

Bellalago & Isles of Bellalago Community
Homeowners Association, Inc.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO BE A CANDIDATE

I, **Philip Gatto**, hereby place my name in nomination as a candidate for the **Board of Directors of the Bellalago & Isles of Bellalago Community Association, Inc.** I understand that I am responsible for the accuracy of the information contained in the information statement. I certify that I am eligible to run for the Board of Directors in accordance with Florida Statute 720.306(9)(b), Florida Statutes.

ASSOCIATION CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Signed:  Date: September, 17, 2026

On-Site Address: 

Phone:  Email: 

This Form May be Emailed to bellalago@fsresidential.com

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Please include a separate Bio, which will be posted on the HOA website for residents to view

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

After decades in law enforcement, solving problems, serving the youngest and oldest in society, and holding myself to uncompromising standards, I bring those values to this candidacy. That is how I am conditioned. It will always be part of who I am, shaped by decades of hands-on duty to countless others, and neighborhoods served.

PRIOR ASSOCIATION EXPERIENCE:

Right now, the only association that matters is where you live, BIOB. A place that I have 17 yrs of hands-on history with. I've attended 100's of meetings, served on committee, met directly with management countless times and brought countless resident issues forward. And helped reinstitute Coffee Talks. You can say I have a "PhD in BIOB".

COMMENTS ABOUT BOARD CANDIDACY:

I am a proud resident, drawn to BIOB's beauty, promise, and the residents. I'm not running to fill a seat; I believe the board's role is to facilitate what residents need and deserve. We are a resident run community and everyone deserves their thoughts to be heard. It's time we start governing with that in mind.

Please place any additional information on a separate sheet, limited to one page please. Also include a headshot for your election post.

Hi neighbors, I'm Phil Gatto. My beautiful wife and I purchased our second home in Isles of Bellalago in 2007. I am a full time resident and since purchasing in the community, I've stayed involved, connected, and committed to our beloved Bellalago and Isles of Bellalago.

I care deeply about our community and the residents including how our resources are managed, our investments are protected, and how our community feels day to day. I believe the Board should work directly with residents so their concerns, ideas, and voices are genuinely reflected in the decisions that shape BIOB. We deserve community maintenance done consistently and professionally, fees and enforcement reasonable, contracts that truly benefit residents, rules that make sense, processes that are fair, information shared openly, and issues handled in a timely way that leads to beneficial results. We deserve clarity, consistency, and follow-through. I am committed to this community, to my fellow residents, and to restoring an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood, better than ever. The resident deserves this and so does you family members and your children.

Service to Isles of Bellalago & Bellalago-I've stayed involved and worked to make a positive difference over the years. I've:

- Attended hundreds of meetings, served on committees
- Raised resident concerns
- Challenged questionable practices
- Worked with neighbors and management to resolve issues
- Helped bring forward practical, upgrades
- Supported meaningful changes and improvements
- Devoted countless hours advocating for fairness, clarity, and residents' best interests.

My goal has always been to make our community stronger, more transparent, and more enjoyable for everyone who calls BIOB home.

Education & Professional Training-

- SUNY — 128 credits toward B.S. in Business Management
- NYPD Police Academy graduate — Police Science, Criminal Law, Procedural Law, Administrative procedures., legal bureau bulletins, Social Science, Communication & De-escalation, Defensive Tactics
- Advanced Plainclothes & Investigative Training, Narcotics Detection, Undercover Operations, Surveillance, Field Investigations
- Numerous Additional Certifications
- Sergeant Promotion (Top of Class) — BMOC Leadership, Personnel Management, Operational Decision-making
- Lieutenant Promotion (Top of Class) — Advanced Leadership, Budgeting, Payroll Administration, Scheduling, Organizational Communication
- Passed Captain's Exam, Member of the Superior Officers Council, Osceola County Foster Parent Training & Certification

Professional Experience-

- Early career in the service industry; advanced to Executive Head Chef
- Entered NYPD at age 21; worked continuously through age 42 and retired early through advancement and discipline
- Advanced through multiple promotional levels by mastering operational, legal, and leadership disciplines
- Served in Manhattan/Harlem, Brooklyn South/North, and the South Bronx.

Special Operations Lieutenant & Operational Coordinator Supervised 168+ uniformed members of all ranks and over 20 civilian staff. Oversaw 11 operational units, administrative staff, plainclothes teams, community policing, traffic management, crime analysis, and anti crime. Directed large-scale deployments, managed personnel matters, and led critical incident responses. Responsibilities included **budgeting oversight, payroll and roll-call administration, scheduling, master planning, and operational coordination** across high-volume assignments.

- Earned top 1.8% on the Sergeant's Exam and top 1.9% on the Lieutenant's Exam
- Received more than 10 commendations for excellent service
- **Successfully passed the Captain's Promotional Exam**
- Honorably retired with a formal letter of approval and appreciation from the Police Commissioner.

Major Incident Response (9/11): Participated, and supervised deployment, strategic coverage, and long-term emergency planning during the 9/11 attacks and the months after. Supported coordination of multi-agency response, recovery operations, and continuity planning for critical incidents. Served with a small group tasked with planning for future emergency response, recovery operations, data collection and strategic coordination across multiple agencies for critical incidents potentially effecting vital data, resources, infrastructure, people and places.

Why I Serve, Why I Speak Up-I see how the community is changing, and I want to help fix issues, strengthen what's slipping, and ensure residents receive the quality and care they pay for and deserve. I'm running as a resident to be a part of a board of five that helps refocus attention on my fellow neighbors and the priorities that matter to them and the community they love. **Bellalago has drifted too far from its residents, and that motivates me to step forward.**

