

Minutes
Florida League of Cities, Inc. Annual Conference
August 11-13, 2022
Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida

The Florida League of Cities' Annual Conference was held at the Diplomat Resort in Hollywood, Florida, on August 11-13, 2022. There was an attendance of more than 900 delegates and guests, representing approximately 230 municipal governments.

Principal speakers included Ben Nemtin, Author, Co-founder of The Buried Life movement, Vince Williams, National League of Cities President, and Mickey Smith Jr., Saxophonist, Author, Development Coach.

On Thursday, August 11, delegates began arriving for various workshops and events of the annual conference. In the morning, a "Continuing Education in Ethics" workshop was held. That afternoon, the League's legislative policy committees and the Resolutions Committee conducted meetings, and an orientation session was available for first-time conference attendees. Three workshops, "Cities 101", "Broadband Update: Making the Connection", and "You Lost Me at Home Rule" were also held. The FLC Nominating Committee met in the afternoon. That evening, the President's Welcome Reception was held for all conference delegates to attend.

Friday, August 12, began with the first round of concurrent sessions featuring "Florida Keeps Growing: Is Your City Ready?", "Responding to Mass Shootings: Advice and Assistance for City Leaders", and "Don't Get Sued: How Cities Implement New Laws". These were followed by the Opening General Session presided by Phillip Walker, FLC President, Commissioner, Lakeland. The session welcome address was given by Jeannie Garner, Executive Director/CEO, Florida League of Cities. Vice Mayor Leo E. Longworth, Bartow, was announced as the winner of the E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award. Ben Nemtin, Author, Co-founder of The Buried Life movement was the keynote speaker.

That afternoon, three additional rounds of concurrent sessions were held. Round two topics were: "Council-Manager Relations: Professional Management Matters", "DEI Training: HB 7 and Ways to Continue the Conversation", and "Doing More with Less: Solutions for Small Cities". Round three topics were: "Promoting Local and Regional Economic Development with EDA" and "The Science of the Story: How Voters Make Decisions, Why Some Messages 'Stick' and the Role of Hope and Fear in Modern Politics". Round four topics were: "Resilient Florida Bootcamp" and "The Arrogance of Facts and the Persistence of Opinion: Leading in a Time of Division".

Also, that day, the Federal Action Strike Team (FAST) met, the Advocacy Committee met, and the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials held a breakfast meeting. The Board of Directors met Friday afternoon, and in the evening a Florida League of Cities Membership Networking Event was held, and a Young Elected Municipal Officials Dessert Reception was held.

On Saturday, several local/regional leagues held breakfast meetings and a session for Youth Councils was held.

At 9:00 a.m. that morning, President Phillip Walker, Commissioner, Lakeland, called the Business Session to order and announced that a quorum of delegates was present. Voting delegates were requested to be seated in the designated area. President Walker advised delegates that if it were necessary for a Division of the House to be called, an explanation of the system of casting weighted votes would be provided in advance.

The meeting was conducted in accordance with the League's By-Laws and *Robert's Rule of Order*. Each voting delegate was properly registered and received voting credentials and ballots identifying the delegate's weighted vote. Kraig Conn, the League's general counsel, served as parliamentarian.

The first order of business was a motion duly made and seconded to approve the 2021 conference minutes as posted on the League's website. The motion was adopted.

President Walker then recognized the chairs of the League's five legislative policy committees and thanked them and committee members for their service.

He also recognized the chairs of the Federal Action Strike Team and the Advocacy Committee thanking them for their service. He then announced there was no unfinished business to come before the membership of the Florida League of Cities.

President Walker called for a report of the Resolutions Committee. Committee Chair Jolien Caraballo, League First Vice President and Vice Mayor, Port St. Lucie, introduced each resolution and moved its adoption. Each motion was duly seconded, and each resolution was adopted.

2022-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE CITY OF LAKELAND FOR ITS SUPPORT OF PHILLIP WALKER AS PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES.

WHEREAS, Phillip E. Walker, Commissioner of the City of Lakeland, served as President of the Florida League of Cities from 2021-2022; and

WHEREAS, the citizens, mayor, commissioners and staff of the City of Lakeland were understanding of the demands placed upon Commissioner Walker in his role as President of the League; and

WHEREAS, during his presidency, Commissioner Walker focused on the importance of grassroots advocacy, increased engagement by elected officials statewide, and provided the tools and resources municipalities need to be successful, which has led to stronger, healthier and more vibrant communities throughout Florida; and

WHEREAS, during his presidency, Commissioner Walker provided leadership, guidance, vision and compassion for Florida's 411 municipalities and their staffs, residents and businesses during an unprecedented time in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, the membership and staff of the League recognize that the commitment of the City of Lakeland to Commissioner Walker's presidency ensured his active participation in League activities and unselfish service to the League, and it permitted him to successfully promote the programs, projects and philosophy of the League during the past year; and

WHEREAS, the membership and staff of the League also wish to recognize and personally thank Traci Terry and all of the dedicated City of Lakeland staff for their efforts in providing outstanding assistance to President Walker and FLC staff in coordinating his duties with the City and with the League, and all city staff went above and beyond the call of duty and their outstanding contributions to this effort are applauded and greatly appreciated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., membership and staff do officially and personally appreciate the commitment the City of Lakeland's citizens, commissioners and staff made to Commissioner Walker's presidency.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution be presented to the City of Lakeland.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 2022 Annual Conference at the Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, FL, this 13th Day of August 2022.

2022-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 17-23, 2022, AS "FLORIDA CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK" AND ENCOURAGING ALL FLORIDA CITY OFFICIALS TO SUPPORT THIS CELEBRATION BY PARTICIPATING IN THE "MY CITY: I'M PART OF IT, I'M PROUD OF IT!" ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, city government is the government closest to the people and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, city government provides services and programs that enhance the quality of life for residents, making their city their home; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along the understanding of the services provided by cities and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Florida City Government Week is a very important time to recognize the significant role played by city government in our lives and to spread the word to all Floridians that they can shape and influence this level of government, which is closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., encourages all city officials, city employees, school officials and citizens to participate in events that recognize and celebrate Florida City Government Week.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., supports and encourages all city governments to promote, sponsor and participate in My City: I'm Part of It, I'm Proud of It!

Section 3. A copy of this resolution be provided to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, the Florida Cabinet, the Florida School Boards Association and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 2022 Annual Conference at the Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, FL, this 13th Day of August 2022.

2022-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC. IN BOTH RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE AND HONORING THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION.

WHEREAS, in 1922 several municipal officials came together in Tampa and formed the Florida League of Municipalities, and stressed the need for a united voice for all cities, towns and villages as well as a forum at which common issues could be discussed and resolved; and

WHEREAS, for one century this association, whose name was changed to the Florida League of Cities in 1970, has been that uniting factor through which leaders have been galvanized on all municipal issues, and through which the League provides a valued forum today, holding fast to both original missions; and

WHEREAS, across the decades League advocates have worked tirelessly in Florida’s constitutional, legislative, legal and administrative arenas for reform, rights and action and such advocacy culminated in Home Rule powers being voted into the Constitution in 1968, and such actions continue to be the strongest force for preserving this authority despite efforts to preempt or diminish it or to burden cities with mandates; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated leadership of its officers and boards of directors over the decades have built a foundation of strength, resilience and success for the Association to a level unparalleled among organizations, and these same leaders and devoted FLC staff have had and continue to have the outstanding vision for entrepreneurial programs, products and services for the League to provide to its members and other local governments, and through such actions ensures viable services that benefit local governments every day as well as ensuring for the League a healthy and sustainable fiscal standing; and

WHEREAS, an anniversary of this magnitude is worthy of acknowledgement, celebration and sober reflection upon all that has been accomplished and to also look toward the next century for this Association and its many programs such that a promising, bright and attainable future is planned.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The membership acknowledges the Century Mark for its statewide association with great fanfare and celebration.

Section 2. This resolution be posted on the League’s website and published in QC magazine and a copy of this resolution be sent to the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 2022 Annual Conference at the Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, FL, this 13th Day of August 2022.

2022-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., URGING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, floods are the most common and destructive natural disaster in the United States and Florida; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 to make affordable flood insurance available to homeowners, renters and business owners in exchange for using Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) generated Flood Insurance Rate Maps for floodplain management by participating communities; and

WHEREAS, the Flood Disaster Act of 1973 requires the purchase of flood insurance as a condition of receiving any form of federal or federal-related financial assistance for acquisition or construction purposes with respect to the insurance of buildings; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP provides affordable flood insurance to property owners by encouraging local governments to adopt and enforce floodplain and water management regulations, best practices and techniques; and

WHEREAS, these mitigation efforts reduce and prevent flooding on new and improved structures, thereby saving lives and reducing injuries, reducing economic losses, maintaining and protecting critical infrastructure, and reducing the liability borne by local governments and their elected officials; and

WHEREAS, flooding is a serious risk in Florida due to the state's geography and proximity to water, both coastal and inland; and

WHEREAS, this issue is a critical concern for our state as Florida has the largest number of participants in the NFIP with more than 1.7 million policies in force; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP is set to expire on September 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a lack of long-term reauthorization causes uncertainty for beneficiaries and providers; and

WHEREAS, there is still no viable private market for homeowners and businesses to acquire sufficient flood insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, accurate mapping is fundamental for local governments to assess and communicate risk to their communities and property owners; and

WHEREAS, the current federal mapping process often results in local governments having to rely on inaccurate maps that do not take into account locally built flood protection features and communities building off of outdated mapping, which results in artificially inflated risk. Further, many areas of the country are not mapped or mapped accurately, which results in communities not being aware that they are at risk of flooding; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon all of us to have a long-term, sustainable and viable NFIP with rates that are affordable; and

WHEREAS, FEMA launched a new risk rating system called Risk Rating 2.0 to address deficiencies in the traditional mapping process; and

WHEREAS, Risk Rating 2.0 will be used as a basis for new flood insurance rates, but the technical details and the actuarial data on which premiums will be based have not been clearly defined by FEMA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., supports a long-term National Flood Insurance Program that utilizes a flood risk rating system that is transparent, equitable and affordable.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution be sent to President Joe Biden, the administrator of FEMA, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 2022 Annual Conference at the Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, FL, this 13th Day of August 2022.

There being no further resolutions, President Walker expressed appreciation to Committee Chair Jolien Caraballo and the members of the Resolutions Committee for their efforts.

President Walker then called for a report of the Nominating Committee. Vice Chair Kimberly Glas-Castro, Vice Mayor, Lake Park presented on behalf of Chairman Tony Ortiz, League past president and Commissioner, Orlando, and offered the following nominations:

For President: Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo, Port St. Lucie. President Walker called for additional nominations. There being none, Vice Chair Glas-Castro moved that the nominations be closed, and a unanimous vote be cast for Vice Mayor Caraballo for president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

For First Vice President: Mayor Greg Ross, Cooper City. President Walker called for additional nominations. There being none, Vice Chair Glas-Castro moved that the nominations be closed, and a unanimous vote be cast for Mayor Ross for first vice president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

For Second Vice President: Mayor Michael Blake, Cocoa. President Walker called for additional nominations. There being none, Vice Chair Glas-Castro moved the nominations be closed, and a unanimous vote be cast for Mayor Blake for second vice president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Vice Chair Glas-Castro then announced the committee's nominees for the Board of Directors representing the 14 districts were as follows: (1) Mayor J.B. Whitten, Crestview; Mayor Pro Tem William Schaezle, Niceville; (2) Councilmember Jake Hill, Lake City; Vice Mayor Thomas DeVille, Penney Farms; (3) Mayor Don Burnette, Port Orange; Mayor Bill Partington, Ormond Beach; (4) Councilmember Mindy Gibson, Satellite Beach; Councilmember Sarah Stoeckel, Titusville; (5) Mayor Louie Davis, Waldo; Councilmember Cal Rolfson, Mount Dora; (6) Mayor Nathan Blackwell, St. Cloud; Commissioner Joseph McMullen, Oakland; Commissioner Rosemary Wilsen, Ocoee; (7) Mayor Dorothea Taylor Bogert, Auburndale; Vice Mayor Marlene Wagner, Lake Hamilton; (8) Mayor Tyler Payne, Treasure Island; Councilor Trish Springer, Seminole; (9) Councilmember Ed Dodd, Sebastian; (10) Commissioner Brian Williams, Palmetto; (11) Mayor Julie Wilkins, LaBelle; (12) Councilmember Julia Botel, Riviera Beach; Vice Mayor Kimberly Glas-Castro, Lake Park; Vice Mayor Lawrence Gordon, Haverhill; Councilman Jeff Hmara, Royal Palm Beach; (13) Commissioner Traci L. Callari, Hollywood; Commissioner Todd Drosky, Deerfield Beach; Commissioner Bob Mayersohn, Parkland; Commissioner

Gary Resnick, Wilton Manors; Commissioner Iris Siple, Pembroke Pines; Councilwoman Susan Starkey, Davie; Commissioner Beverly Williams, Lauderdale Lakes; (14) Mayor Juan Carlos “JC” Bermudez, Doral; Mayor Joseph Corradino, Pinecrest; Mayor Rodney Harris, Miami Gardens; Councilmember Crystal Wagar, Miami Shores.

President Walker called for additional nominations. There being none, Vice Chair Glas-Castro moved that the nominations be closed, and a unanimous ballot be cast for the nominees as presented. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Vice Chair Glas-Castro then moved the committee’s nominees for the Board of Directors representing the 10 most populous cities: Jacksonville – Council Member Samuel Newby; Miami – Commissioner Ken Russell; Tampa – Council Chair Joseph Citro; St. Petersburg – Mayor Kenneth Welch; Orlando – Commissioner Robert Stuart; Hialeah – Mayor Esteban Bovo; Port St. Lucie – Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan; Tallahassee – Commissioner Dianne Williams-Cox; Cape Coral – Mayor John Gunter; Fort Lauderdale – Mayor Dean Trantalis.

President Walker called for additional nominations. There being none, Vice Chair Glas-Castro moved that the nominations be closed, and a unanimous ballot be cast for the nominees as presented. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Vice Chair Glas-Castro then announced the By-Laws provide that past presidents serving in office also serve on the Board of Directors and those individuals are: Commissioner Scott Black, Dade City; Mayor Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines; Mayor Joy Cooper, Hallandale Beach; Mayor Pat Bates, Altamonte Springs; Commissioner Matthew Surrency, Hawthorne; Vice Mayor Leo E. Longworth, Bartow; Council Member Isaac Salver, Bay Harbor Islands; Commissioner Tony Ortiz, Orlando; and Commissioner Phillip Walker, Lakeland (at the end of his presidency).

Also, the League’s policy calls for a non-voting member from the Florida City and County Management Association. This year, Deland City Manager Michael Pleus will serve in that position.

President Walker then thanked Vice Chair Glas-Castro and the Nominating Committee for their efforts and congratulated the newly appointed Board of Directors of the Florida League of Cities.

There being no comments for the “Good of the Order” and no further business to come before the membership of the League, upon motion, the Business Session was adjourned.

The Second General Session featured presentations by NLC President Vince Williams and Keynote Speaker Mickey Smith Jr. At this time, the Defender of Home Rule and Florida Municipal Achievement Awards were presented; the youth councils in attendance were recognized; and the Florida League of Cities President’s End of Year Video was shown.

Following the Second General Session, the League's past presidents were recognized during a luncheon held in their honor. Past presidents in attendance were Richard Greco; Robert "Bo" Donly; Lawrence Kelly; Raul Martinez, Eric Smith; Ilene Michelson; Clarence Anthony; Samuel Ferreri; Frank Satchel; Commissioner Scott Black, Dade City; Dottie Reeder; Commissioner Rene Flowers, Pinellas County; Mayor Frank Ortis, Pembroke Pines; Mayor Pat Bates, Altamonte Springs; P.C. Wu; Commissioner Matthew Surrency, Hawthorne; Council Member Isaac Salver, Bay Harbor Islands and Commissioner Tony Ortiz, Orlando. Also, during the luncheon, President Jolien Caraballo was installed, and appropriate recognition was provided.

Following lunch, a workshop "Improving Mental Health for Municipal Employees: Behavioral Health Access Program" was available for attendees. The League's Board of Directors also met that afternoon.

During the "100th Anniversary Gala" that evening, delegates enjoyed dinner and entertainment and the 2022 Annual Conference was adjourned.