

BIG – C
Barrier Islands Governmental Council



*Belleair Beach
Belleair Shore
Clearwater
Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Madeira Beach*

*North Redington Beach
Redington Shores
Redington Beach
St. Pete Beach
Treasure Island*

OFFICERS

George N. Cretekos
President
Mayor, Clearwater
PO Box 4748
Clearwater FL 33758
727-562-4040 FAX 727-562-4086

Robert Minning
Vice-President
Mayor, Treasure Island
120 108th Avenue
Treasure Island FL 33706
727-547-4575X229 FAX 727-547-4582

Terry Hamilton Wollin
Secretary/Treasurer
Vice Mayor, Indian Rocks Beach
1507 Bay Palm Boulevard
Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785
727 517-0204 FAX 727 595-4627

Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2013

Unapproved

PRESENT:

Belleair Shore
Clearwater
Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Madeira Beach
N. Redington Beach
Redington Beach
St. Pete Beach
Treasure Island

Mayor John A. Robertson
Mayor George N. Cretekos
Commissioner, Terry Hamilton-Wollin
Mayor Jim Lawrence
Mayor Travis Palladeno
Mayor Bill Queen
Mayor James Simons
Commissioner Jim Parent
Mayor Bob Minning

GUEST SPEAKER: Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

GUESTS PRESENT:

Bob Gualtieri
Bob McClure
Bill Smith
Carole Irelan
Joan Herndon
Lizbeth Mabry
Bobby Combs
Chris Miller
Mike Bonfield
Rhonda Sanborn
Doug Izzo
R.B. Johnson

Sheriff, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Tampa Bay Newspapers
Vice Mayor, Indian Shores
Councilor, Indian Shores
Councilor, Indian Shores
Legislative Aide to Representative Peters
Legislative Aide to Senator Brandes
Pinellas Planning Council
City Manager, St. Pete Beach
Visit St. Pete/Clearwater
Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce
Mayor, Indian Rocks Beach

“ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKING FOR YOU”

BIG – C
Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Mary Scott Hardwick	Board of County Commissioners, Aide to Commissioner Long
Sarah Ward	Pinellas County MPO
John Branch	Vice Mayor, Redington Shores
Steve McFarlin	Mayor, St. Pete Beach
Robin Sollie	Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce
Redington Shores	Mayor, Bert Adams
Joe Freidmar	North Redington Beach
Leslie Notaro	Vice Mayor, Belleair Beach
Chris Mettler	Pinellas Planning Council
Christopher Hollands	

BIG-C President George Cretekos called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the City of St. Pete Beach Community Center, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and welcoming comments by host, Commissioner Jim Parent.

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

3 – Approval of Agenda

Mayor Queen moved to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Mayor Palladeno and carried unanimously.

4 – Approval of Minutes – July 25, 2012 meeting

Mayor Minning moved to approve the minutes of the regular BIG-C (Barrier Islands Governmental Council) meeting of May 29, 2013 as submitted in written summation to each member. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Parent and carried unanimously.

5 – Approval of Treasurer’s Report for May 2013

The May Treasurer’s Report was reviewed with a balance of \$2,599.38.

Mayor Minning moved to accept the May 2013 Treasurer’s Report. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Parent and carried unanimously.

6 – Correspondence

None.

7 – New Business

a) Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

“ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKING FOR YOU”

BIG – C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri gave an overview of the sheriff's office. There are 3080 sheriff offices in the United States and Pinellas County Sheriff's office is the 15th largest. The sheriff's office is a triple-accredited organization with law enforcement, corrections and correctional health care. The sheriff's office has approximately 3000 employees and their annual budget is 230 million dollars.

The first area of responsibility for the sheriff's office is law enforcement services. There are 24 cities in Pinellas County and 13 contracts with the PCSO.

The next area of responsibility is the jail. There are 3000 inmates in the Pinellas County Jail and they book about 50,000 people a year. Of the 230-million dollar year budget, 112 million goes to operating the jail. The jail includes a 432 bed medical facility. The sheriff's office is responsible for everything from food service, doctors and nurses, laundry, personnel, utilities, and plant operations.

The third area of responsibility is the judicial operations. There are five courthouses in Pinellas County. The sheriff's office is responsible for serving all of the civil processes and documents that come out of the courts. Currently the sheriff's office holds about 35,000 warrants for arrests.

The greatest challenge is keeping the jail population down. The PCSO has to work very closely with the courts to manage the jail occupancy. One of the successful ways of managing this problem is the Safe Harbor homeless shelter. Arresting people and putting them in jail costs approximately \$105 a day opposed to \$13 a day in Safe Harbor. Offenses related with the homeless can be taken to Safe Harbor for counseling and case management services, in hopes of breaking the cycle of homelessness.

The next area of concern is the prescription drug abuse problem and pill mills. Pinellas County, back in 2011, lead the state of Florida in prescription drug overdose deaths. To make progress with the pill mills, Sheriff Gualtieri advised to put a lot into prevention, education and treatment.

Lastly, PCSO is seeing a huge influx in Pinellas County of sexual exploitation of minors and hard core child pornography cases. The PCSO is going to create a special victims unit within the sheriff's office, focusing on the issue of human trafficking.

At this time, Sheriff Gualtieri ended his presentation and asked for any audience comments or questions.

There was a general discussion about the construction of the new sheriff's administration building and public safety campus. They are going to consolidate emergency communications entities in Pinellas County to one emergency communication center. This is an 80-million dollar project that is 100 percent funded through Penny for Pinellas and the CIP.

BIG – C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Commissioner Jim Parent, St. Pete Beach, spoke about the Sheriff's Citizen's Academy. It is a 12-week program of interactive instruction and discussion about the agency's operations and policies of law enforcement services.

Mayor Palladeno, Madeira Beach, spoke about marine enforcement on the water. Sheriff Gualtieri said he would contact the marine division and discuss specific issues such as abandoned boats.

Mayor Cretekos asked if there was something that could be done to combat synthetic drug issues. Sheriff Gualtieri explained that the chemically-laced substances are sold over the counter at convenience stores and suggested putting pressure on business owners to take these items off their shelves.

Mayor McFarlin asked how Safe Harbor was funded. Sheriff Gualtieri stated there is 1.6 million dollars in their budget for Safe Harbor and they receive contributions from various cities and citizens.

There was a discussion about a significant drop in the funding from state and federal for drug programs.

8 – Old Business

Mayor Lawrence, Indian Shores, commented about TBC funding support for beach infrastructure-type projects. Mayor Lawrence asked all cities to look at their beaches and look for infrastructure improvements that they think would enhance their beaches and to provide those inputs to him.

Commissioner Parent commented that in the PPC newsletter they talked about moving forward with the PPC/MPO merger. Mayor Cretekos, Clearwater, commented that Mike Crawford will be giving a report in July or August.

In reference to the Gulf Boulevard Beautification project, there was a request by North Redington Beach for some reimbursement that was approved. A letter will be sent to North Redington Beach so they can forward it on to the county for reimbursement.

9 - Miscellaneous

County Commissioners, there was a reminder that the joint County Commission and TBC meeting will be August 8, 2013.

In reference to MPO/PPC, there was a meeting on May 31, 2013. The MPO's in this area decided they wanted to remain single county MPO's.

As far as Greenlight Pinellas, the next two meetings will be in July and early August.

BIG – C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Madeira Beach hired a contractor to begin on the Archibald project. Madeira Beach will have the July 4th fireworks display with live bands and music. July 6th and 7th will be the Madeira Beach Craft Festival on Madeira Way.

On June 29, 2013, Indian Rocks Beach will have a ribbon cutting grand opening ceremony in Chic-A-Si Park for their new historical museum and Crabby Bills will be having a fundraiser for the bird rescue organization.

Mayor Minning stated Treasure Island will be having a 4th of July celebration with food and beer on the beach and fireworks at sunset.

Commissioner Parent, St. Pete Beach, spoke about the Sea Oats planting taking place at Crabby Bills and Sirata Resort on Saturday, June 29, 2013. Commissioner Parent added that the Bayway Bridge will be closing June 28, 2013 for concrete pouring for Pier 17, eastbound.

In regards to the Mayor's Council meeting on July 3, 2013, Mr. Steinman, District 7 Secretary of FDOT, will be the guest speaker.

Mayor McFarlin, St. Pete Beach, commented about the rapid flashing beacons starting on the barrier islands in September 2013.

Mayor Cretekos noted the next Big C meeting will be July 31, 2013. It is scheduled for Belleair Beach, hosted by Belleair Shore.

10 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.