



Hillsborough County
Commissioner
District 6 County Wide



RECONNECTING HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Volume 1, Issue 2

Wednesday, June 02, 2009

Special points of interest:

- Bi-Weekly Newsletter
- County Legislative Initiatives and Proposals
- Neighborhood Issues
- Contact Information

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Hillsborough County FY 2010 Budget Update

This week at the Board of County Commissioners meeting, County Administrator Pat Bean presented an overview of the budget process that the county staff is using to determine the County Budget for FY 2010. This is an unfortunate time for the community and the economy as we go into what will be an unprecedented budget process. The local government is still dealing with losses occurred from Amendment 1 exemptions & the national recession which has driven down interest earnings, sales

tax revenues, and user fees limiting capital projects in our county. Moving forward cuts must be made to our budget that are sustain-



Commissioner Beckner speaking with the directors of the Animal Services Department about the Department's Budget

able without any expectation that we will have increased revenues in the near future. Commissioner Beckner is

concerned about the legislative, health, and safety mandates that must be maintained for the county's residents. The board is also considering reductions in employee compensations, furloughs, and maintaining departments at sustainable levels. Most importantly, the Commissioner is looking at making government more efficient moving forward and making sure there is not a duplication of services. It's time to work together with the city to get through these difficult economic times and

Transportation Task Force Update

The Hillsborough County Transportation Task Force presented the board with their recent activities and progress in reference to the regional light rail system. The task force is

currently holding 12 ongoing public listening tours where residents can voice their concerns on the developing project. The tour includes officials from the task force, TBARTA,

HART, and NPO. The task force and the board are exploring the 1% transit surtax that is estimated to generate \$178 million dollars of annual revenue for the transit system. They are also in



Commissioner visits members of the Hillsborough County Democratic Disability Caucus

Transportation Continued

charge of the county plans for implementing the regional system. The task force consists of 23 members and are in charge of coordinating all involved agencies in the process. The Commissioner urged the board to support a workshop (s) that all organizations can be involved in where the

board can ask questions to start getting direct answers. The task force will present a comprehensive plan for a light rail system here in Hillsborough County and voters can expect to be able to vote on the issue in 2010.

“We have come to a point in this county where we have to reinvent ourselves and the way we do business.”

Budget Continued

inefficiencies and opportunities for the consolidation of services and create a long term plan for the county. Although it’s not known exactly what the next budget will be, one thing is for sure and that is that county has come to a

point where it has to reinvent itself and the way it does business. The board will be holding budget workshops to discuss potential cuts in the budget and options the board may have in addressing this major issue.



Commissioner Beckner tours the County Animal Services Center and meets with staff.

Visit to Hillsborough County Animal Services

On May 28, 2009, Commissioner Beckner paid a visit to the Hillsborough County Animal Services off Falkenburg Rd. in Brandon. He toured the facility and saw first hand the numerous services

such as adoption, disease prevention, and emergency operations that the Animal Services Center provides. The Commissioner also met with the facilities Director Bill Armstrong and the commissioner’s

Animal Advisory Committee Appointee, Connie Johnson, to discuss the department’s budget, operations, and services that are provided to the county’s taxpayers.

"Reconnecting Hillsborough County"

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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 May 1985, County Commissioners are directed to perform legislative functions of government by developing policy for the management of Hillsborough County. The County Administrator, a professional appointed by the Board, and the administrative staff are responsible for the implementation of these policies.

The Board also serves as the Environmental Protection Commission. Individual Board members serve on various other boards, authorities, and commissions such as the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Tampa Bay Water, Aviation Authority, Expressway Authority, Sports Authority, Port Authority, Arts Council of Hillsborough County, Children's Board, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Economic Stimulus Task Force and the Council of Governments.

Meetings

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 three minutes. The Commissioners' offices and boardroom are located on the 2nd floor of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in downtown Tampa.

The meetings also are aired live on Hillsborough Television. Check your cable listings for the appropriate channel in your area.

