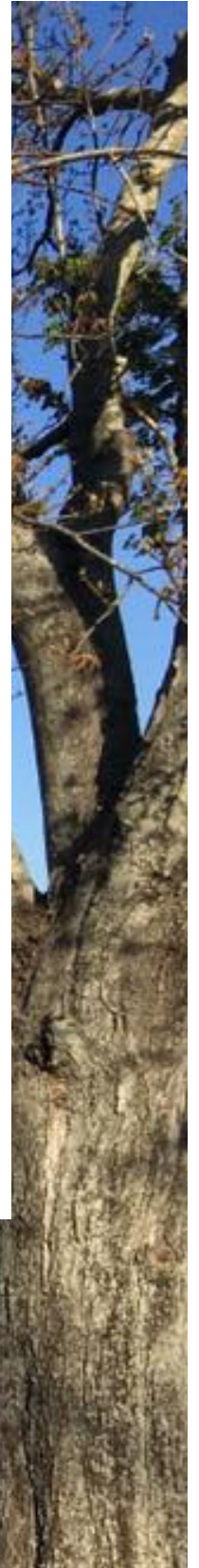


DISTRICT 2 GAZETTE

COMMISSIONER TONY ORTIZ

JANUARY - MARCH 2018



LAKE UNDERHILL PARK



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HOME RULE

“Municipalities shall have governmental, corporate and proprietary powers to enable them to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services, and may exercise power for municipal purposes except as otherwise provided by law.”

What is it?

The Municipal Home Rule Powers Act, or Home Rule, is an act established in 1973 that determines and defines the legal rights of local government. Its purpose is to allow cities and counties in Florida to be assertive in enacting ordinances without having to ask permission from the state, as long as they do not conflict with state or federal law. Not only does Home Rule give local government more power, it also gives local voters (like you) freedom to elect local leaders they think will provide them with the most accurate representation in office.

Why is it Important?

Home Rule is important because its purpose is for local leaders to vote on and create ordinances pertaining to the specific needs of the city's residents. In essence, Home Rule is the equivalent to a transferring of powers from state to local governments, allowing to better serve their communities with the best interest of the people in mind. Commissioner Tony Ortiz believes “the needs of the people have no party labels, no social status, no gender, race, or religion; the needs of the people need commitment,” and Home Rule allows him to exercise his commitment to his constituents as the Commissioner of District 2.



Preemption in Tallahassee

Currently in Tallahassee, the Florida State Capital, Home Rule is repeatedly being undermined by preemption. Preemption happens when the state overrides Home Rule and prevents cities from applying the ordinances they have set in place to benefit their residents. These actions by state legislation can be harmful to cities and counties because lawmakers at the state level are unaware of the issues in municipal communities and do not understand the circumstances under which these ordinances were put into place.

Commissioner's Note on Home Rule

As a leader of this community my goal is to represent its people with one mission; quality of life for everybody. I can't accomplish this until our legislators understand the importance of allowing Municipalities to govern themselves.

Mayors and Commissioners are at the first level and in constant communication with their citizens. Unless our State legislators communicate with us they won't learn the real needs of our people. The needs of every municipality are different, therefore, home-rule is paramount.

Self-governance is imperative and fulfills the ideals of democracy and of those before us whose vision was of a government that is created by reflection and choice. The state legislators need to remember that they are not just taking power away from the municipalities, they are taking the power away from the people.

"The power is either in the hands of the people or in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."

-Justice Louis D Brandeis



→ Ambassador Harriet L. Elam-Thomas



First African American
United States
Ambassador

→ Emerson R. Thompson, Jr.



First African American
Chief Judge of the 9th
Judicial Circuit Court

→ Chief Charlie B. Walker, Jr.



First African American
to serve as Orlando
Fire Department Chief

→ Jerry L. Demings



First African American
to serve as Orlando
Police Department
Chief and Orange
County Sheriff

→ Ronald Blocker



First African American
Superintendent of
Orange County Public
Schools

→ Monica P. Reed, MD



First African American
Chief Medical Officer
and Physician CEO of
a Major Health
System

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



The beginning of Black History Month dates back to fall of 1915, nearly 50 years since slavery had been abolished in the United States by the 13th amendment. On that September 9th, in the city of Chicago, Illinois Harvard historian Carter G. Woodson and the minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). The organization was the first that researched and promoted achievements by African Americans.

A decade after the foundation of the ASNLH, the organization created "Negro History Week" in the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, and African-American social reformer and abolitionist, Frederick Douglas.

In February, as a part of Black History Month, we honored the achievements and lasting impact of local leaders who were Orlando's "first" in education, healthcare, the judicial system, diplomacy and public safety. Recipients of this year's award are on the left column of this page.

JOSHUA BARZEY

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Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that promotes education and common sense to citizens on how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. In addition, it provides citizens with the opportunity to make their neighborhoods safer and improve their quality of life. Strategies range from simply promoting social interaction and "watching out for each other" to active patrols by groups of citizens.

At the City of Orlando, our Police Department works hard to nourish their relationship with its citizens and one of the ways it does this is by supporting our Neighborhood Watch Programs. Every year

for the past 10 years the Orlando Police Department (OPD) gives awards to recognize different neighborhood watch programs that have made a difference in their communities. This year our district received two awards, one to the Lake Underhill Community for being the Neighborhood Watch of the year and another to Mr. Joshua Barzey for being the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain of the year. Mr Barzey joined the Neighborhood Watch over 3 years ago. At the time he did it for altruistic reasons since he was an owner of different properties in the community and he wanted to make sure his properties' values would keep rising as well as providing a lookout for friends and family.

However, now he says "it has become much more than that" he feels that at this point it has become a lifestyle and has created a sense of belonging for everyone in the community. He said "I now go for a walk and I know everyone, if it wasn't for this I wouldn't know all my neighbors and we wouldn't really know what's going on".

Mr. Barzey's tips on a great Neighborhood Watch:

1. Be consistent about meeting times. Talk about impactful subjects.
2. Get out and meet your neighbors, knock on some doors, leave some flyers.
3. Get involved, throw a block party
4. Just participate, it makes a difference seeing new faces at the meetings.

Trip to Puerto Rico

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"Puerto Rico Se Levanta"

Six months after Hurricane Maria passed through Puerto Rico, thirty-two students traveled to the Island March 19th – March 23rd alongside Commissioner Tony Ortiz, Commissioner Regina Hill, and staff of Family Parks and Recreations. Initiative arose after Regional Center Manager, Alex Temes, suggested that the trip made annually to different universities in the nation was replaced by a social work trip to Puerto Rico so that students had the opportunity to help with the recovery efforts of the Island.

It was then that the City of Orlando Commissioner Tony Ortiz proposed that this project could not only be humanitarian but educational. In turn, Commissioner Ortiz's Office was able to contact the University of Puerto Rico who coordinated a tour of some of its campuses. The District 2 Office also contacted different government agencies so that the students had the opportunity to learn how government works on the Island.

On their trip they were able to visit the Senate and the Governor's House as well as historical sites. Students also visited the "Asociación Pro Juventud de la Comunidad Barrio Palma" in Cantaño, "Hogar mis Primeros Pasos" in Vega Alta and two primary schools in the area of Morovis; in which they volunteered, and additional to that, delivered educational equipment and performed maintenance.



COFFEE WITH THE COMMISSIONER

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Join Us

What is it?

A CONVERSATION WITH COMMISSIONER TONY ORTIZ IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITY, WHETHER IT BE YOUR HOME, COMMUNITY POOL OR IN YOUR DRIVEWAY; TO BETTER SERVE DISTRICT 2 WE'LL COME TO YOU!

How to get involved?

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 6:30 – 7:30 AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CALL THE DISTRICT 2 OFFICE AT (407) 246.2899 AND TELL US YOU WANT A MEETING WITH THE COMMISSIONER OR EMAIL MEGAN.SHAVER@CITYOFORLANDO.NET.

District 2 News

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1 Surveillance Cameras

To provide better security in our district there have been security cameras installed at two of the District's recreational areas. At the Engelwood Neighborhood Center there have been two cameras installed and one at the Park of the Americas.



- ## 2 Keiser 40th anniversary
- Keiser University celebrated its 40th Anniversary as an established institution of higher education. With its diverse student body and active involvement in our community. We are appreciative of having such a respectable institution in District 2!



- ## 3 Government Academy
- Class is in session for the District 2 Government Academy and this year 30 people are in attendance. So far, the classes have included the topics of Federal Government, State Government and Judicial Government. Commissioner Ortiz taught a class himself, as well as City Attorney Kyle Shepherd and Circuit Court Judge Wilfredo Martinez.



4

Holocaust Center to move to Downtown Orlando

On Monday, January 22, the Orlando City Council unanimously approved an agreement with the Holocaust Center to lease the former Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce building. The center will be a world class building and a place where our citizens can come together.



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Colonial Overpass

As part of the City's priority, a pedestrian overpass is scheduled to be built across West Colonial Drive to connect Gertrude's Walk to the Orlando Urban Trail (Dinky Line). This walkway will make it easier for pedestrians to cross West Colonial Drive, one of Orlando's busiest roadways.



6

Solar Power

Orlando's journey to becoming a more sustainable city and working off 100% renewable energy by 2050 is steady moving. Last December, Mayor Dyer pledged to subscribe to five megawatts of solar energy which will be enough to power Orlando City Hall entirely, as well as 17 Orlando Fire Department Stations.

PASSED ORDINANCES

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CITY COUNCIL



QUICK REMINDER!

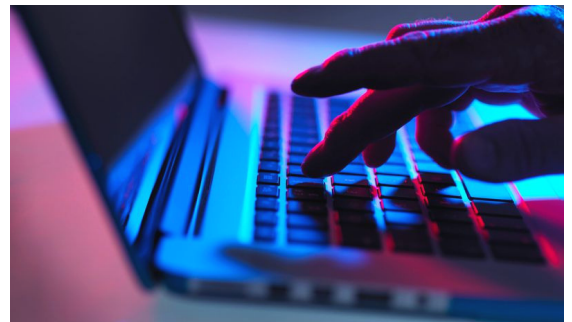
City Council is hosted on the 2nd Floor of the City of Orlando City Hall.

The council gathers Mondays, twice a month, in order to vote on ordinances and hear the public's concerns.

You can watch it live at our City of Orlando website under the "Council" tab.

SOCIAL MEDIA THREATS

On Monday, February 26, 2018, City Council voted to make it illegal for any person to threaten another with harmful actions using social media. Threats would include killing, bodily injury, or threatening to bring deadly weapons onto school grounds.



SHORT TERM RENTALS

An ordinance was approved on January 22, 2018 for the limited use of short-term rentals. Short-term rentals are houses or apartments rented to visitors for a short period of time and are booked through platforms such as AirBnB or HomeAway. These short-term rentals will be allowed in all residential zoning districts in Orlando with only one booking at a time and residents are required to be on property as a "host" to their guests. The ordinance will become effective July, 1 2018.



FUTURE EVENTS

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SPRING



SPRING FIESTA IN THE PARK

April 7th & 8th
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Lake Eola Park



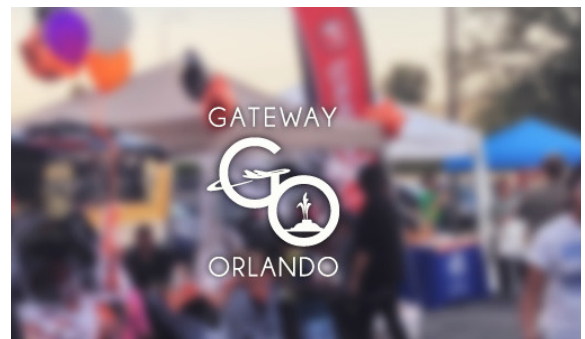
THIRD THURSDAY ART STROLL

Thursday, April 19th
2:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Heritage Square Park



MOVIEOLA -COCO-

Friday, April 27th
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Lake Eola



GATEWAY ORLANDO 2ND CRACK COFFEE

Every Other Tuesday
8:15 AM - 9:30 AM
5601 S. Semoran Blvd
#55 Room 105 Orlando