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BOCC Establishes Fallen Heroes Fund

On September 1, 2010 the BOCC voted 7-0 to establish the First Responders Fallen Heroes Fund & Memorial Tribute. Commissioner Beckner, a former police officer and financial planner, brought the idea of creating the fund and memorial to the Board a few months ago.

The Fund will provide a one-time benefit of \$100,000 to the beneficiary of a First Responder who dies in the line of duty. First Responders, which include law enforcement officers, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics serving unincorporated Hillsborough County, Tampa, Temple Terrace or Plant City are eligible for the benefit.

The creation of the Fund will have no impact on the budget for County staff or services. Funding for the program will come from the County's contingency reserve funds.

The County will also host a new website that will honor the names of all fall first responders in Hillsborough County since 1885. Photographs, obituaries and eulogies will recognize and memorialize their sacrifice.

"Our first responders provide the safety and security that is vital to a successful community. We must stand with the families of our fallen heroes in their time of need, and ensure that the sacrifice made for our community is never forgotten," said Beckner.



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

Please click [HERE](#) for more information

Friday, September 24, 2010: West Tampa Branch Library, 2312 W. Union Street
Tampa, FL 33607 813-276-2097

Friday, October 29, 2010: Brandon Regional Public Library, 619 Vonderburg Drive
Brandon, FL 33511 813-744-5352



Happy 20th Anniversary Francis House

On August 21, 2010, Francis House marked its 20th Anniversary of serving those infected and affected with HIV/AIDS with a fundraising event at the RITZ Ybor. Commissioner Beckner co-hosted the event with Alicia Roberts of NBC affiliate WFLA-Channel 8.

The history of the Francis House dates back to 1989 when Sister Ann Dougherty of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, New York founded a spiritual group that began meeting weekly at St. Josephs Hospital in Tampa. Sister Anne quickly realized that the scope of her work had to be expanded to deal with the growing epidemic.

Sister Anne envisioned the development of an interfaith,

holistic health center offering support and counseling to those in need. After much consultation, Francis House was born in August of 1990. The Francis House name evokes the beloved Saint Francis of Assisi who served those forgotten and discarded in his day.

Since 1990, the core programs at Francis House have remained constant: to serve the Tampa Bay community with a daily meal, support groups, and counseling.

"I am glad to see the community come together to support the work of Sister Anne and the Francis House. I applaud their work and thank them for touching so many lives over the last 20 years," said Commissioner Beckner.

Have a Plan, Know Your Plan

While the start of the Hurricane season has gotten off to a slow start for the Tampa Bay region, Hillsborough County residents should remain vigilant. "You should have a plan and know your plan because no one can predict if a storm will directly impact our community in the coming months," said Commissioner Beckner.

The Hillsborough County Emergency Management Department reminds all of us to prepare your hurricane survival kit. Your kit should include food, water, medicine and batteries.

It should also include important documents in waterproof bags or containers.

More hurricane preparedness information can be found in the Hurricane Guide, the official guide for Tampa Bay, which is available at most post offices. You can pick up bulk copies for your neighborhood associations or organizations by calling the County's Emergency Operations Center at (813) 236-3800.



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 2nd 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.



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Nominations for YEA! Award (Youth Excellence and Achievement Award)

To nominate a deserving youth or for more information please click [HERE](#)