

BOCA CHAMBER GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC POLICY CONNECTION

February 2013

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& CEO Troy M. McLellan, CCE, FCCP
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www.bocaratonchamber.com

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

For Business - For Jobs - For Prosperity ... For Boca Raton



A MESSAGE FROM:
Troy M. McLellan
CEO, FCCP & President
The Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce is protecting your business through our advocacy efforts. The Boca Chamber takes this responsibility seriously. The Government Connection newsletter contains the results of our research on issues and is also a resource for you to take advantage of in the government driven sector of your business.

The following are some of the issues your Chamber Board of Directors and Chamber team are currently advocating for that would have a direct effect on your business and the economic conditions of the city of Boca Raton as well as the South Palm Beach County region.

- The creation of an Independent Community Redevelopment Agency Director for the City of Boca Raton. This would enhance economic opportunities and redevelopment planning in the CRA District, which includes downtown Boca Raton. The Director Initiates, plans, organizes and directs the activities of the agency and is governed by a Board of Directors.
- To better serve the citizens of Boca Raton by moving the election cycle. The municipal elections are currently in the month of March which yields a low voter turnout. Taking the action to move the elections to the month of November coinciding with state and federal elections on the even numbered years would result in three important outcomes: 1.) save the city money, 2.) increase representation and 3.) lead to higher voter turnout.
- Insuring proper language in state legislation involving growth management that is important to economic development and helps facilitate a more competitive business climate. This action gets government bureaucracy out of the way so that the private sector can invest in job creation.

Within the next week, you will be able to access the entire Boca Chamber Legislative Agenda on the Chamber's web site, www.bocaratonchamber.com. Our Government Affairs activity is on the rise as we enter the State Legislative Session and constantly strive to protect the interest of your business.

Sincerely,
Troy

City & County News

- Lynn University's debate produces millions in economic impact and publicity. Click www.lynneconomicimpact.com
- FPL Creates Data Site for Economic Developers. Click www.fpleconomicdevelopmentsite.com
- Advanced Processing and Imaging to move its Corporate Offices into a 6700 Square Foot Facility in Boca Raton. Click www.bocaAPI.com
- Are you interested in serving the City of Boca Raton by adding your expertise to one of the 25 boards or committees? Click www.brcityboards.com for more information.



State News

- Take a look at the Florida Chamber's Legislative Report Card and how the Legislators representing you voted on issues that affect Economic Development and your business. Click www.legislativereportcard.com
- Who's Who among the new Tallahassee Legislators. Visit www.tallywhoswho.com
- Familiarize yourself with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity promotes economic opportunities for all Floridians through successful workforce, community, and economic development strategies. To find out more, click www.floridaDEO.com



Federal News

- "Boca Chamber Takes The Hill" You are invited to help bring the voice of the South Florida Business Community to our Congressional Delegation in Washington DC! Join other Chamber members as we meet and talk with Washington Insiders May 20th – May 23rd 2013. Click here for more information.
- Rapoport's Restaurant Group, (Deck 84, Henry's, Bogart's Bar & Grille, Burt & Max's Bar & Grille) wins the US Chamber of Commerce 100 Best in Small Business Award! Through a rigorous evaluation of business strategy, customer service, employee development, community involvement, and entrepreneurship, these top 100 winners represent small businesses and entrepreneurs who are working each day to strengthen our economy and create much-needed American jobs. We applaud Burt and his team who dared to DREAM BIG, take risks, accomplish great things, live a full life, and never give up. Click www.uschambersummit.com/award
- Looking to increase your knowledge of the Federal issues that affect your bottom line? Visit the US Chamber Web Site. Click www.uschamber.com



LOCAL LEADERSHIP

A Moment With ... Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie, City of Boca Raton



What are your top three priorities for the City of Boca Raton?

1. Fiscal sustainability – streamlined-efficient government, low millage
2. Economic development – pro-business regulatory framework, funding incentives for job creation
3. Maintain quality of life as a premier City

What do you foresee as being the biggest challenge for the City?

Fiscal sustainability is the biggest challenge facing the City. Boca Raton has the highest assessed value of any municipality in the county and the lowest millage rate. The economic crisis has resulted in the severe reduction in property values and resulting ad valorem taxes and telecommunication taxes, our largest revenue sources. At the same time expenses have escalated for insurance, fuel, personnel costs (pensions and benefits) and health insurance. Boca Raton has always fought to get our “fair share” of funding back from the Palm Beach County and the State of Florida with mixed success. However, the County and State have been very generous with unfunded mandates. Boca Raton’s hallmark has always been premier municipal services which are becoming difficult to maintain in the current financial crisis but expected by our residents.

What steps is the City taking to ensure we are heading in the right economic direction?

The City has maintained an extremely low millage rate while maintaining a high level of municipal service through streamlined-efficient service delivery. We have continually invested in our infrastructure. Boca Raton has created a regulatory framework that attracts quality development and businesses. We have funded economic development, created strong partnerships with our universities, schools, hospital, and business community. We are in the process of developing a strategy for pension cost containment. We must continue to collaborate with other public and private entities and leverage our investments.

What is your greatest accomplishment while in office?

My greatest accomplishment while in office has been the achievement of leadership roles at State, Regional and County levels. These regional leadership roles have yielded invaluable relationships that benefit the City by bringing home significant levels of funding, favorable legislation, beneficial collaboration and a valued reputation. I have served/currently serve:

STATE -Florida League of Cities Board of Directors, Member; Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors; REGIONAL-Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, Gubernatorial Appointee; South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, Chair of the CAC; South East Florida Transportation Council, PBC Representative; COUNTY-Palm Beach County League of Cities, President and Board Member; Intergovernmental Plan Amendment Review Committee, Executive Board Member; Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization, Acting Chair.

What steps is the City taking with other governmental entities to ensure Boca Raton remains the premier location for the relocation of business?

We have developed strong partnerships at all levels of government. The City invests in Federal and State lobbyists to secure funding and advance legislation favorable to the City. We work closely with the Palm Beach County Business Development Board, Enterprise Florida and the Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce to leverage our investment for job incentive programs. We have partnered with our universities and schools to provide the highest quality education and create curriculum for targeted industries.

Personally, what do you appreciate the most about the City?

As a 40-year resident of Boca Raton and a Native Floridian, I truly appreciate the business, educational and cultural vibrancy and the natural beauty of the environment.

LEGISLATOR LOOK-UP

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Commissioner Constance J. Scott

BLU-PAC

Business Leaders United Political Action Committee
*Supporting candidates who support
a pro-business environment in
Boca Raton*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The Boca Chamber's Government Affairs Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Boca Chamber from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
US Chamber Info: www.uschamber.com • Florida Chamber of Commerce Info: www.flchamber.com
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