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JACOBS

On Wednesday, February 21 at the **CFHLA February Membership Luncheon**, CFHLA officially recognized **Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs** as the Association's **2017 Public Servant of the Year**.

CFHLA selected Mayor Jacobs thanks to her **8 years** as a "**champion of tourism**" during her tenure as Orange County Mayor. Mayor Jacobs has supported the development and enhancement of important community and tourism related venues such as the **Orange County Convention Center**, **Camping World Stadium** and the **Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts**, among others.

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

Orange County Tourist Development Tax Grant Application Review Committee and the Orange County Tourist Development Tax Sports Incentive Committee. These advisory boards will serve as important “checks and balances” on future expenditures of Orange County Tourist Development Tax funds and will work to promote the Central Florida destination.

In attendance at the CFHLA Luncheon were a number of Mayor Jacobs’ Orange County colleagues, including **Commissioners Pete Clarke, Jennifer Thompson** and **Betsy VanderLey**, as well as **Supervisor of Elections Bill Cowles, Comptroller Phil Diamond** and **County Administrator Ajit Lalchandani**.



Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association President / CEO Rich Maladecki, CFHLA PAC Board Chair Jay Leonard, General Manager of the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort Disney Springs Resort Area / Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area, 2017 Public Servant of the Year Teresa Jacobs, Orange County Mayor and CFHLA Board Chair Fred Sawyers, Complex General Manager of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort

DEBATE

Save the date...

On **Thursday, March 29**, CFHLA will host an **Orange County Mayoral Candidate Forum**, featuring the **three leading candidates** running for Orange County Mayor in 2018.

This event, to be held at the **Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort**, will feature the following candidates:

Orange County Commissioner Pete Clarke

Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings

Businessman Rob Panepinto

distributed to CFHLA Membership in the coming weeks.

For your information, a number of CFHLA Members have already met with each of these candidates over the past six months at “**CFHLA Coffee Club**” meetings, to discuss the importance of Central Florida’s Hospitality Industry and to hear each of the candidates’ priorities relating to Orange County, should they be elected.

TALLAHASSEE

CFHLA is closely monitoring several bills throughout this year’s legislative Session.

House Bill (HB) 3 and **Senate Bill (SB) 1714** relate to **Tourist Promotion Accountability** for **Destination Marketing Organizations** (DMOs). CFHLA opposes these bills because they would place burdensome regulations on DMOs such as requiring these organizations to publicly reveal contracts two weeks prior to execution. This is **harmful to Florida’s Tourism Industry** as it would place Florida at a competitive disadvantage with other US destinations by requiring Florida marketing groups to “**show their cards**” as it relates to marketing campaigns. While House Bill 3 has already passed the House (Vote count of 87-20), it’s Senate companion, SB 1714, has yet to be considered in its second of four committee stops.

Additionally, CFHLA strongly opposes **House Bill 585** and **Senate Bill 658**, legislation that would drastically expand the allowed uses of the Tourist Development Tax (TDT), allowing TDT funds to be utilized for non-tourism promotion purposes such as public facilities, sewage infrastructure and transportation. HB 585 passed the House floor last week (Vote count of 93-20) while the Senate companion, SB 658, is waiting to be heard in it’s third and final committee stop, Senate Appropriations Committee.

For your information, below is how Central Florida’s State Representatives voted last week on House Bill 585, legislation **strongly opposed by CFHLA**:

Rep. Bruce Antone - Yes
Rep. Jason Brodeur - Yes
Rep. Kamia Brown - No
Rep. John Cortes - Yes
Rep. Bob Cortes - No
Rep. Mike La Rosa - Yes
Rep. Amy Mercado - No
Rep. Mike Miller - No
Rep. Bobby Olszewski - No
Rep. Scott Plakon - Yes
Rep. Rene Plasencia - No

Rep. Jennifer Sullivan - Yes

CFHLA is continuing to work with Industry partners and State Senators to block these dangerous bills from being passed into law.

APPLICATIONS

At the Friday, February 16 Orange County Tourist Development Tax Grant Application Review Committee meeting, the committee voted to adopt two **“Tourist Development Grant Applications”** that were drafted by CFHLA Staff and “workshopped” among CFHLA Board Members, Orange County government and community stakeholders over the course of 2017.

This positive development will result in Orange County formally adopting both the **“Events”** and **“Capital Projects”** CFHLA applications for reviewing future proposed TDT expenditures in the County.

The **Application Review Committee** will next work on adopting a **“scoring matrix”** to weigh the various aspects of the applications so that approval and levels of funding levels can be determined by the Committee.

CFHLA thanks the following CFHLA Board Members for their service to this important community advisory board:

Ross Burke

[Blue Heron Beach Resort](#)

Brian Comes

[Hyatt Regency Orlando](#)

Jon McGavin

[Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes](#)

Louis Robbins

[Key Performance Hospitality Management](#)

GA

This month’s **CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting** was held on Wednesday, February 14 at the **Loews Royal Pacific Resort** (**Thank You, Barb Bowden**) and featured luncheon guest **Fred Winterkamp, Orange County Fiscal and Business Services Division Manager**. Mr. Winterkamp provided a presentation on past Tourist Development Tax usage, county TDT developments in 2017 and an overview of the Orange County Tourist Development Tax Grant Application Review Committee

Mr. Winterkamp detailed how the Tourist Development Tax is used throughout Orange County and what it could potentially be used for in the future. He also presented an **Application Review Committee timeline**, which outlines the Board of County Commissioners budget process, application reviews, and TDT grant consideration.

The **March CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee** meeting will feature **City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer**.



CFHLA Board Member Bruce Skwarlo, General Manager of the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, Orange County Fiscal and Business Services Division Manager Fred Winterkamp, and CFHLA Board Chair Fred Sawyers, Complex General Manager of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort

PAC/PC

The first **CFHLA Political Action Committee** (CFHLA-PAC) and **CFHLA Political Committee** (CFHLA-PC) meetings were held on February 7 at the CFHLA offices. As 2018 is an election year, members discussed candidates who have filed for Central Florida races and campaign contributions to date.

The CFHLA PAC will host its annual **PAC Reception Fundraiser** on **Thursday, June 6** at a location yet to be finalized. The CFHLA-PAC thanks the following **2018 PAC Reception Sponsors**:





The CFHLA PC will be hosting the annual “**Tee It Up for Tourism**” **Golf Outing and Luncheon** fundraiser, tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, September 27** at the **Waldorf Astoria Orlando Golf Club**. The CFHLA-PC thanks the following confirmed sponsors to date:



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Please note that a “**Presenting Sponsorship**” is still **available** for this high-profile CFHLA political function for only **\$2,500**. For more information, please contact **CFHLA Public Policy Director, Kevin Craig**, at publicpolicy@cfhla.org.

LINKS


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

[House passes bill allowing bed taxes to be used for roads](#)

[Vacation rentals preemption bill stalls in Florida House](#)


[Human trafficking bill advances in Florida Senate](#)

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