, regardless of background or ability. L/R: Gurbir Aulakh, Sergio Piedra, and Gregg.



National Trauma Survivors Day

At a moving ceremony May 20th at St. Mary's Medical Center, Gregg heard the inspiring - and humbling - stories of trauma survivors. Their resilience, plus the heroism of the first responders who rushed to their aid, and the dedicated trauma surgeons at St. Mary's who show up at their worst moments is humanity at its best. Gregg was honored to present a proclamation recognizing May 20, 2026 as National Trauma Survivors Day. [Video](#).





Jewish Mayors & Municipal Leaders Association Launch

The Jewish Mayors & Municipal Leaders Association (JMMLA) had its official launch May 18th at Miami Beach City Hall. Gregg joined the kickoff event sponsored by the [Combat Antisemitism Movement](#), along with Jewish leaders from across Florida. Chaired by Steven Meiner, Mayor of Miami Beach, the Association aims to strengthen collaboration among Jewish municipal leaders, promote civic leadership, support Jewish communities, and advance coordinated responses to rising antisemitism and extremism impacting cities across America. "History has taught the Jewish people the cost of silence," Meiner said. "As mayors and municipal leaders, we have a responsibility to confront antisemitism, defend democratic values, and ensure every resident feels safe and protected in our communities."

VISIT GREGG'S FACEBOOK PAGE

**Ideas? Suggestions? Concerns?
Contact Us!**

We're here to help you!

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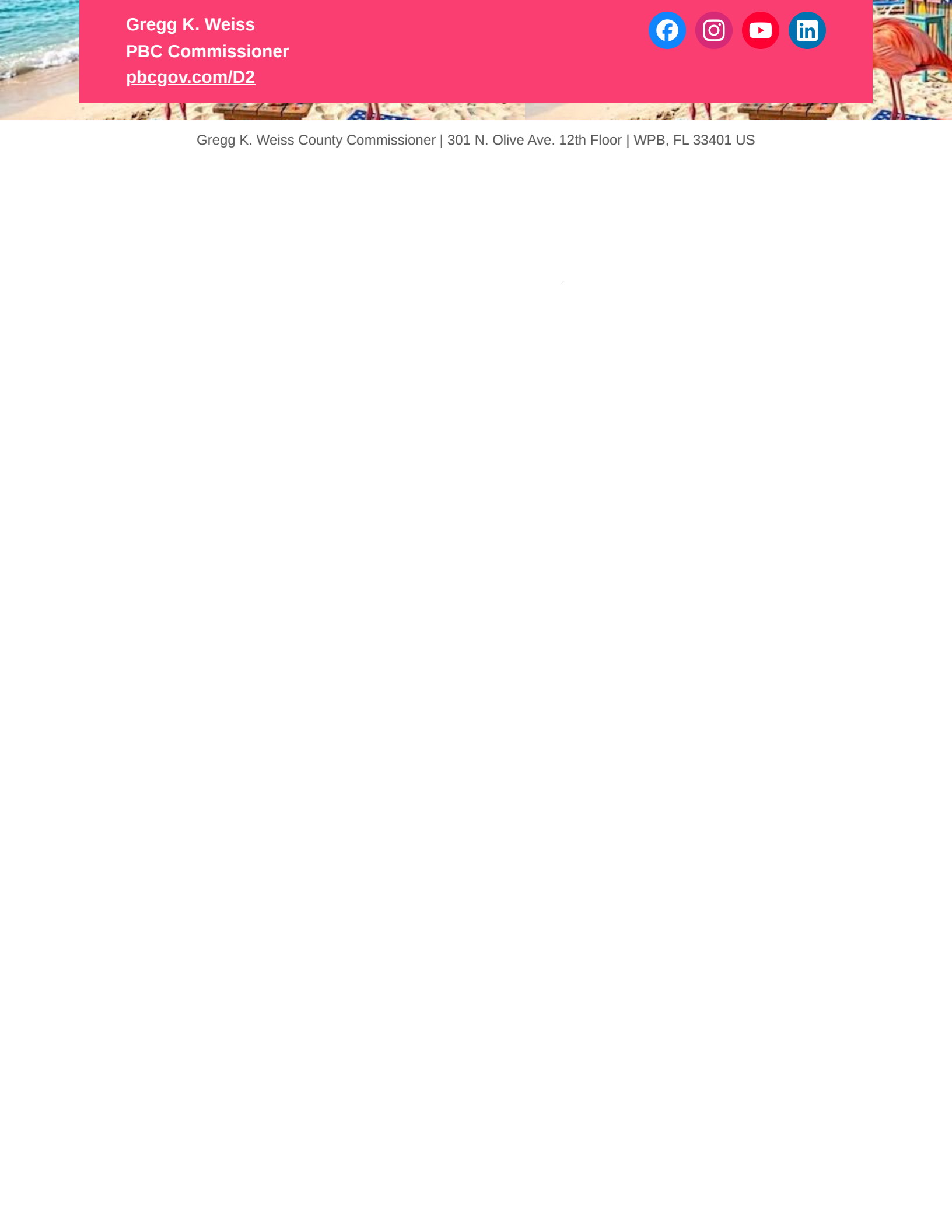
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