



Ken Keechl Commissioner – District 4

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September/October Newsletter,

“County Commissioner Keechl’s Committees”

Being your County Commissioner entails more than just attending weekly County Commission meetings and workshops. In November of each year, the current Broward County Mayor appoints County Commissioners to various committees and organizations created by the County Commission, the Broward County Charter, and the Florida Legislature. I thought I would use this newsletter to briefly discuss some of the committees to which I have been appointed.

Broward Alliance: As we all know, a healthy local economy requires attracting new business to Broward County. In furtherance of this goal, the Broward Alliance seeks to encourage a stronger and more diversified economy by promoting increased public/private sector collaboration; focusing on new investment and job growth; and by enhancing the competitiveness of Broward's business climate. During the last year, the Broward Alliance has been successful in encouraging businesses to transfer or expand their businesses in Broward County from outside Florida and the United States.

Downtown Ft. Lauderdale Transportation Management Authority (DFLTMA): Fort Lauderdale is one of thirteen cities within County District 4. The mission of the DFLTMA is to allow for continued growth and economic development in downtown Fort Lauderdale while avoiding increased traffic congestion. The DFLTMA seeks to marshal business resources and expertise and to combine them with government efforts to solve local transportation problems. The TMA recruits companies in the downtown community to become participating employers and partners with us to resolve common transportation concerns. I currently serve on the DFLTMA with County Commissioner John Rodstrom and Ft. Lauderdale City Commissioners Teele and Hutchinson, along with many business leaders.

Public Safety Coordinating Council: This Council consists of various individuals including an appointee from the County Commission, the Sheriff's Department, corrections, the judiciary, the Public Defender's office and the State Attorneys office. We assess the population status of all detention or correctional facilities owned or contracted by Broward County and we formulate recommendations to ensure that jail overcrowding doesn't occur. Additional issues we address include assessing the availability of pretrial intervention or probation programs, work-release programs, substance abuse programs, and mental health programs.

Value Adjustment Board: While our Property Appraiser is doing a great job, disputes regarding property value assessments are inevitable. The Value Adjustment Board consists of three Broward County Commissioners and two Broward County School Board Members. We sit in a quasi-judicial capacity and hear appeals when there is a disagreement between a Broward County taxpayer and the Broward County Property Appraiser concerning the amount of property assessments, or the denials of exemptions or, classifications to properties. Sitting on the Value Adjustment Board gives me the opportunity to utilize my business and legal background to ensure that every taxpayer is given a fair and impartial hearing whenever a dispute arises.

As usual, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at kkeechl@broward.org or 954 357 7004. Remember, I work for you. Until next month...