

**Sarah Alexanderson**

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**From:** cfhla@memberclicks-mail.net on behalf of Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2019 2:45 PM  
**To:** cfhla\_info@cfhla.org  
**Subject:** CFHLA - The Insider: The Hospitality Industry's Political Advocate Newsletter - April 2019



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Edition 4

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April 25, 2019

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IN THIS  
EDITION:

STATE OF  
OSCEOLA  
COUNTY

STATE OF  
ORANGE  
COUNTY

VISIT FLORIDA

TOURISM  
WEEK

CITY OF

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## STATE OF OSCEOLA COUNTY

Community leaders from across Central Florida gathered at Osceola Heritage Park last Thursday, April 18 to celebrate the growth and future of Osceola County at the [State of Osceola County Address](#). **Osceola County Chairwoman Cheryl Grieb** led the event, sharing the **Board of County Commissioner's vision for the community**.

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(left to right) Osceola County Commissioners Brandon Arrington (District 3), Commissioner and 2019 Vice Chairwoman Viviana Janer (District 2), Commissioner and 2019 Chairwoman Cheryl Grieb (District 4), Commissioner Peggy Choudhry (District 1) and Commissioner Fred Hawkins, Jr. (District 5)



Osceola County Commissioner Brandon Arrington (District 3), Osceola County Commissioner and 2019 Chairwoman Cheryl Grieb (District 4) and Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings

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## STATE OF ORANGE COUNTY

On **Thursday, May 16**, the Honorable **Mayor Jerry L. Demings** and the **Orange County Board of County Commissioners** will give the **2019 State of Orange County Address**. The event will be held at the **Orange County Convention Center**. If you would like to attend please [click here](#) to RSVP.

## VISIT FLORIDA

This week, during budget discussions, Senate leadership indicated that they are struggling to compromise with the House on re-authorization and funding for [VISIT FLORIDA](#).

The Senate had previously passed a bill to reauthorize VISIT FLORIDA and budgeted \$50 million for the organization. However, the House continues to stand by their position that taxpayer dollars should not be used for tourism marketing. As it stands, the House must pass legislation to reauthorize VISIT FLORIDA.

While this is a disappointing start to budget conferencing, **VISIT FLORIDA has not officially been terminated**. House and Senate leadership will continue to conference over the next few days and have the opportunity to find a compromise for the tourism marketing organization's future.

Our public policy consultants at [GrayRobinson](#) have indicated that they will be meeting with House and Senate leadership this week to advocate for VISIT FLORIDA.

CFHLA will continue to update you on any movement regarding VISIT FLORIDA's re-authorization and funding.

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## TOURISM WEEK

On Tuesday, April 23 the **Seminole County Board of County Commissioners** shared their excitement and support for tourism, proclaiming that the week of **May 5 through May 11** will be **National Travel & Tourism Week in Seminole County!**

Each year, our elected partners in the tri-county area show their support for the tourism industry by approving proclamations to celebrate National Travel & Tourism Week. The following proclamations will be read in the following weeks:

**Osceola County: May 6 at 1:30 PM**  
**Orange County: May 7 at 9:00 AM**  
**City of Orlando: May 13 at 2:00 PM**

If you would like to attend an upcoming proclamation reading, please contact **CFHLA Staff Member Rico Pasamba** at [publicpolicv@cfhla.org](mailto:publicpolicv@cfhla.org).



Seminole County's "National Travel and Tourism Week" Proclamation

## CITY OF ORLANDO ELECTION UPDATES

The **City of Orlando elections** are in full-swing with **four Elected Positions** up for grabs: **City of Orlando Mayor, Commissioner District 2, Commissioner District 4, and Commissioner District 6.**

Currently, the races for District 2 and District 4 are unopposed with only the incumbents (Commissioner Tony Ortiz, District 2 and Commissioner Patty Sheehan, District 4) filing for re-election.

The Mayoral seat and District 6 are being contested with 4 candidates each. **For City of Orlando Mayor, the current candidates are:**

**City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer (Incumbent)**

**Shantele Bennett**

**City of Orlando Commissioner Samuel Ings, District 6**

**Aretha Simons**

Commissioner Samuel Ings entered the race in late February and has since received the endorsement of former Orange County Mayor and current Orange County School Board Chair Teresa Jacobs. With his candidacy for Mayor, the race for his District 6 seat now has four potential newcomers to the City of Orlando Commission. **The four candidates running for District 6 are as follows:**

**Bakari Burns**

**Vicki-Elaine Felder**

**Lawanna Gelzer**

**Gary Siplin**

husband to Orange County Commissioner Victoria Siplin.

City of Orlando District 6 covers southwestern Orlando to include the communities of Washington Shores, Holden Heights, Metro West, the International Drive Tourism Corridor, and Universal Orlando Resort.

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## BOY SCOUTS

The **Boy Scouts Central Florida Council** hosted their annual **Golden Eagle Award ceremony** on Tuesday, April 16 at the Amway Center. The 2019 Golden Eagle Award was presented to **Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings** for his commitment to the community throughout his career. The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association was proud to serve as a Silver Sponsor for the event and invited Orange County Commissioner Mayra Uribe to attend the event with CFHLA. Congratulations to Mayor Demings and the Boy Scouts Central Florida Council!



Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings, US Representative Val Demings (Florida's 10th Congressional District), CFHLA Board Chairman Jesse Martinez, General Manager of The Alford Inn at Rollins, CFHLA Public Policy Director Rico Pasamba and CFHLA President and CEO Rich Maladecki



CFHLA Board Members Siegbert Kindl, Regional Director of Operations of the Crowne Plaza Orlando Downtown, Suzi Brady of AD1 Global, Chris Mueller, General Manager of the Hilton Orlando, CFHLA President/CEO Rich Maladecki, Orange County Commissioner Mayra Uribe (District 3), CFHLA Board Chairman Jesse Martinez, General Manager of The Alford Inn at Rollins and CFHLA Board Treasurer Sonja Giselbrecht, General Manager of Marriott's Lakeshore Reserve

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## PAC INVOICES

On May 1, **PAC invoices will be sent to CFHLA Members.** These monetary contributions to the CFHLA-PAC allow our organization to have a voice in the Central Florida political community. With these donations, the CFHLA-PAC will endorse candidates for elected office who support tourism and understand the importance of the hospitality industry in Central Florida.

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## LINKS

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

[Supreme Court reserves itself, rules Orange Co. elections partisan](#)

[Budget conference: VISIT FLORIDA](#)

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Mac Cochran  
mac@atmfla.com  
407-425-7708  
www.atmfla.com

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