



District 3 Digest

An E-Newsletter from
Commissioner Julie Fishman
July 2019



Summer Hiatus - Part One

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District 3 News & Information

Hello and welcome to my new District 3 Newsletter!

When I first started this e-newsletter, I promised content that would inform and would not be a repeat of my Commission reports or information that could be found in the Tam-A-Gram. Hopefully, I have lived up to that promise and will continue to do so.

July is the start of the official Commission Hiatus from July 14th and ending August 18th. During that time the Mayor and Commission do not meet for Workshops or Commission meetings, however there is still a lot going on!

The July 10th Commission meeting will be a very full agenda. One of the items on the agenda is an item I have been involved with since bringing it up at Strategic Planning and helped with the writing of. The Tamarac Commission will be voting on a Human Trafficking Sign Ordinance. The affect of the ordinance will be to place signs that bring awareness to human trafficking, up in sexually oriented businesses in Tamarac. The ordinance also allows law enforcement, fire inspectors and code officials to enter the premises to check on the signs. Pasco County has a similar ordinance and they have already rescued several children from being trafficked.

The issue of human trafficking is one that I believe we all must be aware of in order to stop people from becoming victims. You will be hearing more about this from me in the near future.

Vacation Rentals vs Home Rule



In my last newsletter I wrote about several upcoming meetings I would be attending. The first was a Legislative Policy meeting for the Florida League of Cities, which I attended on Friday, June 14th. I am part of the Municipal Administration Policy Committee. At the meeting we went over the bills from this past Legislative Session with an eye toward the 2020 Session.

We spent a great deal of time discussing vacation rentals and Home Rule. Vacation rentals is an issue that many in Tallahassee feel should be dealt with at the State level. We disagree and here is why. First and foremost is that we at the city level are our residents first line of defense. Vacation rentals by their very nature are problematic. They are businesses in the middle of residential areas. They bring people into these neighborhoods that don't know what the City ordinances are or the association rules and this creates distention.

Cities can currently register vacation rentals but they cannot regulate them. That is because the State has preempted regulation to the state level.

So what happens if say a vacation rental has too many cars parked in front of the house? The city can try to contact the person in "charge" of that rental and ask them to have some of the cars moved. The Association could fine the owner for a violation of the documents, if that is covered in the docs. If not, oh well. Even if parking is covered in the association's documents, it then becomes a cost of the vacation rental to do business. It does not take care of the actual issue.

Oh, and let's look at how well the State has handled helping homeowners with issues. If you live in a condominium, the State charges \$4 per condominium which goes into a Trust Fund for the Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes to "provide consumer protection for Florida residents through education, complaint resolution, mediation and arbitration and developer disclosure." Most people who have called for help have been turned away as the Division has cut staff and programs.

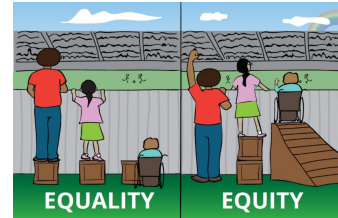
The second meeting of the Florida League of Cities Policy Committees will be held on July 19th. At this meeting we will be discussing and finalizing our Committees' position on issues for the 202 Legislative Session, including the possibility of writing our own bill on vacation rentals.

This issue has been heated for the last few years and promises to be back in 2020.

A final vote on all Policy Statements for each of the Policy Committees will be taken by the full Board of the League at the Annual Conference in August.

REAL Work to Be Done!

The other meeting I attended was the National League of Cities (NLC) Summer Board and Leadership Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. Earlier this year, I was appointed to the Council on Race Equity and Leadership (REAL). The mission of the REAL Council is "to strengthen local elected officials' knowledge and capacity to eliminate racial disparities, heal racial divisions, and build more equitable communities." While NLC has been offering classes through REAL for several years, this is the first year of the REAL Council.



Three years ago as a newly elected Commissioner, I took my first class through NLC University and it was [REAL 101](#). I have been continuing to learn about racial equity since then.

Women in Municipal Government



In addition to serving on the National League of Cities REAL Council and the Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Policy Committee, I also serve on the Board of Women in Municipal Government (WIMG). This month, WIMG will be holding its Annual Summer Conference to discuss issues important to women and families. This will be the first WIMG Conference I have attended and I am looking forward to bringing back information on what I learn at the conference.

Upcoming Events

Please join the City for our **4th of July All American Celebration** at the Tamarac Sports Complex starting at 6pm. [Click here for additional information](#)

July 8th - 9:30am Commission Workshop
July 10th - 7:00pm Commission Meeting



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