

**ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**May 17, 2018 @ 1:00 p.m.
City Hall – Room 100**

AGENDA

Members & Alternate: Chair Ed Montanari, Amy Foster, Brandi Gabbard, Lisa Wheeler-Bowman; Alternate – Charlie Gerdes

Support Staff: Cindy Sheppard, City Council Administrative Officer

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of Minutes - February 22, 2018

D. New/Deferred Business

a. Review of 2018 Legislative Session

- Jeff Sharkey, Capital Alliance Group
- John Rodriguez - update on Council Resolutions

b. St. Petersburg Legislative Delegation Remarks (Sen. Jeff Brandes and Rep. Wengay Newton unable to attend; Sen. Darryl Rouson - tentative)

- Rep. Ben Diamond
- Rep. Kathleen Peters

E. Schedule for 2019

F. Upcoming Meeting and Agenda Tentative Issues

1. *Date TBD*

REPORT

City of St. Petersburg

Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

Meeting of February 22 @ 3:45 p.m.

City Hall - Room 100

Present: Committee Chair, Ed Montanari, Council members, Amy Foster, Charlie Gerdes, Brandi Gabbard, Gina Driscoll, Lisa Wheeler Bowman; Assistant City Attorney Jane Wallace; John Rodriguez, Government Affairs Director; City Council Administrative Officer Cindy Sheppard; and Paul Traci, Office Systems Specialist

The Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relation Committee was called to called to order by Committee Chair Montanari. Approval of Agenda. The first order of business was the election of Chair and Vice Chair. Council member Ed Montanari was elected Chair with Brandi Gabbard elected as Vice-Chair. The minutes of October 19, 2017 and November 20, 2017 were approved.

John Rodriguez, recently appointed Government Affairs Director introduced himself to the Committee. Mr. Rodriguez spoke to the City's important issues. There are six bills that are being closely monitored. Most of the bills we are against, although they may have passed the House early on, they haven't moved much in the Senate. The most concerning bill is the USF Consolidation Bill which has been filed in the House but not in the Senate which would normally be a signal that it's not going anywhere, but word is that even though it has to go through one more House committee and even though there isn't a Senate companion, the plan that is rumored is the path forward is that the House would pass its version, send it to the Senate and the Senate will amend basically the body of the House version onto another education bill. That circumvents some of the requirements that it be heard in Senate committee.

Funding was not able to be obtained for the 40th Avenue bridge in the House or Senate. We will regroup and see what the options are for next year. The Carter G. Woodson African American Museum was funded in the Senate budget for \$250,000. Community Partner Requests that are still alive are the USFSP Family Study Center for \$300,000 and \$300,000 for the Florida Holocaust Museum. The Sadowski Trust Fund had different budget amounts in the House and Senate. This difference must be reconciled through the conference committee process. The House money for the trust fund is tied to going specifically to counties that suffered hurricane damage last year.

CM Gerdes asked about the difference between the Sports Franchise Facilities bills and the Sports Development bills. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the House Sports Development bill prohibits the use

of public funds for sport facilities on public land but that he would get back to the Committee regarding the Senate bill.

CM Gerdes inquired about the CRA bills. Mr. Rodriguez response was that the CRA bills were a handful of bills that passed the first week of session in the House, but have not subsequently moved in the Senate and doesn't appear to be going anywhere this year.

CM Foster inquired about HB 227 and SB 376 that were not included on the Important Issue chart. Both bills have moved through all committees. These are the bills related to workers compensation benefits for first responders. CM Foster will be asking for a Resolution of Support for both bills.

Committee Vice-Chair Gabbard asked about the disbursement from the Sadowski Trust Fund and how it will be disbursed. Mr. Rodriguez commented that the disbursement will be decided by the House and the Senate using the conference committee process.

CM Gerdes asked about Vacation Rental bills. Mr. Rodriguez stated that they are still in committee but will get back with the result.

Chair Montanari spoke to the Higher Education bill (HB 423) having received copies of letters from Senator Brandes. One is a letter to the Regional Chancellor of USFSP looking for input and the other from Senator Brandes to Representative Chris Sprowls looking for a way to solve this issue. Chair Montanari also has a copy of response from the Regional Chancellor to Senator Brandes.

Chair Montanari commented that his understanding regarding the 40th Avenue bridge is that it will probably end up in a FDOT work program.

CM Gabbard asked if it is customary to get updates on the Resolutions that Council has passed in 2017 and 2018. Chair Montanari requested Mr. Rodriguez get updates at the next meeting.

Chair Montanari has requested that the City's lobbyist and members of the Pinellas County Delegation be attend the next LAIR meeting.

2018 Bills that were the subject of City Council Resolutions:

HB 219	Assault Weapon Ban			Resolution # 2017-678	support	dead
SB 196	Gun Safety			Resolution # 2017-678	support	dead
SB 456	Bump-Fire Stocks	Incorporated into SB 7026 and passed		Resolution # 2017-678	support	Signed by governor
HB 347	Prohibited Discrimination	By Rep. Diamond		Resolution # 2017-679	support	dead
SB 66	Prohibited Discrimination	Cosponsored by Senators Rousson & Young		Resolution # 2017-679	support	dead
HB 121	Texting While Driving	Withdrawn prior to introduction		Resolution # 2017-680	support	dead
SB 90	Texting While Driving			Resolution # 2017-680	support	dead
HB 4351	Forward Pinellas Waterborne Transportation	Sponsored by Rep. Latvala, In support of the creation of a grant program		Resolution # 2017-681	support	dead
HB 17	CRA	Against CRA and Preemption bills		Resolution # 2017-682	oppose	dead
SB 432	CRA	Against CRA and Preemption bills		Resolution # 2017-682	oppose	dead
HB 509	Juvenile Justice Reform	By Rep. Diamond		Resolution # 2018-40	support	dead
SB 936	Juvenile Justice Reform			Resolution # 2018-40	support	dead
HB 1261	Alcohol and Drug-Related Overdoses			Resolution # 2018-64	support	dead
SB 970	Alcohol and Drug-Related Overdoses	By Sen. Brandes		Resolution # 2018-64	support	dead
HB 191	State Housing Trust Fund	Sponsored by Rep. Shaw, Prohibits transfer of Sadowski Fund		Resolution # 2018-94	support	dead
SB 874	State Funds	Prohibits transfer of Sadowski Fund		Resolution # 2018-94	support	dead
HB 553	Concealed Weapons Permits	No longer addresses concealed weapons		Resolution # 2018-108	oppose	Tabled, SB 740 signed by Gov
SB 740	Concealed Weapons Permits	No longer addresses concealed weapons		Resolution # 2018-108	oppose	Signed by Governor
HB 521	Tree Trimming Preemption	Died in messages		Resolution # 2018-114	oppose	Dead
SB 574	Tree Trimming Preemption			Resolution # 2018-114	oppose	dead

HB 227	First Responders		Resolution # 2018-115	support	Tabled, SB 376 signed by Gov
SB 376	First Responders		Resolution # 2018-115	support	Signed by Governor
SB 7026	Public Safety	Included provision for arming teachers	Resolution # 2018-116	oppose	signed by Governor
HB 4	Higher Education	Included USF consolidation	Resolution # 2018-171	oppose	Signed by Governor

**CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
End of Session Capitol Report
March 14, 2018**

THE CAPITOL ALLIANCE GROUP

POWERFUL, EXPERIENCED, & TRUSTED



Provided by:

**Capitol Alliance Group
106 E. College Ave, Suite 640
Tallahassee, FL 32301**

I. CAPITOL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Budget- The Florida Legislature on Sunday approved an **\$88.7 billion** state budget to end a dramatic legislative session that began with legislators dealing with the aftermath of one of the state's most damaging storms in Hurricane Irma and culminating with their response to the state's worst school shooting in history at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

Sine Die - Session came to an official close on Sunday after a late budgetary stalemate over disagreements on healthcare spending delayed a budget deal — the one thing the Constitution requires the Legislature to do — legislators missed a key deadline and were forced to extend their annual session by a few days, which was supposed to end Friday.

Tragedies - The Legislature began this year's session confronting the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, and subsequent projected budgetary shortfalls. They pivoted mid-session following the massacre at Broward County's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland on Valentine's Day. The mass shooting set off state and national protests demanding legislators enact stricter gun control measures and bolster security/hardening around all schools.

Funding Response - In response to the shooting and protests, legislators spent the last three weeks of session debating **SB7026**, which included **\$400 million** to pay for more mental health services and efforts to fortify security in schools. The money needed was siphoned from funds previously dedicated to local projects submitted by House and Senate members, thus drastically changing the outcome for session "wins" as members return to their respective districts.

Limited Legislation - The 2018 legislative session may go down as one of the least "productive" in modern history. After 62 days in Tallahassee during the 2018 overtime (slightly) session, the Legislature passed 196 bills out of the 3,189 filed. That's a record number of bills filed and a record for the fewest number passed in at least 21 years. The Senate passed just 85 of its bills, 10 fewer than it did in 2017 and hundreds less than it regularly passed in the early 2000s.

Local Preemption - The big issue for St Petersburg and other local governments was the legislature's direct assault on local Home rule through a proliferation of various legislation pre-empting local ordinances on issues ranging from CRA's, Tree Trimming, Travel authorization, use of Tourist Development Tax monies, Fiscal reporting, and various others. There were approximately 18 bills filed that would have pre-empted local government regulations or required local governments to comply with state financial or auditing requirements that would countermand local processes. Our team worked tirelessly with the Florida League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties to fight these bills and were highly successful in defeating bills, such as the CRA bill, on the last day of the session.

The **Capitol Alliance Group** team remained committed to the City of St. Petersburg's legislative agenda and issues throughout the duration of the 2018 Legislative Session. The **CAG** continued to lobby vigilantly against local government preemption legislation and championed for our budgetary and community partnered requests.

II. MAJOR LEGISLATIVE POLICY ISSUES

➤ Ten Big Issues of the 2018 Legislative Session

BUDGET: Lawmakers passed an \$88.7 billion budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1, though they were forced to extend the session by two days to finish the spending plan. The budget includes increased funding for education, with per-student spending in the kindergarten through 12th-grade system going up \$101.50. The Senate also pushed through increased funding for nursing homes, while the House blocked a Senate attempt to change the way some Medicaid money is distributed to hospitals.

HEALTH CARE: After years of legal battles in the hospital industry, lawmakers approved a plan to revamp the approval of new trauma centers. They also approved a long-discussed proposal that could lead to the use of "direct primary care" agreements, which involve patients and doctors contracting directly for primary care, reducing the role of insurers. The House, however, was unable to convince the Senate to go along with eliminating the controversial "certificate of need" regulatory process for hospitals.

HIGHER EDUCATION: Throughout his term as Senate president, Stuart Republican Joe Negron has made a top priority of revamping the higher-education system. Gov. Scott on Sunday signed a wide-ranging bill that includes permanently expanding Bright Future scholarships. The bill also calls for expanding some need-based aid programs and would require the state university system to use a four-year graduation rate as part of its performance-funding formula, instead of the current six-year measure.

HURRICANE IRMA: Legislators came into the session still grappling with the effects of Hurricane Irma, which slammed into the state in September and caused billions of dollars in damage. The House and Senate took steps such as ratifying rules for nursing homes and assisted living facilities to have backup generators and fuel supplies to help keep the facilities cool. Scott's administration issued the rules after residents of a sweltering Broward County nursing home died after Irma knocked out the building's air-conditioning system.

INSURANCE: The two highest-profile insurance issues of the session involved proposals to eliminate the no-fault auto insurance system and revamp a controversial practice known as "assignment of benefits." In the end, however, both issues died. The House approved repealing no-fault, which includes a requirement that motorists carry personal-injury protection, or PIP, coverage. But the proposal couldn't get through Senate committees. Similarly, the Senate did not approve changes sought by insurers in assignment of benefits.

K-12 EDUCATION: House Speaker Richard Corcoran and other school-choice supporters got a victory Sunday when Scott signed a controversial bill that will expand voucher-like scholarship programs. The bill includes creating the “hope scholarships” program, which will help pay for children who have been bullied in public schools to transfer to private schools. The bill also includes a heavily debated change that targets teachers’ unions whose membership falls below 50 percent of the employees they represent.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC: In one of the final issues decided during the session, lawmakers late Friday approved a bill to stem the opioid epidemic that has caused a surge in overdoses across the state. A key part of the bill calls for placing limits on prescriptions for opioids. In most cases, the bill would place three- or seven-day limits on prescriptions, though it includes exemptions for people who are terminally ill, need palliative care or suffer from major trauma. The idea behind the limits is to prevent patients from getting addicted to painkillers.

PARKLAND AFTERMATH: The Feb. 14 shooting deaths of 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland forced legislators to quickly deal with school-safety issues and spurred a contentious debate about gun laws. Scott on Friday signed a \$400 million package that includes improving mental-health services and allowing trained employees to bring guns to schools. The package also raises the minimum age to 21 and imposes a three-day waiting period for people buying rifles and other long guns. The National Rifle Association quickly filed a federal lawsuit challenging the age restriction.

TAX CUTS: Getting ready to hit the campaign trail, legislators Sunday approved a bill that includes about \$170 million in tax breaks. The measure includes holding a three-day tax “holiday” in early August to allow back-to-school shoppers to buy clothes and school supplies without paying sales taxes. A similar seven-day “holiday” will be held in early June for residents to buy hurricane supplies. The bill also includes tax breaks for farmers and ranchers who suffered damage in Hurricane Irma and would trim a lease tax paid by many businesses.

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING: With support from Speaker Corcoran, it appeared lawmakers this year could approve a long-discussed idea to toughen Florida’s ban on texting while driving. But the proposal did not make it through the Senate, at least in part because of concerns about racial profiling of minority drivers. Currently, texting while driving is a “secondary” offense, meaning motorists can only be cited if they are pulled over for other reasons. The proposal would have made it a primary offense, with police able to pull over motorists for texting behind the wheel.

III. ST PETE HIGH PRIORITY LEGISLATION

1. **Community Redevelopment Agencies:** Sweeping community redevelopment agency bills were filed in both chambers this session. HB 17 by Representative Jake Raburn (R-Valrico) passed the full house early on in session. The bill was subsequently sent to the Senate in messages. The Senate was preoccupied with their

own similar (but limited) bill, filed by Senator Tom Lee (R-Brandon). Senator Lee's bill (SB 432) was approved by only one of its four committees of reference. In the interim, the House hedged their bets and utilized Representative Ingolia's HB 883 as a vehicle to tack on the CRA language. The **CAG** team, in unison with the League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties, were able to kill Representative Caldwell's late amendment to HB 883, which would have incorporated several onerous provisions related to CRAs and growth management. The following were encompassed in the proposed amendment:

- Lines 275-277 – CRAs may be created only by special act of the Legislature.
- Lines 377-381 – CRAs may not make grants to nonprofit organizations for socially beneficial purposes.
- Lines 382-392 – CRAs may not invest in sports facilities or land adjoining a sports facility.
- Lines 54-124- Oppressive new lobbyist registration requirements
- Lines 62-202 – Legislatively overrides local comp plan designations of Urban service boundaries and rural lands within 3 miles of any university campus, including satellite campuses.

2. **Concealed carrying of weapons** – on College or University campuses, died.
3. **Sports Franchise Facilities** - legislation to preempt local governments from financially supporting professional or amateur sports facilities passed the House, however we were able to successfully keep it from moving in the Senate.
4. **Texting While Driving** - passed the House, but was held hostage in the Senate, thus died. The bill sought to make texting while driving a primary offense.
5. **Tourist Development Tax** - that would allow for expanded use of tourist taxes for infrastructure and water projects passed the House but died in the Senate in messages. However, the language was included in the major tax bill, HB 7087. This allows local governments greater flexibility in the use of these funds.
6. **Tree Trimming Preemption** - by Senator Steube SB 574 and Representative Katie Edwards-Walpole HB 521, dealt with the pre-emption of municipality rights regarding the issuance of permits for tree trimming within certain rights-of-way. The bills passed the House, however gained little traction in the Senate, and died.
7. **Vacation Rentals:** Senator Greg Steube (R-Sarasota) introduced SB 1400 which initially would have preempted regulation to the State. After considerable discussion in two committees, the bill was amended against the request of the sponsor to allow some local regulation. The regulation would have been limited to uses and number

of occupants, but the regulations would have had to be uniform for all residentially zoned properties. This bill was approved by votes of 4-2 and 9-1 in two committees but it was never heard in the Appropriations Committee. It died in committee.

The House companion bill, HB 773, was filed by Representative Mike La Rosa (R-St. Cloud). This bill was not as extensive in scope as the Senate version, but Representative La Rosa attempted to amend the bill in committee to be more in line with SB 1400. He was forced to withdraw the amendment, as he did not have the votes in support. The bill was approved by its only committee of reference and was placed on the House calendar, but it was never voted upon. It died on the floor on the last day of Session.

8. **Travel Restrictions:** HB 815 by Representative Avila, R-Hialeah and SB 1180 by Senator Steube, R-Sarasota died in the Senate, after garnering traction and making it to the floor in the House. The bills sought to require all approved travel to be posted on the county's or municipality's website. The **CAG** team worked with stakeholders to squeeze the Senate from taking up the bill and proposed amendment language focusing on exempting strong mayors.

9. **Consolidation of University of South Florida Passes:** The three independent campuses affiliated with the University of South Florida network could soon be consolidated under one accreditation. The language, included in the omnibus Higher Education bill, (SB 4 BY Sen. Galvano) if signed into law, would require two smaller auxiliary campuses, USF St. Petersburg and USF Manatee/Sarasota, to become part of the main USF Tampa campus by July 1, 2020. On behalf of the City of St Pete, the **CAG** team fought alongside Pinellas County delegation members and community partners to impede/forestall the bill from passing, however, House leadership was committed to passing, which they accomplished by including it in the.

IV. SUCCESSFUL APPROPRIATIONS

➤ ST PETE PRIORITIES

- **Carter G. Woodson African American Museum..... \$250,000**

➤ COMMUNITY PARTNER APPROPRIATIONS FUNDED:

- USFSP Family Study Center..... **\$300,000**
- Florida Holocaust Museum..... **\$300,000**
- TBARTA Regional Transit Development Plan **\$1,000,000**
- American Craftsman Museum, Inc. **\$500,000**

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