

Having trouble viewing this email in your email client? [Click here to view this email in your web browser](#)



Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

Translate ▼

Thursday March 3, 2016

The Sachs
Sentinel



LEGISLATIVE SESSION:
FINAL HOMESTRETCH!

BOATING SAFETY **REGULATION PASSED**



Senator Sachs held a boating safety forum at the Delray Beach Public Library in 2015, where attendees discussed boating safety regulations.



L to R: Chuck Collins, Executive Director at Marine Industries, Senator Sachs, Ernie Marks, FWC Regional Director, Major Richard Moore of FWC, and Timothy Annis, local activist.

Following the heartbreaking disappearance of 14-year-old boaters Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen in July of 2015, I assembled a team of enthusiastic individuals from around the state to discuss boating safety regulations at a forum I held at the Delray Beach Public Library. We specifically touched upon what, if anything, the State of Florida should do in light of this terrible tragedy. Present at the forum were individuals representing the U.S. Coast Guard, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida law enforcement and our state's boating industry. Further background information on this forum can be found in the following article: <http://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/news/news/local/should-there-be-an-age-requirement-for-boaters/nnkDF/>

My forum addressed a variety of possible methods for enhancing boater safety in Florida. One key notion in particular concerned how education, including the need to provide incentives for the sake of promoting boater safety, was an overwhelming aspect that needed to be taken into account. Consequently, the forum attendees and I brainstormed on potential laws and policies that would encourage boaters to buy emergency position indicator radios or personal locator beacons for their watercraft.



Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen, two 14-year-old Florida boaters who tragically went missing in July of 2015 when their boat capsized.

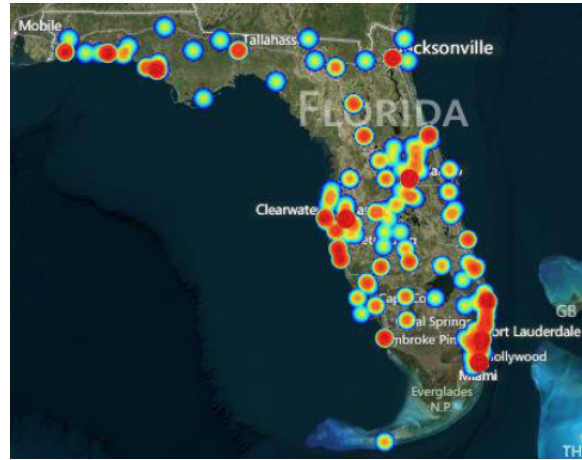
In this context, it is important to point out that we possess one of the busiest and most-heavily-trafficked waterway systems in the country. However, as I have stated before, "we are the least regulated state in the country when it comes to boating safety and boating regulations." Given our state's reputation in this regard, ensuring the safety of Florida's populous boating community is paramount.

As such, I am a tremendous supporter of what House Bill 427 stands for, being a measure that incorporates the very same ideas that were discussed at my earlier forum concerning emergency locators and beacons. Given my strong convictions for the safety of Florida's boaters, I am happy to report that House Bill 427 recently cleared the Florida House of Representatives on a 115-0 vote. On an equally positive note, its companion bill, Senate Bill 746, was just voted favorably in an appropriations committee meeting on an 18-0 vote.

PROGRESS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS



Senator Sachs addresses an Anti-Human Trafficking Symposium at Broward College



Location of calls to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline in Florida

Every year, as many as two million people are bought and sold worldwide as prostitutes, domestic workers, sex slaves, child laborers and child soldiers. In fact, Florida is the third largest hub of human trafficking in the United States. As an appointed member of the Florida Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, I remain committed to eliminating these kinds of crimes. That is precisely why I originally co-introduced Senate Bill 784 this year.

This measure not only enhances the enforceability and scope of Florida's already-existing human trafficking laws, but also provides additional protection for child victims of human trafficking. As such, I am pleased to announce that Senate Bill 784 recently cleared the Florida Senate. Protecting children from being exploited by the human trafficking industry should be our main focus. Senate Bill 784 and others laws like it constitute a significant step towards helping the victims of human trafficking and cracking down on those who are responsible for committing these inhumane acts. "I have always been a tireless proponent for stricter laws against human trafficking. We must stop this scourge today."

RESHAPING GAMING AND GAMBLING REGULATION



Senator Sachs introducing an amendment highlighting her proposed gaming commission and Florida Department of Gaming in a Regulated Industries Committee meeting (L to R: Chairman Bill Bradley, Staff Assistant, Senator Gwen Margolis and Senator Sachs)

Florida has one of the nation's largest gaming and gambling markets but uses three departments to oversee it. A single agency with less operative inefficiencies is a better option. Consequently, I introduced an amendment to Senate Bill 7072 that was heard in committee a little over two weeks ago. Although I ultimately withdrew this amendment, the purpose behind its introduction was to highlight my goal of establishing a gaming commission that acts through a "Florida Department of Gaming," which my proposed measure, Senate Bill 1198, calls for. This is a step other states with major gambling and gaming markets have already taken to properly regulate and tax those markets. Given the tentative Gaming Compact between the State of Florida and the Seminole Tribe, a single administrative body would better streamline the regulatory process while offering greater efficiency and transparency.

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA **AND SMALL BUSINESS**

DEVELOPMENT



Florida is an economic powerhouse domestically and globally. In 2013 alone, Florida's gross domestic product reached \$840 billion. In the context of international commerce, the overall value of our state's total merchandise trade for 2015 was nearly \$150 billion. Not only is our economy the fourth largest in the nation, but if Florida were an independent country, its economy would actually rank as the 18th largest in the world.

Our state owes much of its success to public-private entities that promote Florida's economic advancement; chiefly among them is Enterprise Florida. Enterprise Florida is a public-private partnership created in 1992 by the Florida legislature. It is our state's main organization for economic growth with respect to Florida's businesses and citizens. With 15 international offices throughout the world, Enterprise Florida encourages business entrepreneurship and corporate collaboration to bring new business to Florida.

From 1992 through 2013, Enterprise Florida negotiated more than 1,600 transactions involving economic development incentive agreements collectively worth at least \$1.7 billion. From 1995 through 2013, Enterprise Florida delivered over 103,000 new jobs. For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, Enterprise Florida created more than 33,000 additional jobs. During this same period, Enterprise Florida produced \$2.74 billion in capital investment in Florida, a whopping 41% increase over the previous fiscal year.

A priority of Enterprise Florida that is commonly overlooked consists of the funding opportunities it offers for small businesses and tech innovations in our state.

Enterprise Florida's Minority & Small Business, Entrepreneurship and Capital division provides small businesses that are otherwise lacking in funds or infrastructure with training, development and financing options. It assists small businesses in accessing capital, entering new markets, creating revenue growth and fostering job creation. For example, there is a small business in Boca Raton, Florida, IDI, Inc., which plans to add 200 additional careers with the help of Enterprise Florida over the next several years.

However, our state faces fierce competition from regional neighbors, such as Georgia and South Carolina, for attracting businesses, investors and skilled laborers. "There is an urgent need for us in the legislature to fund Enterprise Florida so that it can continue to reach out to burgeoning small businesses, entrepreneurial innovators and existing Florida business entities to allow them to grow and expand their business here in Florida." I will do everything that I can to promote this idea.

NOTABLE VISITORS TO OUR CAPITOL OFFICE

United States Senator Bill Nelson



Senator Sachs (Left) with United States Senator Bill Nelson (Right) at the Democratic Caucus Meeting held on Feb. 17, 2016

Florida State University (FSU) President Bill Thrasher



Legislative Intern and FSU student Hunter Schuttler (Left) with Senator Sachs (Center) and FSU President Bill Thrasher (Right)



"Stay tuned every week, we will be sending you updates as we work for good policy for all Floridians"

Contact Information

Palm Beach Office

Delray Beach City Hall
100 NW 1st Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444
(561) 279-1427

Tallahassee Office

216 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5034



Facebook



Twitter



Google Plus



Website



Email

*Copyright © *l2015l* *lSenator Maria Sachs!*, All rights reserved.*