

Minutes
Florida League of Cities, Inc. Annual Conference
August 12-14, 2021
World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida

The Florida League of Cities' Annual Conference was held at the World Center Marriott in Orlando, Florida, on August 12-14, 2021. There was an attendance of more than 1,000 delegates and guests, representing approximately 200 city governments.

Principal speakers included Kevin Guthrie, Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management, Leland Melvin, Engineer, Educator, Former NASA Astronaut, Clarence Anthony, National League of Cities Executive Director, and Kenneth W. Gronbach, Demographer.

On Thursday, August 12, 2021, delegates began arriving for various workshops and events of the annual conference. In the morning, a "Continuing Education in Ethics: Have You Completed Your Hours?" workshop was held. That afternoon, the League's legislative policy committees and the Federal Action Strike Team (FAST) conducted meetings, and an orientation session was available for first-time conference attendees. Three workshops, "Cities 101", "Council Meetings that Build Trust," and "Legislative Session Hot Topics," 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 morning began with the first round of concurrent sessions featuring "Social Media: Reaching Your Residents, Staying in Bounds" and "Advocacy: Educating, Engaging and Energizing Citizens on Home Rule." Round two topics were "Understanding and Fostering Racial Equity: A Conversation" and "Targeted by Hackers: Cybersecurity Risk, Mitigation and Future Trends." These were followed by the Opening General Session presided by Tony Ortiz, FLC President, Commissioner, Orlando. The session welcome address was given by Jeannie Garner, Executive Director, Florida League of Cities. Vice Mayor Marlene Wagner was announced as the winner of the E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award. Leland Melvin, Engineer, Educator, Former NASA Astronaut was the keynote speaker.

That afternoon, three additional rounds of concurrent sessions were held. Round three topics were: "Renewable Energy and 21st Century Sustainability" and "Media Amidst a Rapidly Changing Landscape." Round four topics were: "Breaking Down the American Rescue Plan Act: What Cities Need to Know" and "You Lost Me at Home Rule." Round five topics were: "Navigating the Council-Manager Relationship" and "Here Come the Jetsons: The Future of Transportation Technology is Here!"

Also, that day, the Resolutions Committee, the Legislative Committee, and 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.

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 Tony Ortiz, Commissioner, Orlando, 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 Ortiz 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 2020 conference minutes as posted on the League's website. The motion was adopted.

President Ortiz 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 Ortiz called for a report of the Resolutions Committee. Chairman Phillip Walker, League First Vice President and Commissioner, Lakeland, introduced each resolution and moved its adoption. Each motion was duly seconded, and each resolution was adopted.

2021-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE CITY OF ORLANDO FOR ITS SUPPORT OF ANTONIO L. ORTIZ AS PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES.

WHEREAS, Antonio "Tony" Ortiz, Commissioner of the City of Orlando, served as President of the Florida League of Cities from 2020-2021; and

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

WHEREAS, during his presidency, Commissioner Ortiz focused on the importance of Building Stronger Cities, which organized, empowered and delivered unprecedented grassroots advocacy from Florida residents,

showed them the importance of getting engaged in their local and state government and instilled in them how important Home Rule is to ensuring local voices make local choices when protecting their neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS, during his presidency, Commissioner Ortiz 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 Orlando to Commissioner Ortiz'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 Megan A. Shaver and all of the dedicated City of Orlando staff for their efforts in providing outstanding assistance to President Ortiz 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 Orlando's citizens, commissioners and staff made to Commissioner Ortiz's presidency.

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 2021 Annual Conference at the Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando, FL, this 14th Day of August 2021.

2021-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 18-24, 2021, 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, 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; and

WHEREAS, Florida City Government Week was created in 1991, and this year marks thirty years of recognizing the significant role played by city government in our lives.

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 2021 Annual Conference at the Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando, FL, this 14th Day of August 2021.

2021-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF FLORIDA AS A TERRITORY WITHIN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WHEREAS, the United States of America acquired the territories of East and West Florida from Spain in 1821 and that transfer was formally conducted by representatives of both countries in 1822; and

WHEREAS, East and West Florida were considered one entity by the United States, and Florida's leaders began to pursue statehood within a few years of joining the U.S. and in doing so adopted a Constitution in 1839 that outlined definitions, roles and responsibilities for Florida's local governments; and

WHEREAS, the territorial ceremony included recognition of the capitols of East and West Florida, respectively St. Augustine and Pensacola which were thriving communities under both English and Spanish rule and were recognized by the territorial Governor as municipalities in 1822 along with the other populous communities of Apalachicola, Key West and St. Joseph (now Port St. Joe), and other new cities joined them as Florida grew; and

WHEREAS, Florida is celebrating its Bicentennial Year as a territory within the United States of America and such observance, celebration and commemoration is worthy of note to each municipality in Florida as the foundation of the state and its constitution is fundamental to each city, town and village; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities and its membership appreciate Florida's rich history and encourage each municipality to use this anniversary as an opportunity to educate citizens, residents and visitors about Florida's history along with municipal self-government, representative democracy, Home Rule powers, municipal services and public service in general.

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

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., hereby joins with all Floridians in celebrating the bicentennial and encourages its membership to acknowledge and commemorate this momentous anniversary in all appropriate ways.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor and Cabinet.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 2021 Annual Conference at the Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando, FL, this 14th Day of August 2021.

2021-04

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, 2021; 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 is scheduled to launch a new risk rating system called Risk Rating 2.0 to address deficiencies in the traditional mapping process that was originally scheduled to go into effect October 1, 2021; 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 2021 Annual Conference at the Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando, FL, this 14th Day of August 2021.

2021-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES INC., URGING CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, TRAINING AND FEDERAL FUNDING TO CITIES TO STRENGTHEN AND ASSESS CYBERSECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE.

WHEREAS, local governments are entrusted with gigabytes of personally identifiable, confidential and proprietary information about the businesses and citizens that live and operate within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, numerous high-profile cyber incidents in the public sector have highlighted the emerging challenges that cities face in protecting this data; and

WHEREAS, the “hidden” impact on local government operations when a system is compromised could result in longer response times for police and fire personnel, delays in service delivery to utility customers or holdups in the permitting process for businesses; and

WHEREAS, the loss of personally identifiable, confidential and proprietary information has its own critical and personal cost impacts, but also damages public trust in government; and

WHEREAS, many cities are embracing technology-driven governance while security threats are increasing in frequency and sophistication.

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

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress and the Administration to partner with cities to help strengthen their security measures to thwart future cyberattacks, specifically in the areas of technical assistance, training and infrastructure improvements.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to support the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act which would create a grant program, administered by the Department of Homeland Security, to bolster state and local cybersecurity operations.

Section 3. A copy of this resolution be sent to President Joe Biden, 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 2021 Annual Conference at the Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando, FL, this 14th Day of August 2021.

2021-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES INC., URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT MAXIMIZES THE FLEXIBILITY OF MUNICIPAL FINANCING TOOLS TO ADDRESS LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS.

WHEREAS, Florida faces much-needed infrastructure challenges without a dedicated source to fund improvements; and

WHEREAS, this deteriorating infrastructure impedes Florida’s ability to compete in an increasingly global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, delaying these investments only escalates the cost and risks of an aging infrastructure system, an option that Florida municipalities can no longer afford; and

WHEREAS, Sens. Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Roger Wicker (R-MS) reintroduced the American Infrastructure Bonds Act, that would create “direct pay,” taxable municipal bonds to help local governments finance critical public projects; and

WHEREAS, the American Infrastructure Bonds Act would allow state and local governments to issue direct payment bonds for any public expenditure that would be eligible to be financed by tax-exempt bonds with the U.S. Department of the Treasury paying a percentage of the bond’s interest to the issuing entity to reduce the cost for the state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, direct payment bonds are attractive to investors who do not receive the tax advantage from traditional tax-exempt bonds; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan American Infrastructure Bonds Act would help municipal governments invest in much-needed infrastructure improvements by expanding financing options while preserving local decision-making; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017, which eliminated tax-exempt advanced refunding bonds; and

WHEREAS, Congressmen Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) and Steve Stivers (R-OH) reintroduced the Investing in Our Communities Act, legislation that restores the tax-exemption for advanced refunding bonds; and

WHEREAS, the use of tax-exempt advance refunding bonds allows municipalities to take advantage of lower interest rates, therefore, saving taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS these bonds are used to support a wide range of infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, water systems and broadband.

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

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to support the Investing in Our Communities Act that would restore tax-exempt advance refunding bonds.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to support the American Infrastructure Bonds Act that would expand infrastructure financing options for cities and improve the ability for cities to invest in critical infrastructure projects.

Section 3. A copy of this resolution be sent to President Joe Biden, 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 2021 Annual Conference at the Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando, FL, this 14th Day of August 2021.

2021-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES INC., URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION TO ADDRESS PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL CONTAMINATION.

WHEREAS, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of nearly 5,000 man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, PFBS and GenX manufactured and used in a variety of industries; and

WHEREAS, PFAS are a group of chemicals that are pervasive in the environment, do not breakdown easily and can accumulate in people causing adverse health effects; and

WHEREAS, PFAS has contaminated Florida's groundwater resources, including: three areas identified under the federal third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) sampling of public supply wells; 22 areas identified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sampling of certified fire training facilities; 27 areas identified by sampling of select State Cleanup Program sites; 15 areas identified by DEP sampling of select dry-cleaning program sites; and 20 current and former federal facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Local Government Advisory Committee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was charged by the EPA to provide recommendations and input on the EPA's development of a national plan to manage PFAS, and to identify specific actions and tools that states, local governments and tribal communities need to address PFAS contamination; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 EPA announced a comprehensive nationwide action plan for addressing PFAS, including identifying both short-term solutions for addressing these chemicals and long-term strategies that will help states, tribes and local government; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering bills to increase the regulation and testing of PFAS, including the PFAS Action Act, that would require EPA to designate PFAS as hazardous substances, and the Filthy Fifty Act, which would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct testing, removal and remediation of PFAS at all military installations formerly used as defense sites, and state-owned facilities of the National Guard in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the Division of Waste Management of the DEP introduced a dynamic plan to address the complex issues associated with PFAS, which would require coordination with other states and federal agencies.

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

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to adopt legislation that would address

PFAS contamination on non-federal grounds.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to adopt legislation that would exempt local governments and ratepayers from financial liability for PFAS contamination cleanup costs because local governments served as receivers of PFAS chemicals and did not cause or contribute to the contamination.

Section 3. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the federal government to coordinate with the DEP to continue the cleanup efforts on federal military sites, and to provide technical and financial assistance to communities for testing, monitoring, mapping, public education, water supply treatment, and pursuit of alternative water supplies if necessary.

Section 4. A copy of this resolution be sent to President Joe Biden, the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 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 2021 Annual Conference at the Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando, FL, this 14th Day of August 2021.

2021-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., URGING CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO WORK WITH CITIES TO REBUILD AND STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE.

WHEREAS, municipalities of all sizes own, zone and maintain a significant portion of America's critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, as Florida's population continues to grow, investing in infrastructure for transportation, water and broadband access is essential to Florida's prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the lack of federal investment in Florida's transportation system continues to adversely impact cities, which are the economic engines of our state; and

WHEREAS, an estimated \$48 billion is needed over the next 20 years to meet Florida's needs for drinking water, wastewater, flood control, nutrient pollution, Everglades restoration and beach and inlet erosion; and

WHEREAS, making broadband more accessible, reliable and affordable in underserved or unserved areas can dramatically improve the quality of life for Floridians.

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

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., strongly urges Congress and the Administration to support an infrastructure package that makes a significant federal commitment in strengthening the nation's transportation, water and broadband infrastructure and specifically:

- Directs federal funding to the Surface Transportation Block Grant program and other safety and technology grant programs that are accessible to all cities, towns and villages;
- Provides financing, funding and flexibility to meet Florida's growing water infrastructure needs and address the impacts of climate change; and
- Invests in urban and rural broadband infrastructure to close the digital divide and remove obstacles to municipal, public-private and co-op-provided broadband.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., strongly urges Congress and the Administration to partner directly with local governments, who are closest to their citizens, as full stakeholders in all federal programs that impact their communities.

Section 3. A copy of this resolution be sent to President Joe Biden, the Florida Congressional Delegation, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, 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 2021 Annual Conference at the Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando, FL, this 14th Day of August 2021.

There being no further resolutions, President Ortiz expressed appreciation to Chairman Phillip Walker and the members of the Resolutions Committee for their efforts.

President Ortiz then called for a report of the Legislative Committee. Chairman Phillip Walker, League First Vice President and Commissioner, Lakeland, introduced the priority statements and moved its adoption. Each motion was duly seconded, and each priority statement was adopted.

Communications Services Tax Reform

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS reforming the Communications Services Tax in a manner that is revenue neutral; provides for a broad and equitable tax base; provides for enhanced stability and reliability of an important revenue source for municipalities; and provides for a uniform taxing method. Reform should promote a competitively neutral tax policy that will free consumers to choose a provider based on tax-neutral considerations.

Economic Development Incentives

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation and policies that encourage coordination among Enterprise Florida, the Department of Economic Opportunity, other state agencies and cities to promote local economic development by providing increased funding, technical

assistance and increased collaboration between the state and cities on offering incentives that maximize economic development opportunities for retention, expansion, and attraction, and building sustainable economic resiliency.

Short-Term Rentals

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that restores authority to local governments for the regulation of short-term rental properties as necessary for quality of life, public safety and a fair lodging marketplace. The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation clarifying that existing, grandfathered municipal short-term rental ordinances can be amended without penalty. The Florida League of Cities OPPOSES legislation that preempts municipal authority as it relates to the regulation of short-term rental properties.

Transportation Funding

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation:

- Directing the Florida Department of Transportation to establish a grant program to provide financial assistance for the installation of publicly available electric vehicle charging infrastructure on public or private property
- Providing technical assistance for the development and adoption of local or regional plans for charging infrastructure and associated equipment
- Identifying additional transportation revenue to support innovative infrastructure and transit projects to meet the surging transportation demands driven by dramatic growth throughout Florida.

Tree Protection

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to close loopholes and create standards in current law exemptions from municipal tree ordinances that have caused litigation and abuses, including the clear-cutting of land pre-development and the removal of healthy trees that present little, if any, risk to persons or structures. Current law should be amended to apply only to developed single-family residential property, identify industry-appropriate standards for assessing tree risk and identify necessary documentation.

POLICY POSITIONS/OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Local Business Tax Preservation

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that preserves general revenues collected from the local business tax. These revenues are used to fund essential municipal services such as public safety and constructing and maintaining roads and bridges, public parks and open spaces. Maintaining a diversified revenue base also strengthens the fiscal stability of municipalities and improves their respective ability to serve citizens and businesses.

Annexation

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that facilitates the municipal annexation of unincorporated areas while protecting private property rights and respecting municipal boundaries.

Cybersecurity

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation dedicating state resources for the development and enhancement of municipal cybersecurity by providing funding for technical assistance, threat assessments, employee training, infrastructure improvements and data protection, including the protection of exempt and confidential information such as law enforcement personnel information and security plans for government buildings and other key critical infrastructure.

Affordable Housing

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that requires all money from the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund be used only for Florida's affordable housing programs targeted to meet the needs of workforce housing, including low income, very low income and disabled persons, for both home ownership and rental unit availability.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislative action to address growing concerns about PFAS in soil and water, including coordinating with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish science-based cleanup target levels, providing resources for testing and research, public education and risk assessment guidelines, establishing liability protection for entities that have legally used PFAS for fire suppression or have passively received PFAS, and developing cost-effective and risk-based corrective strategies for PFAS.

President Ortiz then called for a report of the Nominating Committee. Vice Chair Teresa Watkins Brown, Councilmember, Fort Myers spoke on behalf of Chairman Isaac Salver, League past president and Council Member, Bay Harbor Islands, offered the following nominations:

For President: Commissioner Phillip Walker, Lakeland. President Ortiz called for additional nominations. There being none, Vice Chair Watkins Brown moved that the nominations be closed, and a unanimous vote be cast for Commissioner Walker for president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

For First Vice President: Councilwoman Jolien Caraballo, Port St. Lucie. President Ortiz called for additional nominations. There being none, Vice Chair Watkins Brown moved that the nominations be closed, and a unanimous vote be cast for Councilwoman Caraballo for first vice president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

For Second Vice President: Mayor Greg Ross, Cooper City. President Ortiz called for additional nominations. There being none, Vice Chair Watkins Brown moved the nominations be closed, and a unanimous vote be cast for Mayor Ross for second vice president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Vice Chair Watkins Brown 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 Schaetzle, Niceville; (2) Councilmember Jake Hill, Lake City; (3) Mayor Bob Apgar, DeLand; Mayor Bill Partington, Ormond Beach; (4) Mayor Carol McCormack, Palm Shores; Vice Mayor Dominick Montanaro; Satellite Beach; (5) Mayor Louie Davis, Waldo; Councilmember Cal Rolfson, Mount Dora; (6) Commissioner Joseph McMullen, Oakland; Commissioner Rosemary Wilsen, Ocoee; (7) Vice Mayor Sam Fite, Bowling Green; Vice Mayor Marlene Wagner, Lake Hamilton; (8) Mayor Tyler Payne; Treasure Island; Vice Mayor Jamie Robinson, Largo; (9) Councilwoman Susan Gibbs Thomas, Indiantown; (10) Commissioner Brian Williams, Palmetto; (11) Councilman Fred Forbes, Bonita Springs; (12) 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; Vice Mayor Bob Mayersohn, Parkland; Commissioner Gary Resnick, Wilton Manors; Commissioner Iris Siple, Pembroke Pines; Councilwoman Susan Starkey, Davie; Vice Mayor 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 Ortiz called for additional nominations. There being none, Vice Chair Watkins Brown 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 Watkins Brown then moved the committee's nominees for the Board of Directors representing the 10 most populous cities: Jacksonville – Council President Samuel Newby; Miami – Commissioner Ken Russell; Tampa – Councilmember Joseph Citro; St. Petersburg – Mayor Rick Kriseman; Orlando – Commissioner Robert Stuart; Hialeah – Mayor Carlos Hernandez; Tallahassee – Mayor John Dailey; Fort Lauderdale – Vice Mayor Heather Moraitis; Port St. Lucie – Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan; Cape Coral – Mayor John Gunter.

President Ortiz called for additional nominations. There being none, Vice Chair Watkins Brown 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 Watkins Brown 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; Commissioner Leo E. Longworth,

Bartow; Council Member Isaac Salver, Bay Harbor Islands; and Commissioner Tony Ortiz, Orlando (at the end of his presidency).

The League's By-Laws call for elected officials who have been in elected office for 50 or more years, to have an automatic seat on the League Board.

Vice Chair Watkins Brown further advised based on the By-Laws, that currently, Commissioner Roy Shiver of Florida City serves in that position.

Also, the League's By-Laws call for an automatic Ex-Officio, non-voting member from the Florida City and County Management Association. This year, Clearwater Assistant City Manager Micah Maxwell will serve in that position. He is the Immediate Past President of FCCMA.

President Ortiz then thanked Vice Chair Watkins Brown 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 Executive Director Clarence Anthony and Keynote Speaker Kenneth W. Gronbach. At this time, President Ortiz recognized the Years of Service Award recipients; 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 Robert "Bo" Donly; Clarence Anthony; Samuel Ferreri; Frank Satchel; Commissioner Scott Black, Dade City; Mayor Pat Bates, Altamonte Springs; P.C. Wu; Commissioner Matthew Surrency, Hawthorne; Gil Ziffer and Council Member Isaac Salver, Bay Harbor Islands. Also, during the luncheon, President Phillip Walker was installed, and appropriate recognition was provided.

Following lunch, concurrent workshops "When the Shift Hits the Fan: Crisis Communication" and "Beyond Advocacy: This is Your League, These are Your Services" were available for attendees. The League's Board of Directors also met that afternoon.

During the "Inaugural Celebration" that evening, delegates enjoyed entertainment and the 2021 Annual Conference was adjourned.