



From the Desk of Andrew D. Gillum
Mayor Pro Tempore / City Commission, Seat 2



2009 - 1:1

Happy New Year

Relationships between public officials and the public are sacred. As I reflect upon these past six years serving as your City Commissioner, I am humbled by the partnerships formed and the goals accomplished. Thank you for helping to make our vision of a high quality community a reality.

Our current global and local economic position challenges our intellect, resources and manpower to be creative, thrifty and innovative. We can accomplish much through deliberate focus, community-minded vision, personal responsibility and directed action. Keeping with that ideology, one of my missions for 2009 is to make my office more transparent. Hence, the creation of this E-News to highlight current initiatives, progress reports, key calendar activities and other pertinent items.

I look forward to our partnership during 2009. Let's make a difference for our community.

2008 Highlights

ACYPL – as an alumnus of the American Council of Young Political Leaders, hosted a delegation of elected and political leaders from Japan to the U. S. for a two-week diplomatic and educational mission.

CRTPA – Successfully fought to prioritize as the #1 project annually, a line item of \$1 million to fund bike and pedestrian projects via the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency.

Re-Election – Unopposed for Commission Seat 2 in August 2008; in November 2008, was elected by fellow City Commissioners to serve a second one-year term as Mayor Pro Tem.

Leadership – Selected to serve as chair of the Blueprint 2K Intergovernmental Agency and a Board Director for The Schott Foundation for Public Education in Cambridge, MA. Also serve as City's chief negotiator for Fire / EMS consolidation.

New Program – Successfully introduced the Good Neighbor energy assistance program.



R. Frank Nims Middle School

www.DigitalHarmonyLeon.com

This 3-year pilot program is a collaborative effort of the City of Tallahassee and various community parties.* Purposed to extend the learning experience beyond the classroom into the home through computer-based curriculum, the project focuses on new students in 6th and 7th grade.

Nims was chosen because it was an "F" ranked school one year ago. Nearly 100 homes received computers for the 1st year of the project. Year two of implementation had almost a 50% increase. The program also provided equipment to the school's computer labs. Access by all students to computer technology helped the overall population realize scholastic gains in both reading and mathematics.

Volunteer today to help with the 3rd year of implementation. Contact my office to volunteer, partner with us and/or sponsor a computer. Many thanks to our partners (*see below*) for your support.

AKA Sorority, Inc., Zeta Omicron Chapter
Boys & Girls Club of the Big Bend
Comcast Cable Communications
Costo
Dell Computers
EMBARQ Corporation
Florida A&M University
Florida Department of Revenue
Florida State University College of Information
GO BEYOND LLC & GO BEYOND Foundation
Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce
Insight / Hewlett Packard Computers
Leon County Schools
Mainline Information Systems
Messer, Caparello & Self, P.A.
MWH Constructors
PATLive
Paul Consulting
Signeo Creative
Taproot Creative
Tallahassee Community College
TalTech Alliance
The Uptown Café & Catering
TSG – Technology Services Group, Inc.

“Serving is Leading”

Hot Topic: Biomass Power Plant

Noise, pollution, stormwater, transportation impacts and compatibility issues are being given due diligence as we seek a viable means for an alternative energy resource through green technology. I have asked the leaders of the prospective BG&E plant to consider two chief suggestions.

- Create a workforce-training program to be located at FAMU, FSU or TCC that will train residents in the neighborhood and other citizens on the skills necessary for the construction and operation of the plant.
- Create a mitigation fund that will address any unforeseen impacts the plant may have to the community involving transportation, noise and other aesthetics.

The City Commission’s second public hearing on this aspect of the FSU Development Agreement is Wednesday, January 28 @ 6 pm. View the 12/10/08 Commission agenda item #21 at our Talgov website: <http://www.talgov.com/commission/meetings/index.cfm>

Hot Topic: Electric Utility Rates

When gas prices decrease shouldn’t utility rates decrease also? The City uses natural gas to generate power. The costs are billed to the City’s customers on a dollar-for-dollar basis, and electric rates are periodically adjusted to reflect the actual costs of fuel. Adjustments are typically made twice a year, in April and October.

If the trend for natural gas prices continues to decrease, these lower prices will result in lower electric rates for City customers this Spring. The City’s “Energy Smart Plus” program offers initiatives to help our customers use less. Call 891-4968 or visit www.talgov.com/you/epluss.cfm to learn more.



The Good Neighbor Program offers 25% credit to electric service (as long as funds are available) to help the following groups of customers during the peak heating and cooling months of the year.

- 1) Low-income senior citizens age 65 and older,
 - 2) Low-income families with children under the age of five, and
 - 3) Disabled persons living independently.
- Contact Capital Area Community Action Agency at 222-2043 for applications and program information.

**Mayor Pro Tem Gillum
The Crisis Magazine**

The Crisis magazine is one of the nation’s oldest and most historic publications. Founded in 1910 by renowned scholar-activist W. E. B. Du Bois, the quarterly journal focuses on social and political issues, history and civil rights, art and culture. The Fall edition recognized ten men and women as changing the world and making a difference in their communities.

Being one of the personalities featured in the article “Striver’s Row: People and Institutions to Watch” deeply honored and humbled me. My platform has and will continue to be a catalyst for change in service to my community. The magazine also featured two of my favored models of excellence – U. S. President Elect Barack Obama; and Van Jones, a Striver’s Row People to Watch, President of Green For All, a national organization dedicated to green economy initiatives.

January Calendar Events

Date	Time	Event
1	Holiday	New Year’s Day - closed
7	8 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
7	4 pm	LRTI @ CH, Room 4F
7	6 pm	Jt. City/County Comp Plan EAR hearing @ CHC
8	8 am	Digital Harmony Team @ Nims Middle School
12	Noon	CRA @ CHC
12	1 pm	CRTPA @ CHC
14	8 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
14	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC
15	11:30 am	Advisory Committee for Digital Harmony
15	1:30 pm	Schott Foundation Board
15	6 pm	Tabernacle MB Church youth oratorical event
16	12:30 pm	FAMU DRS AVID class
19	Holiday	Dr. MLK, Jr. - closed
20	Various	Presidential Inauguration @ Washington, DC
28	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC

Code:
 CC – City Commission
 CH– City Hall
 CHC – City Hall Chambers
 CRA – Community Redevelopment Agency
 CRTPA – Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency
 HHS – Health & Human Services Target Issue Committee
 LRTI – Long Range Target Issue Committee

~ 2 ~