

**From:** cfhla@memberclicks-mail.net on behalf of CFHLA  
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2016

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## CHARTER

At the Tuesday, February 23rd **Orange County Charter Review Commission Meeting**, the Commission voted in favor of a proposal that would, if passed by Orange County voters in November, place a competitive Return-On-Investment focused process for awarding unencumbered **Tourist Development Tax funds** in the Orange County Charter.

The CFHLA Board of Directors unanimously voted to support this proposal, introduced to the Charter Review Commission by **former Orange County Commissioner Fred Brummer**. CFHLA provided supporting testimony at the February 23rd meeting along with other Central Florida Hospitality Industry Leaders.

CFHLA Public Policy Director Kevin Craig shared with the Commission that **CFHLA supports this effort to protect Orange County Tourist Development Tax revenue from proposed projects that will not**

[LINKS](#)

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[LINKS OF INTEREST](#)

[Florida Governor Rick Scott](#)

[State of Florida Senate](#)

[State of Florida House of Representatives](#)

[Orange County](#)

[Osceola County](#)

[Seminole County](#)

[City of Orlando](#)

[City of Kissimmee](#)

[City of Sanford](#)

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Orange County voters will decide the fate of this proposal on [Election Day, November 8th.](#)

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## HAYNIE

At the Monday, February 22nd CFHLA STR Membership Luncheon, CFHLA honored **Orange County Comptroller Martha Haynie** as the [2015 CFHLA Public Servant of the Year.](#)

Comptroller Haynie, who will be retiring at the end of this year following **28 years of service to Orange County**, was recognized by CFHLA for her career of **fiscal responsibility and partnership** to Central Florida's Hospitality and Tourism Industry as it relates to the management of Orange County Tourist Development Tax (TDT) dollars.

Additionally, Comptroller Haynie has provided TDT workshop presentations to CFHLA members and regularly meets with CFHLA Board Members and the CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee to **strengthen the relationship between the Hospitality Industry and Orange County government.**

During her acceptance speech, Comptroller Haynie noted that one of her first jobs was at [Walt Disney World](#), and now managing the office that oversees all TDT collections for Orange County, she feels her career has come full circle in Central Florida's Hospitality Industry.



**CFHLA salutes Comptroller Haynie for her career of partnership with the Tourism Community!**

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## BOYD

The **CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee** met on Wednesday, February 10th at the [Orlando World Center Marriott](#) (Thank you Doug Ridge, General Manager) with **Orange County Commissioner Scott Boyd** to discuss a number of Hospitality Industry priorities in Orange County.

This meeting with Commissioner Boyd was focused on two CFHLA Orange County public policy initiatives. The first issue discussed was the potential **amending of an Orange County alcohol ordinance** that would allow alcohol service to begin at lodging properties as early as 7 AM - compared to the existing starting time of 11 AM. This would accommodate weekend brunch opportunities and would allow Orange County to begin alcohol service at the same time as City of Orlando properties and properties in other Central Florida counties.

The second item discussed was CFHLA's effort to develop a **Tourist Development Tax (TDT) grant application** process in Orange County, so that future unencumbered TDT funds could be applied for in a transparent, ROI-focused competitive application process.

The Governmental Affairs Committee also received an update from CFHLA's public policy partners, [GrayRobinson](#), on the latest developments surrounding efforts in Tallahassee to potentially expand the allowed uses of TDT funds, efforts that CFHLA strongly opposes.



Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Scott Tripoli of the DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld, Orange County Commissioner Scott Boyd, CFHLA 1st Vice Chairman David Friederich of The Kessler Collection, and CFHLA Secretary Fred Sawyers of the Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin

***Furthermore, CFHLA recognizes the 2016 Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting Sponsor:***



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## PAC / PC

On Wednesday, February 17th, the [CFHLA Political Action Committee \(CFHLA-PAC\)](#) and [CFHLA Political Committee \(CFHLA-PC\)](#) met at the CFHLA Offices for the first meetings of 2016.

The CFHLA-PAC approved funding for two digital billboards to feature **CFHLA's 2016 Endorsed Candidates** the week prior to Election Day on November 8th. The CFHLA-PC reviewed nearly a dozen **2016 endorsement requests** from candidates seeking office in Central Florida and is planning for a series of candidate interviews to be held in late June and early July.

Additionally, the CFHLA-PAC discussed the **2016 PAC Reception** fundraising event, to be held (once again) at the beautiful [B Resort & Spa Lake Buena Vista](#) (thank you Keith Wolling, General Manager) on Wednesday, June 1st. This CFHLA-PAC function provides Members the opportunity to network with some of **Central Florida's Elected Officials**, who will provide "white glove service" of hors d'oeuvres to CFHLA Members. Past participants include **Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings**, **Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer**, **State Representative Tom Goodson**, **Osceola County Commissioner Cheryl Grieb**, **Seminole County Commissioner John Horan**, and **State Senator Kelli Stargel**.

The CFHLA-PC also discussed the **2016 Tee It Up for Tourism Golf Outing & Luncheon** to held at the [Waldorf Astoria Golf Club](#) (thank you Peter Kacheris, Managing Director) on **Thursday, September 29th**.

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## SEMINOLE

The annual [State of Seminole County Address](#) was held on Thursday, February 18th at [The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North](#). Seminole County CFHLA members were in attendance to hear remarks from Seminole County Board Chairman and CFHLA friend, **Commissioner John Horan**.

Among other economic development updates, Commissioner Horan reported that Seminole County experienced **14% growth in Tourist Development Tax** collections in 2015 and that Sports Tourism in Seminole County generated

million in 2015.

CFHLA salutes the efforts of the Seminole County CVB as it relates to increasing the number of visitors to the County and their support of the new **Seminole County Sports Complex**, which will further increase the presence of sports tourism in Seminole County.



CFHLA Board Member Bruce Skwarlo of the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, Seminole County Commissioner John Horan, Frank Cirrincione of the Hilton Orlando / Altamonte Springs, and Seminole County Commissioner Lee Constantine

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## TIGER BAY

On Friday, February 19th, the **Tiger Bay Club of Central Florida** met at the Country Club of Orlando and featured an exciting dialogue between two specialists on *Cuban-American Relations* - **Miami Attorney Ralph Patino** - a founding Member of the Executive Board of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's U.S. Cuba Business Council, and **Attorney Mauricio Claver-Carone** - Executive Director of Cuba Democracy Advocates in Washington, D.C.

This Tiger Bay meeting was attended by CFHLA Board Members **Jim Haughney** of [Orange Lake Resort](#) and **Keith Wolling** of the [B Resort & Spa Lake Buena Vista](#), accompanied by CFHLA Public Policy Director Kevin Craig.

Please note that CFHLA serves as a **Corporate Sponsor** of the **Tiger Bay Club of Central Florida**, which allows 3 Association representatives to attend each meeting of this important community club.



Orange County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Barbara Jenkins with CFHLA Board Member Jim Haughney of Orange Lake Resort

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## TDT

The **Florida House of Representatives** and the **Florida Senate** will soon begin the Conference process of negotiating differences in finalizing the state's budget.

For CFHLA Members who have been following developments in Tallahassee, the Florida House has approved budget language that would compromise the integrity of the **Tourist Development Tax (TDT)** by allowing TDT funds to be used for ***non-Tourism promotion related uses***.

This week, CFHLA President & CEO **Rich Maladecki** traveled to Tallahassee and met with **Senate President Andy Gardiner** as well as the following individuals:

***State Senator Alan Hays, District 11***

***State Senator Jack Latvala, District 20***

***State Senator Bill Montford, District 3***

***State Senator David Simmons, District 10***

***Anne Bell, Aide to Senator Denise Grimsley***

***Brody Enright, Aide to Senate Majority Leader Bill Galvano***

CFHLA Members will receive updates relating to the protection of TDT funds as the Legislative process moves forward.

## LINKS

*Below please find news articles, relating to the political interests of the Hospitality Industry:*


**[ORANGE COUNTY CITIZENS CLOSER TO VOTE ON RESORT TAX CHANGES](#)**

**[ORANGE CHARTER GROUP APPROVES TIGHTER RULES FOR CITIZEN INITIATIVES](#)**

**[CHADWICK HARDEE ANNOUNCES HOUSE DISTRICT 50 RUN](#)**

**[TOURISM OFFICIALS REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT PROPOSAL TO DIVERT BED TAXES](#)**


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