

**Kevin Beckner**

Hillsborough County  
Commissioner  
District 6, County Wide



RECONNECTING HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



[www.CommissionerBeckner.com](http://www.CommissionerBeckner.com)

October 2011

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## Hillsborough County Takes a Stand Against Insurance Fraud: First County in the State

By unanimous vote (a vote of 7-0), the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners passed an ordinance last week to address the 546 percent increase in staged auto accidents and questionable insurance claims in Hillsborough County from 2008 to 2010. The County ordinance, spearheaded by Commissioner Beckner, in conjunction with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's office, will require the licensing of some medical clinics that provide a substantial part of their business to billing Personal Injury Protection (PIP) claims.

"This ordinance will give our Sheriff's Office the tools it needs to put an end to the auto insurance fraud that has plagued our community," Commissioner Beckner said. "Our actions today will help curb the rising car insurance rates and combat organized crime due to the proliferation of staged accidents while acting as a model for statewide policy."

The passage of this ordinance is the culmination of more than a year's worth of outreach by Commissioner Beckner.

According to the National Insurance Crime Board (NICB), Hillsborough County is ranked number one in the state in auto insurance fraud, and ranked second in the country behind New York City.

The issue involves PIP medical provider clinics that support fraudulent activity. Due to loopholes in the Florida Statutes, these fake clinics are able to operate without adequate state inspection or regulation. Law enforcement organizations have been hampered in their ability to combat this fraud due to lax state regulation.

"I commend my fellow commissioners for making this issue a priority," Commissioner Beckner said. "We are sending a unified message that criminal behavior will not be tolerated in our community."

For more information please visit:

[www.hillsboroughcounty.org/consumerprotection/pip](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/consumerprotection/pip).



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

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

Friday, October 28: Bloomingdale Regional Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Avenue  
Valrico, FL 33596 813.635.1642

Friday, November 18: Jan K. Platt Regional Library, 3910 S. Manhattan Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33611 813.272.6062

## Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program

Commissioner Beckner will be hosting five informational meetings to educate the community about the Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program. The first meeting is scheduled for **Oct. 6, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** at the **University Area Community Development Center, 14013 N. 22nd St. in Tampa.**



The Hillsborough County Juvenile Justice Task Force has been working on this program for nearly a year. The Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program is a process intended to encourage youth to stay out of trouble, and avoid an arrest record.

"Our youth are the future of our community. It is imperative that we give them every opportunity to complete their education, serve their country and obtain meaningful employment," Commissioner Beckner, Chair of the Juvenile Justice Task Force, stated. "These community meetings are a great opportunity for parents and kids to learn more about the consequences of poor judgment and how their actions can impact their future."

A panel consisting of Commissioner Beckner, representatives from law enforcement, the courts system, and the Juvenile Justice Task force will answer questions at the series of five community meetings; and provide information about the Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program and how it works.

The remaining informational meetings are scheduled from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, Oct. 13**, Jefferson High School, 4401 Cypress St. in Tampa
- Tuesday, Oct. 18**, Leto High School, 4409 West Sligh Ave. in Tampa
- Tuesday, Oct. 25**, Hillsborough County School District Instructional Services Center, 2920 N 40th St. in Tampa
- Tuesday, Nov. 1**, Lennard High School, 2342 Shell Point Rd East in Ruskin

To learn more about the Task Force, please visit: [www.HillsboroughJJTF.org](http://www.HillsboroughJJTF.org) or call 813.272.5730.

**Current Boards**

- Arts Council
- Children's Board
- EPC (*Chair*)
- HART
- MPO
- Public Safety Coordinating Council

**Contact Information**

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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).

