



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



2009 - 1:3

🌀 Economic Stimulus Town Hall Meeting 🌀

Difficult economic times demand an unselfish unified effort to work through them. In addition to a need for a reinvestment in our economy, we need a reinvestment in our people. Through our voices, through our votes, through our activism and organizing we are going to take our country back.

As a proactive measure to communicate, listen and unify, an educational forum focusing on President Obama's American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) a.k.a. economic stimulus bill was held on February 5, 2009. More than 100 people from Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla and Jefferson counties attended. Elected state and local officials, spokespersons for the masses as well as a laid-off worker and a retiree that had to return to work shared concerns.

Reps from the offices of U. S. Senator Bill Nelson and Congressman Allen Boyd provided printed information and captured feedback from the audience. Florida House of Representative Alan Williams supported the President's and our local efforts. He emphasized that these dollars should not subsidize dollars that should already be allocated. He vowed to fight with us to get Governor Charlie Crist's support for local initiatives.



Rep. Alan Williams

Gripping unemployment statistics and reduction of employment opportunities presented by Kimberly Moore, Executive Director for Workforce Plus was only a foretaste to State V.P. of American Federal of State and County Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Monica O'Neal's illustration of the impact of a minimum 10% job cut on state workers and the rippling effects that could occur. Personal real life testimony of Dacayano "Doc" Bailey brought it all home to stress the urgency of now.

[\(Continued next column.\)](#)

Under the leadership of Leon County Commission Chair Bryan Desloge, a group of local officials collaborated to craft what a local stimulus packet might look like for Tallahassee, Leon and surrounding areas. He presented some of the highpoints of the Capital Region Economic Stimulus.



Co. Chair Bryan Desloge

[Contact my office](#) if you would like an e-mail copy. Carrie Blanchard, Aide to Mayor John R. Marks, III highlighted infrastructure and community projects that would be eligible to receive funding from the federal stimulus package. Doug Martin, also with AFSCME, addressed how ARRA could aid health care and Tola Thompson, Director of FAMU Governmental Relations spoke to the impact to education.

Thanks to each of you who helped plan this event and all who attended. Our united efforts made it worthwhile. Now that the President's bill has passed we have to move forward to insure that we reap some of the benefits. One of us can be a force; together we can be a movement.

🌀 Hot Topic 🌀

Expedited Public Sector Projects

A Local Economic Emergency Fast Tracking Program for all public sector projects was presented at the February 11, 2009 City Commission meeting. The goal is to stimulate the construction industry and job creation within our community while also providing a streamlined regulatory program that facilitates construction of needed public sector projects. The proposed stimulus package included both permitting and procurement components. The video of the discussion of this [agenda item \(Item # 11\)](#) and the [meeting summary](#) can be located at talgov.com. Staff will provide a six-month report to the Commission to evaluate the effectiveness of this public sector program and determine which portions may be applicable to the private sector.

"Serving is Leading"



West Tennessee Street Pedestrian Safety

Reps from the Florida State University student body, Office of Student Affairs and the Partnership for Alcohol Responsibility contacted my office about a year ago with concerns regarding traffic and pedestrian safety. Recent near fatal accidents along that corridor emphasized the need to enhance existing safety measures as well as promote responsible drinking habits. The aforementioned, City staff (including Fire, Police, Public Works) and area businesses and merchants met to discuss short, intermediate and long-term solutions to address binge drinking, jay walking, street and building modifications, law enforcement, and safety consciousness of pedestrians and drivers.

Short-term non-capital intensive ideas included modifying and synchronization of traffic signals to improve pedestrian crossing safety and establishment of a taxicab stand within parking lots of the area businesses. A “Night Nole” StarMetro stop has been established. Since Tennessee Street is under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation more intensive recommendations require FDOT approval and/or permit. Our long-term objective is a reduction in the number of lanes along specific segments on Tennessee Street. We are exploring the feasibility of various options for subsequent submittal to FDOT.

In that vein, at our February 25, 2009 City Commission meeting, the Commission authorized staff to proceed with enlisting the Genesis Group, Inc. to examine the potential benefits and impacts of modifying the cross section of Tennessee Street between Monroe Street and Ocala Road to include median installations. Additionally, Genesis Group, Inc. is to conduct an evaluation of transit lanes in place of the outside lanes along the specified section during the daytime hours as well as the concept of using these lanes for curbside parking at night. This effort shall consist of two phases. The first is data collection and analysis, while the second is transit corridor analysis and plan development. View the [agenda item \(Item #9\)](#) to learn more details about this effort.



Charter Review Committee

The CRC will present recommendations regarding roles, duties and functions of the City Commission at our April 22, 2009 meeting. Visit their [website](#) at talgov.com to learn more about their activities.



Fire and Emergency Medical Services

The City is currently under contract with Leon County for the provision of fire services through June 30, 2009. The interlocal agreement for Advanced life Support services also expires on that date. As the City Commission’s appointed negotiator, I along with City staff met with Leon County Commission Chair Bryan Desloge and County staff to consider how best to continue providing fire services to city and county residents.

For the past two years this has been a tedious process with great deliberation. I am pleased to announce that from these discussions emerged an opportunity to functionally consolidate these services. The interlocal agreement and the process to move forward as approved by both the City ([2/25/09 – agenda item #10](#)) and County Commission (2/26/09) will allow for an extension of the current contract with the new agreement becoming effective October 1, 2009.

March Calendar Events

Date	Time	Event
2	5:30 pm	Brogan Museum Board
10	Noon	Tallahassee Active Lifelong Leaders Graduation
11	8 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
11	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC
14	5:30 pm	Onyx Awards Banquet
16	9 am	LRTI @ CH, Room 4F
16	Noon	CRA @ CHC
16	1 pm	CRTPA @ CHC
16	5:30 pm	Charter Review Committee Public Hearing @ CHC
23	6 pm	FAMU Senate
25	8 am – 2 pm	Office Appointments
25	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC
26	6 pm	Comp Plan Public Hearing
31	1 pm	Special Budget Workshop

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

“Serving is Leading”