

**Lynnea Dawes**

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## MAYOR DYER

On Tuesday, June 16th, **City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer** held a **Campaign Kick-Off Event** at The Abbey in Downtown Orlando.

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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(Left to right) CFHLA PAC/PC Board Chairman Jay Leonard of the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort, CFHLA PAC Board Member Dan Kline of Magical Memories Villas - Orlando, City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, CFHLA Second Vice Chairman David Friederich of the Grand Bohemian Hotel Orlando, and CFHLA PAC Board Secretary Keith Wolling of the B Resort located in the Walt Disney World Resort.

The following CFHLA Members were in attendance to represent CFHLA and congratulate Mayor Dyer on his recent endorsement by the CFHLA-PAC/PC Boards:

**David Friederich**

Grand Bohemian Hotel Orlando

**Dan Kline**

Magical Memories Villas - Orlando

**Jay Leonard**

Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort

**Jesse Martinez**

The Alford Inn

**Stuart Newmark**

Revolutionary Road Hospitality Group

**Chuck Simikian**

Nickelodeon Suites Resort

**Keith Wolling**

The B Resort located in the Walt Disney World Resort

***For your information, Mayor Dyer's re-election campaign was endorsed by both the CFHLA-PAC and CFHLA-PC at PAC/PC Board Meetings held on May 20th.***

re-election campaign.

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## CLARKE

On Wednesday, June 10th, the **CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee** met with **Orange County Commissioner Pete Clarke** at the [Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport](#), hosted by **GA Committee Member Mark Bastis**.

Commissioner Clarke and CFHLA GA Committee Members had a productive conversation relating to the appropriate uses of **Tourist Development Tax Dollars** on Orange County Venues, Orange County Convention Center projects, the **CFHLA Adopt-A-School program** and other Hospitality Industry issues in Orange County.



(Left to Right) CFHLA Assistant Treasurer Jetse Pottinga of the Melia Orlando Suite Hotel at Celebration, CFHLA PAC/PC Board Chairman Jay Leonard of the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort, Orange County Commissioner Pete Clarke, CFHLA Second Vice Chairman David Friederich of the Grand Bohemian Hotel Orlando, and CFHLA Secretary Fred Sawyers of the Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin

The next **CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting** will be held on July 8th, when the Committee will meet with **Orange County Commissioner Ted Edwards (District 5)** at the Downtown Orlando offices of [GrayRobinson](#).

**Importantly, CFHLA thanks the 2015 Governmental Affairs Committee Sponsor, Maureen Haggerty of:**



# TRANSPORTATION

**United States Congressman John Mica** met with CFHLA Board Members at the CFHLA Offices on Monday, June 15th to discuss future **I-4 improvement projects** that will occur outside of the **“I-4 Ultimate”** project currently underway. These projects are known as **“I-4 Beyond the Ultimate.”**



CFHLA First Vice Chairman Dave Bartek of Loews Hotels at Universal, US Congressman John Mica, CFHLA Chairman Gerald Urquiola of the Caribe Royale Resort & Convention Center, CFHLA Secretary Fred Sawyers of the Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin, and CFHLA Assistant Treasurer Jetse Pottinga of the Melia Orlando Suite Hotel

Also in attendance to answer technical questions about the future of I-4 improvements were **Beata Stys-Palasz, a Senior Project Manager with the Florida Department of Transportation** and **Luis Diaz, Associate Vice President and a Planning Director for the engineering firm HNTB Corporation.**



Congressman Mica presents to the CFHLA Board Members

Congressman Mica stressed that a priority of his is to ensure the **Hospitality Industry has input into future transportation projects** across the region, as the Industry serves as Central Florida's economic engine and ensuring



Sunrail or driving along I-4.



Congressman Mica with members of the CFHLA Board of Directors

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## GRAYROBINSON

CFHLA's Lobbying Partners at [GrayRobinson](#) have produced a "**CFHLA-Edition**" of the **Florida Government & Politics Beat** weekly video. This 14-Minute presentation, hosted by GrayRobinson's **Chris Carmody Jr.** and **Robert Stuart Jr.**, provides a recap of the **2015 Legislative Session** as it relates to CFHLA's Legislative Priorities and the issues that impacted Central Florida's Hospitality Industry.

*Please [CLICK HERE](#) and enter the password "CFHLA" when prompted to access this exclusive CFHLA video.*

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## CFHLA-PAC



Osceola County Commissioner (District 4) Cheryl Grieb, City of Orlando Commissioner (District 5) Regina Hill, City of Orlando Commissioner (District 4) Patty Sheehan.

activities in the month of June that collectively netted over **\$10,000** to support the Committee as CFHLA looks ahead to what will be an active 2016 campaign cycle in Central Florida.

The **CFHLA PAC Reception**, held for the second consecutive year at the **B Resort located in the Walt Disney World Resort**, featured several **Central Florida Elected Officials providing “White Glove Service”** to CFHLA Members in what was both a successful networking and fundraising event.



Seminole County Commissioner Lee Constantine serves CFHLA Members at the PAC Reception

***The CFHLA-PAC Board of Directors thanks the following Elected Officials for participating in this activity:***

**Lee Constantine**

Seminole County Commissioner, District 3

**Jerry Demings**

Orange County Sheriff

**Kathleen “Kat” Gordon**

Orange County School Board Member, District 5

**Cheryl Grieb**

Osceola County Commissioner, District 4

**Regina Hill**

City of Orlando Commissioner, District 5

**John Horan**

Seminole County Commissioner, District 2

**Bryan Nelson**

Orange County Commissioner, District 2

**Rick Singh**  
Orange County Property Appraiser



CFHLA PAC/PC Board Member Jim Haughney of Orange Lake Resort, CFHLA Chairman Gerald Urquiola of the Caribe Royale Resort & Convention Center, Orange County School Board Member Kathleen "Kat" Gordon, CFHLA PAC/PC Board Member Dan Kline of Magical Memories Villas and CFHLA Board Member Keith Wolling of the B Resort located in the Walt Disney World Resort

Additionally, the CFHLA-PAC conducted its most successful PAC Online Auction ever, auctioning away **over 30 hotel stays** and netting nearly **\$5,000**. THANK YOU to those of you who participated and helped strengthen one of CFHLA's most influential Committees.



CFHLA Allied Member Marshall Pickard of Squeegee Squad, Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings, Orange County School Board Member Kathleen "Kat" Gordon, and CFHLA PAC/PC Board Secretary Keith Wolling of the B Resort located in the Walt Disney World Resort

## ORLANDO NORTH

On Tuesday, June 23rd, the **Osceola Board of County Commissioners** agreed to conduct a joint-workshop with the **Seminole County Tourist Development Council (TDC)** relating to the proposed tourism marketing initiative aimed at identifying Seminole County as **“Orlando North.”**

This initiative, supported by both the Seminole Tourist Development Council and the CFHLA Hoteliers of Seminole County, would be applied exclusively to tourism marketing efforts and communications aimed at potential travelers and will not change Seminole County’s identity as **“Florida’s Natural Choice.”**

Focus group research, conducted by Paradise Advertising, showed that confusion and lack of location awareness of Seminole County exists throughout the state. Many focus group participants identified the Seminole County area as “Orlando North,” and by embracing this identity in future tourism marketing efforts, Seminole County’s name recognition to important drive-in markets such as Jacksonville, Tampa and Tallahassee will be **greatly enhanced and drive economic development in the County.**

**CFHLA Board Member Frank Cirrincione** of the [Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs](#) serves as the Chairman of the Seminole County Tourist Development Council and is joined on the TDC Board by fellow **CFHLA Board Member Bruce Skwarlo** of the [Orlando Marriott Lake Mary](#). Both CFHLA and Seminole TDC members will be actively involved with the County Commissioners as the “Orlando North” rebranding debate continues in Seminole County.

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## SPECIAL SESSION

After disagreements over **Medicaid expansion** resulted in an abrupt end to the Florida Legislative Session in late April, the Florida Legislature concluded it’s **“Special Session” on Friday, June 19th**, passing a budget of nearly **\$78.7 billion**.

Visit Florida funding will remain consistent with its 2014 budget of **\$74 million**, a testament to the importance of the Hospitality Industry’s role in bolstering the Florida economy and creating jobs for Floridians following a year in which the state welcomed over 96 million visitors.

On Tuesday, June 23rd, **Governor Scott vetoed \$461 million** in state funding projects, included in those vetoes were a number of projects supported by Central Florida legislators. Two of Governor Scott’s most significant cuts in Central Florida included \$15 million in funding for UCF’s proposed downtown Orlando campus and \$5 million in funding for the second phase of the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.



## LINKS

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

[Governor vetoes money for several Central Florida projects](#)

['Orlando North' still in limbo as Seminole leaders postpone vote again](#)

[Dyer kicks off reelection campaign in Downtown Orlando](#)

[Lingering Issues Raise Possibility Of Another Session](#)

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### Office locations:

#### Corporate Office:

4558 35th Street  
Orlando, FL 32811

#### Southwest Florida:

24017 Production Circle  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

(407) 996-5500

[www.summit-broadband.com](http://www.summit-broadband.com)

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