



Volume 2
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GA

On Wednesday, November 9th, the [CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee](#) met with CFHLA-Endorsed, State Representative-Elect **Kamia Brown** ([District 45](#)) at the [Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort](#) (thank you **Fred Sawyers**, General Manager).

The CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee and Brown discussed [CFHLA's 2017 Legislative Priorities](#), including repealing 2016 legislation that expanded the allowed uses of the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) revenues in three Panhandle counties and maintaining Visit FL funding.

A priority of Representative-Elect Brown is increasing employment opportunities for her constituents in House District 45. Considering that the *Hospitality Industry supports the employment of one in every three Central Florida residents*, CFHLA Members offered Representative-Elect Brown support on providing career fairs and additional employment/educational opportunities for her constituents.

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(From left to right) CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Bruce Skwarlo, of the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, State Representative-Elect Kamia Brown, CFHLA Board 1st Vice Chairman Fred Sawyers of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort, and CFHLA PAC/PC Chairman Jay Leonard of the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort Disney Springs Resort Area

RETREAT

The Thursday, November 17th CFHLA Board Retreat, held at the [Alfond Inn at Rollins](#) (thank you **Jesse Martinez**, General Manager), featured guest presentations by **Orange County Commissioner Ted Edwards** and **State Representative Mike Miller**.

Commissioner Edwards, who was recently defeated in his District 5 reelection bid, was invited by CFHLA so that Board Members could "give thanks" for his years of support of the Hospitality Industry while serving on the Orange County Board of County Commissioners. CFHLA President/CEO, **Richard Maladecki**, explained that "there was a time when Commissioner Edwards was the only 'pro-Hospitality' Commissioner on the entire Board."

Representative Miller, who recently secured reelection to serve [House District 47](#), was in attendance to discuss the upcoming Legislative Session and answer questions relating to Hospitality Industry priorities from CFHLA Board Members. In September, Representative Miller served as the Keynote Speaker at the CFHLA-PC "Tee it Up for Tourism" Golf Outing & Luncheon.



State Representative Mike Miller
speaking at the 2016 CFHLA Board Retreat

PRIORITIES

The 2017 CFHLA Legislative Priorities were finalized at the November 17th CFHLA Board Retreat, featuring similar priorities from the 2016 Legislative Session with a few issues requiring increased focus. CFHLA will be spearheading efforts in 2017 to repeal legislation passed in 2016 that expanded the uses of the Tourist Development Tax revenues in Bay, Okaloosa and Walton Counties so that funds could be used for "public safety" purposes. Since the inception of the TDT in 1977, CFHLA has served as a "watchdog" of TDT funds to ensure that these monies are utilized only as originally intended - for tourism promotion purposes ("heads in beds").

Another longtime CFHLA priority has been to support funding of Visit Florida, the state's tourism marketing arm, which played a critical role in the record-breaking amount of visitors to the state in 2015 and 2016. The new **Speaker of the State House, Richard Corcoran**, has referenced both [Enterprise Florida](#) and [Visit Florida](#) when speaking against "corporate welfare" programs. CFHLA is relying on its Central Florida delegation to emphasize the importance of Visit Florida as it relates to effectiveness of the agency in recruiting record numbers of visitors to the state and the economic impact that these tourists have on Florida's economy.

Additionally, CFHLA will continue advocating for a "level playing field" between Shared Economy companies (such as Airbnb and Uber) and traditional Lodging and Transportation companies as it relates to insurance requirements, taxation and safety regulations.

To view all of CFHLA's 2017 Legislative Priorities, please [click here](#)

OSCEOLA

On **Tuesday, November 22nd**, three CFHLA-Endorsed Candidates for [Osceola County Board of County Commissioners](#) were officially "sworn-in" at the County Commission Chambers.

CFHLA **Congratulates Commissioner Peggy Choudhry** (District 1), **Commissioner Brandon Arrington** (District 3), and **Commissioner Fred Hawkins Jr.** (District 5) on their electoral victories.



Newly elected Commissioner Peggy Choudhry is sworn-in by City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer

PAC/PC

Wednesday, November 23rd will mark the last day for PAC dues-paying CFHLA Members to submit their ballots to elect Members to the 2017-2018 PAC/PC Boards of Directors.

At the conclusion of this PAC/PC Election process, the [CFHLA-PAC](#) and [CFHLA-PC Boards](#) will have nine new members, serving a two-year term (2017-2018).

For more information on the PAC/PC Board of Directors, please contact **CFHLA Public Policy Director, Kevin Craig** at publicpolicy@cfhla.org

DYER

At the December 10th [CFHLA Hospitality Gala](#), **City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer** will be recognized as the association's **2016 Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award** recipient. The award is named after the first **CFHLA Board of Directors Chairperson, Charles Andrews**, and exemplifies perseverance and dedication to a cause. It is the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by CFHLA, in recognition of achievements and contributions to Central Florida's hospitality industry, as well as the community at large.



Orlando City Mayor Buddy Dyer
2016 CFHLA Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award Recipient

Mayor Dyer was selected as this year's Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award Honoree for *his efforts to enhance Central Florida's Hospitality Industry through investments made and refined in the Venues Agreement, his focus on promoting Orlando as a sports tourism destination and for his community leadership in the aftermath of the Pulse Nightclub attack of June 12th.*

Last year, Orlando City Soccer President and Co-Owner **Phil Rawlins** was honored with the Charles Andrews Memorial

Hospitality Award.

GREEN

On Monday, November 14th, the **Orlando City Council** held a "first reading" of the *revised Building Energy and Water Efficiency Strategy (BEWES) ordinance*, following stakeholder feedback provided at the September 15th City Council meeting.

The revised ordinance, which passed first reading on a 5-2 vote, featured the removal of financial penalties for non-complying businesses and offered "awards" for participating businesses that conducted energy audits and reported their scores to the city. It also removed the public posting of energy audit results and will now list large buildings targeted in the ordinance as either "eligible and participating" or "eligible and not participating."

While the revised ordinance received some pushback from parts of Orlando's business community, CFHLA staff was present to thank **Mayor Dyer** and Council Members for removing the "mandated" aspects of the ordinance and expressed willingness to "move forward" with the revised ordinance and attempt to alleviate some concerns relating to the public displaying of "eligible and not participating" businesses. The second reading and vote to adopt the ordinance will likely be held at the Council's **December 5th** meeting.

LINKS

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

[Florida Still Bringing in a Record Number of Tourists](#)

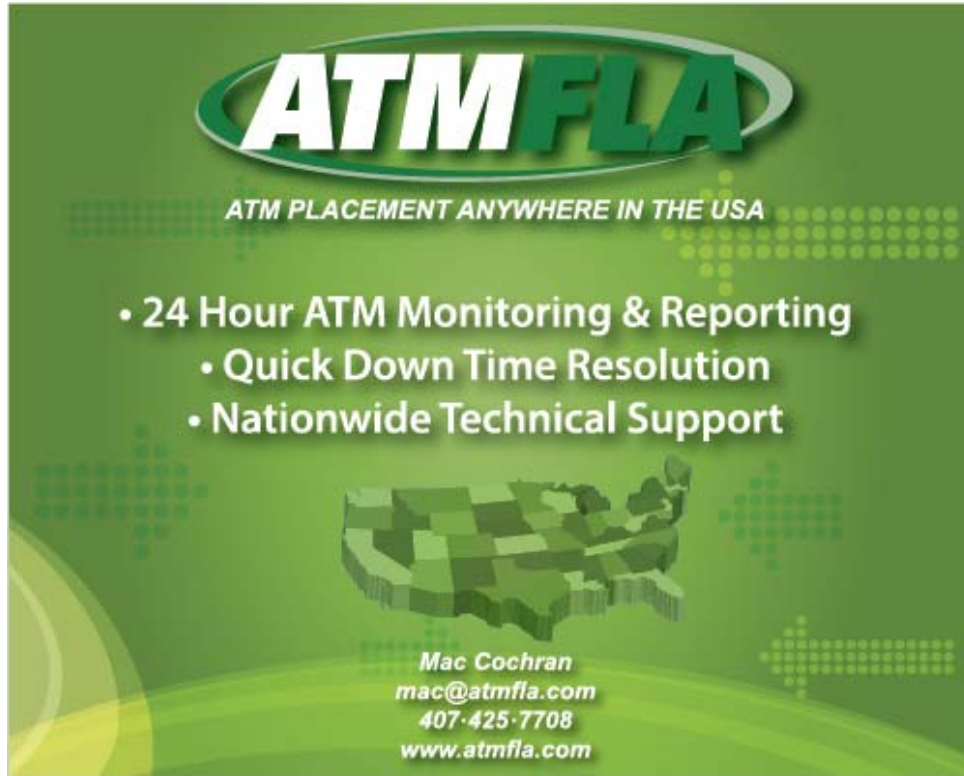
[Airbnb Gives in to San Francisco's Registration Demands](#)

[John Mica's Got the Horsepower to Propel Trump Transportation Plans](#)

[Seminole Tribe Gets Big Win in Gambling](#)

[Dispute With State](#)

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