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**PIP Ordinance: Combating Fraud**

Last month, Commissioner Beckner hosted the PIP ordinance workshop at the County Center. Members of the public voiced their questions and concerns regarding the proposed ordinance.

Tampa is now the number one city in Florida and second only to New York City nationwide in staged auto accidents. The participants in the staged accidents later seek medical treatment for their alleged injuries. Clinics are permitted to bill for these injuries through PIP auto insurance coverage.

PIP or personal injury protection is designed to help reduce the need for people to sue to cover the cost of injuries resulting from automobile accidents. Unfortunately, according to many investigations, the \$10,000 minimum requirement for PIP coverage in Florida has become a dollar target for medical expenses by those who seek to take advantage of the system.

The proposed ordinance targets illegitimate PIP medical providers who operate within Hillsborough

County. The County has approximately 158 businesses operating as PIP medical providers.

The amount of fraud is adding an average of \$350 a year to insurance policies of Hillsborough County residents. It has cost Floridians an estimated \$853 million since 2008 and could increase to 1.5 billion by the end of 2011.

This law enforcement driven ordinance will provide our local law enforcement with the tools necessary to combat the fraud that is occurring in our community.

“My goal is to eradicate illicit clinics and reduce the fraud stemming from staged auto accidents in our County,” commented Beckner.

Click [HERE](#) to see the related ABC action news story. You may also send the County an e-mail with questions or constructive feedback to : [PIPordinance@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:PIPordinance@hillsboroughcounty.org)

**Upcoming Community Office Hours (11:00am – 1:00pm)**

Please click [HERE](#) for a complete list of 2011 dates

Friday, March 25, 2011: Town ‘n’ Country Regional Public Library, 7606 Paula Drive Tampa, FL 33615 813-554-5031

Friday, April 29, 2011: New Tampa Regional Library, 1001 Cross Creek Boulevard Tampa, FL 33647 813-903-2284

## District 2 Neighborhood Meeting

Commissioner Beckner will be hosting his first of four neighborhood meetings. Each quarter, the Commissioner will travel to another district.

The town hall style meeting will continue to act as a way for the Commissioner to remain connected with the citizens of Hillsborough County. Residents are invited to attend to voice their concerns, questions and

share their ideas about how to improve their community.

The first meeting will be held in District 2 at the Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Rd, Tampa, FL 33618 on March 29, 2011 from 6-8pm.

"I invite citizens to join me in a conversation about the current state of County government and share their vision for a better Hillsborough County," commented Beckner.

## BOCC Honors Maximino Capdevila

Last month, the BOCC posthumously honored Maximino Capdevila who passed away earlier this year. Fourteen family members attended the presentation, including his widow and children.

The Capdevila family emigrated from Cuba to the United States in 1962 on the Freedom Flights to Miami.

Even though Maximino and his wife Coralia did not have any resources or know the language, they understood that if they worked hard that they could achieve the American dream.

The Capdevila's opened "La Teresita Grocery" store thanks to a small down payment and a loan from the Small Business Administration in 1972.

After many years working morning until night, three-hundred and sixty five days a year, the small grocery store became a supermarket, then a meat and fish market and small coffee and sandwich shop with a large customer base.

In 1993, the Capdevila family once again endeavored to meet a new dream. This dream would take the family from a small 50 seat restaurant to a 14,000 square foot, two-story restaurant that can seat over 200 people and host 500 in its banquet facilities.

"Maximino Capdevila and his family's courage and work ethic should serve as an example and inspiration to each of us who desire to achieve and live the American Dream," said Beckner.



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**Keeping You Informed**

There are seven members of the Board of County Commissioners for Hillsborough County. Four are elected from single-member districts, and three are elected county wide. The Board approves the County's operating and capital budgets and the County's capital improvement program. It may take action on any programs for the improvement of the county and the welfare of its residents.

Under a Charter Ordinance that went into effect in May 1985, County Commissioners are to perform legislative functions of government by developing policy for the overall management of Hillsborough County. The County administrative staff are entrusted with the implementation of these policies.



**Getting Involved in Your County Government**

Regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners are open to the public and are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, beginning at 9 a.m. Speakers generally are limited to 3 minutes. The Commissioners' offices and boardroom are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Boulevard in downtown Tampa.

The meetings also aired live on Hillsborough Television. Check your cable listings for the appropriate channel in your area. Or you can watch the live streaming broadcast at [www.CommissionerBeckner.com](http://www.CommissionerBeckner.com).

