



## **CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG**

### **Legislative Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations Committee (LAIR)**

**Thursday, May 18, 2017 @ 1:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Committee Chair Montanari, Committee Vice-Chair Wheeler-Bowman, Committee Members Foster, Gerdes, and Kennedy, Jr.

**Also Present:** Councilmember Nurse, Senator Darryl Rouson, Representative Ben Diamond, Representative Wengay Newton, Representative Kathleen Peters, Assistant City Attorney Jane Wallace, City Administrator Dr. Gary Cornwell, Legislative Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations Director Sally Everett and Assistant to the City Clerk Cortney Phillips

**Absent:** None.

Committee Chair Montanari called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and then undertook a roll call to establish the presence of a quorum. The meeting commenced with the following members present: Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, Charles Gerdes and James R. Kennedy, Jr. Committee member Gerdes moved for approval of the agenda. All were in favor of the motion. Committee member Gerdes moved for approval of the minutes as amended. All were in favor of the motion.

Sally Everett gave a brief overview of the Florida Legislative session as it pertains to St. Petersburg. Important issues highlighted included bills relating to CRAs, TBARTA, Utilities – Small Wireless Facilities, Drones, Juvenile Civil Citations, Increased Homestead Exemption, Firefighters Cancer Presumption, Public Notification of Pollution, Vacation Rentals, Transportation Network Companies and Public Records.

Jeff Sharkey, representing Capitol Alliance Group presented the 2017 Legislative Session Report. Ten issues of the 2017 Legislative Sessions included in Mr. Sharkey's report were Budget, Economic Development, Education, Gambling, Guns, Health Care, Insurance, Medical Marijuana, Water and the Death Penalty.

Councilmember Foster and Councilmember Nurse entered the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Mr. Sharkey continued his presentation to the Committee with a discussion on derelict vessels. Input was gathered from City staff and maritime officers for combatting the problem of derelict vessels. The Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission was also consulted for dealing with the problem of vessels at great risk of becoming derelict.

Two budget wins for St. Petersburg were the Downtown St. Petersburg – Preliminary Engineering Study to Convert One Way Street to Two Way Street and the Treasure Island Causeway Multimodal Improvements. Major contentions this year in the House included the Governor's

economic development projects that Speaker Corcoran opposed. The projects were Visit Florida and Enterprise Florida.

Senator Rouson commented on the Dozier School.

Representative Diamond commented on the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority.

Representative Peters commented on improvements in infrastructure and budget allocations related to St. Petersburg and St. Pete Beach. Representative Peters also expressed her disappointment in reduced mental health funding, and commented on affordable workforce housing.

Representative Newton introduced his staff to the Committee. Committees that Representative Newton serves on include the Pre-K -12 Appropriations Committee, the Transportation Infrastructure Committee, the Government Accountability Committee and the Joint Committee on Collective Bargaining.

Committee member Kennedy offered comments regarding transportation.

There being no further business, Committee Chair Montanari adjourned the meeting at 2:54 p.m.

The next LAIR meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

## Sally Everett

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**From:** Sally Everett  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 01, 2017 3:00 PM  
**To:** James R. Kennedy  
**Cc:** City.Council; Gary G. Cornwell; Kevin King  
**Subject:** Info about Joint Council on Citizenship  
**Attachments:** 1710.pdf; 7057C2.pdf; UCF veto.jpg

Councilmember Kennedy,

I see that you have a new business item on Thursday's Council agenda seeking information about the funding and veto of state funds for the Lou Frey Institute at the University of Central Florida, which promotes civics education and advocates for its return to the curriculum in the state's public schools.

I can tell you what I do know about this, and would have been glad to share with you, had you asked.

Governor Scott did veto the \$400,000 in the state budget for the institute, and said that the University of Central Florida could support the institute with any of the \$555.5 million allocated to it for the fiscal year. According to UCF's lobbyist, restoring the funding for the Frey Institute will be a priority for them in 2018 and they are requesting that it be on the Board of Governor's priority list as well.

For several years, several Florida legislators have introduced legislation to require civics instruction of all students. In 2017, sponsors of this legislation were the House Education Committee, which filed HB 7057, and in the Senate, Sen. Kelli Stargel filed SB 1710. HB 7057 passed the House, and was not considered by the Senate. SB 1710 died in the Appropriations Committee after a favorable vote by an Appropriations subcommittee.

Senator Graham's advice, in his op-ed in the TB Times, to flood legislators with emails, calls and personal visits to advocate for civics education, is excellent for anyone wishing to have an impact on future legislative support for this, or any other legislative proposal.

I am attaching copies of the bills mentioned, and a screenshot of the Governor's veto message regarding UCF funds.

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Please note all emails are subject to public records law.

# Civics isn't optional

If you want to know what happens in government when voters are uninterested, diverted or uneducated about the skills of effective citizenship, look no further than Washington and Tallahassee.

In the nation's capital we see the president of the United States and the former director of the FBI calling each other liars. In Tallahassee the Florida Legislature adjourned among a flood of vetoes and back-room deals.

What is going on? One significant, under-the-radar reason is that since the 1970s there has been a virtual collapse in the teaching of civics. Two generations of Americans and Floridians have finished their high school education with little or no instruction in what it means to be a citizen in a democracy. They have never learned the centrality of civility and reasoned compromise in a democracy or the rights, responsibilities and skills necessary to be an effective citizen.



**BOB GRAHAM**

The good news is that Florida has been leading the nation in restoring civics to the classroom and has done it extremely well. Here's how it happened. In 2007 the Lou Frey Institute at the University of Central Florida and the Bob Graham Center at the University of Florida joined forces to form the Florida Joint Center on Citizenship.

A primary goal of this partnership was to persuade the governor and Florida Legislature to return civics education to Florida schools. For two years the Joint Center received little legislative interest or support. But in 2009 the effort found an ally who possessed the necessary credentials to convince the Legislature this was an urgent and worthy cause. She had experience as a state legislator, was a well-regarded Republican and was passionate about the importance of civic education: former Arizona state senator and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Not long after she spoke to a joint session of the Legislature our legislation was passed, appropriately renamed in her honor.

The law has been a success. As civics had not been taught in most Florida schools for four decades, the educational pantry was bare of prepared teachers and instructional materials. To launch the program, the Joint Center has provided in-service training to thousands of educators, developed age-appropriate instructional materials used by 5,000 teachers, and offered supplemental support, which last year provided 95,000 hours of online instruction for Florida students.

In order to ensure accountability, the San-

dra Day O'Connor Act required an end-of-course exam to determine the effectiveness of the civic instruction provided.

In 2014, the first year of testing, 61 percent of Florida students enrolled in seventh-grade civics scored at or above a level of proficiency. This compared favorably to the National Assessment of Educational Progress results, also known as the nation's report card, in which only 23 percent of American eighth-grade students were deemed to be proficient in civics. NAEP is the most comparable assessment available; 2014 was the last year the exam was given. And things were even better in 2017 when 69 percent of Florida seventh-graders tested proficient or better. Students whose teachers used Joint Center instructional materials scored almost 25 percent higher than other students.

So how have the governor and Florida Legislature in their back-room deals recognized this stellar achievement? The Legislature defunded the Joint Center by \$500,000 and Gov. Rick Scott vetoed the remaining \$400,000 of the center's state support.

Their actions are outrageous. The very elected officials whose erratic leadership demonstrates the damage that a lack of civics education has done to our democracy have now decided to eviscerate a program that was reversing ignorance with demonstrated mastery of what is required to be an effective citizen in the arena of democracy.

While we can do little about what happened in the 2017 legislative session, there is much we can do in preparation for the 2018 Legislature. Here's my advice: Flood legislators with emails, calls and personal visits expressing your disgust with their dismantling of civics education in Florida. Partner with fellow citizens who share your outrage or join a group committed to enhanced citizenship such as the League of Women Voters — multiple voices are better than one. Engage the media. And remember these legislators' actions at the 2018 ballot box, where you can send an even stronger message.

As Edmund Burke wisely said: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." When it comes to making sure our children and grandchildren have the tools to be effective citizens of our great county, the time for all good people to act is right now.

*Bob Graham is a former Florida state legislator, governor and U.S. senator. He is the co-author of the recently released "America, The Owner's Manual: You Can Fight City Hall — And Win," which helps citizens build and flex their citizenship muscles to make government work for them. He wrote this exclusively for the Tampa Bay Times.*

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You may well need Medicaid

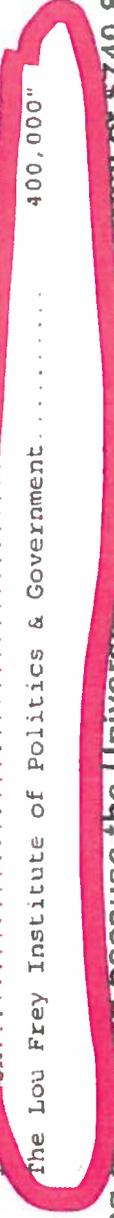
The following are vetoed because the University of Central Florida received a total of \$555.5 million in Fiscal Year 2017-18 and has the ability to fund these initiatives.



"Downtown Presence" 2,000,000

Secretary Kenneth W. Detzner  
June 2, 2017  
Page 41 of 75

Dr. Phillips Center for Performing Arts 3,900,295  
The Lou Frey Institute of Politics & Government 400,000



The following are vetoed because the University of Central Florida received a total of \$740.8 million in Fiscal Year 2017-18 and has the ability to fund these initiatives.

"University of Florida  
Lastinger Center for Learning 1,700,000  
Lastinger Center Winning Reading Boost 200,000"

The following is vetoed because the University of North Florida received a total of \$155.8 million in Fiscal Year 2017-18 and has the ability to fund this initiative.

"Culture of Completion & Career Initiative" 2,000,000"

The following are vetoed because the University of South Florida received a total of \$434.4 million in Fiscal Year 2017-18 and has the ability to fund these initiatives.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON SENATE BILL 2500

SECTION 2 - EDUCATION (ALL OTHER FUNDS)

Crestview Education Center.....	1,500,000
Florida Atlantic University	
Max Planck Scientific Fellowship Program.....	1,050,000
Secondary Robotics Team Support.....	100,000
Florida Gulf Coast University	
Academic & Career Attainment.....	1,000,000
Florida International University	
Center for Democracy.....	500,000
Center for Ethics & Professionalism.....	1,000,000
Center for Leadership.....	250,000
FIUnique.....	3,900,000
Washington Center for Internships.....	300,000
Florida State University	
Boys & Girls State.....	100,000
Charles Hilton Endowed Professorship.....	300,000
College of Law Scholarships/Faculty.....	1,000,000
Florida Campus Compact.....	608,111
Learning System Institute.....	250,000
Pepper Center Long Term Care Proposal.....	250,000
Student Veterans Center.....	500,000
New College of Florida	
Career & Internship Program.....	275,000
Master in Data Science & Analytics.....	1,220,000
University of Central Florida	
Advanced Manufacturing Sensor Project.....	5,000,000
Downtown Presence.....	2,000,000
Dr. Phillips Center for Performing Arts.....	3,900,299
Istation.....	3,500,000
The Lou Frey Institute of Politics & Government.....	400,000
University of Florida	
Lastinger Center for Learning.....	1,700,000
Lastinger Center Winning Reading Boost.....	200,000
University of North Florida	
Advanced Manufacturing & Materials Innovation.....	855,000
Culture of Completion & Career Initiative.....	2,000,000
University of South Florida	
All Children's Hospital Partnership.....	250,000
Cybersecurity Initiative.....	6,450,000
Expanded Library Services.....	347,000
Florida Institute of Oceanography.....	1,174,500
University of South Florida, Sarasota/Manatee	
Mote Marine Lab.....	483,031
PAInT - Center for Partnerships for Arts- Integrated Teaching.....	250,000
South Florida Museum's Institute for STEAM Teaching: Center for PAInT.....	50,000
STEM Programs at Mote.....	2,516,965
University of South Florida, St. Petersburg	
Family Study Center.....	250,000
Poynter Library Weekly Challenger Digital Collection.....	300,000
University of West Florida	
Archaeology Program.....	1,100,000
Nursing Practice Education Partnership.....	1,000,000
Office of Economic Development & Engagement.....	2,500,000
Physical Therapy Education Partnership.....	1,000,000
Physician Assistance Program.....	1,000,000
School of Mechanical Engineering.....	1,000,000
Veteran & Military Student Support.....	250,000

Included within the total appropriations for State Universities in Specific Appropriations 141, nonrecurring general revenue funds are provided for the following appropriations projects:

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	
Increasing Online Course Offerings (HB 2137).....	1,000,000
Florida Atlantic University	
Secondary Robotics Team Support (Senate Form 1178).....	150,000
Drug Discovery and Translation Research Partnership with Scripps Florida (HB 2101).....	2,031,780
Honors College (HB 2227).....	1,000,000
Florida Gulf Coast University	
Target Existing Talent Gaps (HB 2209).....	1,750,000
Honors College (HB 2211).....	1,000,000
Florida International University	
UP:LIFT(University Paradigm: Learn, Interact, Facilitate) (HB 2233).....	5,000,000
Hazardous Substance Mitigation (HB 3785).....	1,000,000

**Schedule**  
in preparation for  
**2018 Florida Legislative Session**

October 23-26, 2017	Interim Legislative Committee Meetings, Tallahassee
November 6-9, 2017	Interim Legislative Committee Meetings, Tallahassee
November 13-16, 2017	Interim Legislative Committee Meetings, Tallahassee
December 4-7, 2017	Interim Legislative Committee Meetings, Tallahassee
December 6-8, 2017	FLC Legislative Conference
January 9, 2018	Regular Session Convenes
January 30-31, 2018	FLC Legislative Action Days, Tallahassee
March 9, 2018	Regular Session Ends