

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND SPACE
Senator Wright, Chair
Senator Cruz, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 16, 2019
TIME: 10:00—11:30 a.m.
PLACE: *Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Wright, Chair; Senator Cruz, Vice Chair; Senators Broxson, Gainer, Harrell, Pizzo, and Torres

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Presentation by Danny Burgess, Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs		Presented
2	Presentation by Ray Collins, Executive Director, Florida Defense Task Force		Presented
3	Presentation by Harold "Trey" Price, Executive Director, Florida Housing Finance Corporation		Presented
Other Related Meeting Documents			



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.

***Executive Director Daniel W. "Danny" Burgess
Captain, U.S. Army Reserve***

New State Veterans Nursing Homes



 **OHL**
Building

Ardie R. Copas / FDVA

 **SMITH**
AERIAL
PHOTOS 07-28-19



Lake Baldwin (Orlando) State Veterans' Nursing Home



- **112-bed former VA Community Living Center on VA Campus at Lake Baldwin (Orange County)**
- **Nine-month refurbishment started August 2019**
- **Open Mid-2020**
- **Will rename facility for Florida Medal of Honor recipient**

Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home



- 120-bed Skilled Nursing Facility in Port St. Lucie
- Groundbreaking on March 20, 2018
- 60% Completed
- Initial hiring - January
- Open Mid-2020



Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame

- Legislature established to honor veterans, both living and deceased, for their post-military service to Florida
- Class of 2019 approved by Governor & Cabinet, Sept. 24

John A. Brinkley USMC/USAF Veteran (Ormond Beach)	Kathryn Gates-Skipper USMC Veteran (Lake Wales)	Dr. Edward Copeland III USA Veteran (Gainesville)	Col. Dale M. Leslie USMC Retired (Madison)	CW4 Donald Courtney USA Retired (Palmetto)	CAPT Norman Olson USN Retired (The Villages)
Raymond "Ray" Cralle USMC Veteran (Boynton Beach)	Lt. Col. Robert (Pat) Phillips USAF Retired (Winter Park)	Col. Michael Flynt USAF Retired (Miramar Beach)	SFC Juan Santiago USA Retired (Viera)	Matt Franz USA Veteran (Oviedo)	Michael T. Waldrop USA Veteran (Orlando)
Irving Friedman USN Veteran (Port St. Lucie)	Brig. Gen. William Webb USAF Retired (Tallahassee)	Lt. Col. Ali Frohlich USAF Retired (Panama City Beach)	Dr. Albert Zant USA Veteran (Shalimar)		

Forward March

- Determine best practices & ensure Florida sets national standard for veteran services & support
- FDVA completed regional assessment phase of veterans' advocacy campaign
- Regional meetings in Tampa, Pensacola, Jacksonville, West Palm Beach, Ocala, Miami, Port Canaveral and Sarasota
- Report due Nov. 5; new newsletter to be launched



**Struggling to Adjust?
Call and Connect!**

Florida Veterans Support Line
Call 1-844-MYFLVET (693-5838) or 2-1-1

For VA funded services and other community based programs

Suicide Prevention

Editorial: Finding Solutions to Veteran Suicides Require All-Hands-On-Deck

A disturbing number of Veterans take their own lives in the U.S. On average, approximately 7,300 Veterans die from suicide each year. Despite significant efforts and billions of dollars invested by the state and federal governments across the nation, suicide rates among Veterans rose 26 percent from 2005 to 2016. In Florida alone, nearly 600 Veterans die from suicide each year at a rate slightly higher than the national average.

Finding a solution to this public health crisis requires an aspirational, innovative, all-hands-on-deck approach – not government as usual. The VA alone cannot achieve effective or lasting reductions in the Veteran suicide rate. To make a real impact, Federal, state, and local providers of resources must partner together, pool resources, and coordinate care and delivery of services efficiently.

In Florida, we recognize these challenges and are taking proactive steps to break down bureaucratic barriers; working together to form a wide-ranging coalition of government and non-profit organizations who offer resources to Veterans in need of our help the most – before they reach a crisis point.

We are proud to say that we are making progress on multiple fronts. This is best demonstrated through the development and growth of the **Florida Veterans Support Line, 1-844-MyFLVet (693-5838)**. Supported by the VA Sunshine Healthcare Network (VISN 8), Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, Florida Department of Children and Families, and operated by the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, the line provides confidential emotional support and connection to community resources 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The line is available to all Veterans in Florida.

Our work does not stop there. As we continue to move forward together, we are meeting and learning from communities and local organizations about how best to partner with them and leverage the resources they can provide. Likewise, we are proactively working on expanded public health initiatives to align with Presidential Executive Order 13861 "National Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End Suicide" and opportunities that may become available from the national task force.

We continue to support and promote the abundance of VA resources available to Veterans to include the **Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255, press 1)**. Like the Florida Veterans Support Line, Veterans can call to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, even if they are not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care.

So, what can you do to help? First, add the Veterans Crisis Line and Florida Veterans Support Line to your mobile phone contacts. Second, share the numbers with others and ask them to do the same. Third, visit www.visn8.va.gov/savealife.asp to download and share outreach materials. Be there for Veterans and active duty service members who may be in crisis. Listen to what they say, ask the hard questions, and assist them with connecting with VA and other important community resources. Be the difference and be there for a Veteran in crisis.

Sincerely,

Miguel H. LaPuz, MD, MBA
Network Director
VA Sunshine Healthcare
Network (VISN 8)

Danny Burgess
Executive Director
Florida Department of
Veterans' Affairs

Clara Reynolds, LCSW, MBA
President and CEO
Crisis Center of Tampa Bay



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS, suicide is a national public health concern that causes grief, pain, and confusion in communities across Florida; and

WHEREAS, our veterans and their families make selfless sacrifices in defense of our Nation's great freedoms and deserve our continuous support in the midst of the stress and grief they may experience before, during, and after their service; and

WHEREAS, suicide prevention and crisis intervention efforts are bringing together federal, state and local governments, community groups and faith-based organizations to educate the public on available resources and directly intervene to combat veteran suicides; and

WHEREAS, to connect our state's veterans who may be facing an emotional or mental health crisis with lifesaving care, a new multi-year partnership is in place involving the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, Florida Department of Children and Families and Crisis Center of Tampa Bay;

WHEREAS, in 2019, Florida House Bill 501 expanding alternative treatment therapies for veterans with post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury was signed into law; and

WHEREAS, at the 2019 Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense National Suicide Prevention Conference participants and leaders shared their suicide prevention and crisis intervention efforts; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis is championing suicide prevention efforts as part of her Hope for Healing campaign, which strives to combine the resources and efforts of the public and private sectors to better serve Floridians struggling with mental health and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Veterans Affairs Medical Centers plan to host a number of outreach events during the month of September designed to educate the public on local, state and federal suicide prevention resources available to veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, all Floridians are encouraged to support Florida's veterans who have ensured our country remains the land of the free.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend gratitude to all observing September 8-14, 2019, as *Florida Veteran Suicide Prevention Week*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 8th day of September, in the year two thousand nineteen.

Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399 • (850) 717-9249

www.FLGov.com

Veteran Suicide Prevention

- Currently estimated that 16.8 veterans die by suicide every day
- The number of veteran suicide deaths per year has exceeded 6,000 since 2008

Florida Veteran, National Veteran, and National Suicide Deaths per 100,000.

	Florida Veteran Suicide Rate	National Veteran Suicide Rate	National Suicide Rate
Total	33.6	31.0	18.1

- After accounting for age differences, the veteran suicide rate in Florida:
 - **Was not significantly different** from the national veteran suicide rate
 - **Was significantly higher** than the national suicide rate (1.5 times)

Florida Veterans Legal Helpline

- Provides direct advice and assistance to veterans over the phone, schedule appointments for extended services with full-time attorneys who focus solely on veterans, and coordinate referrals to partners throughout the State of Florida.

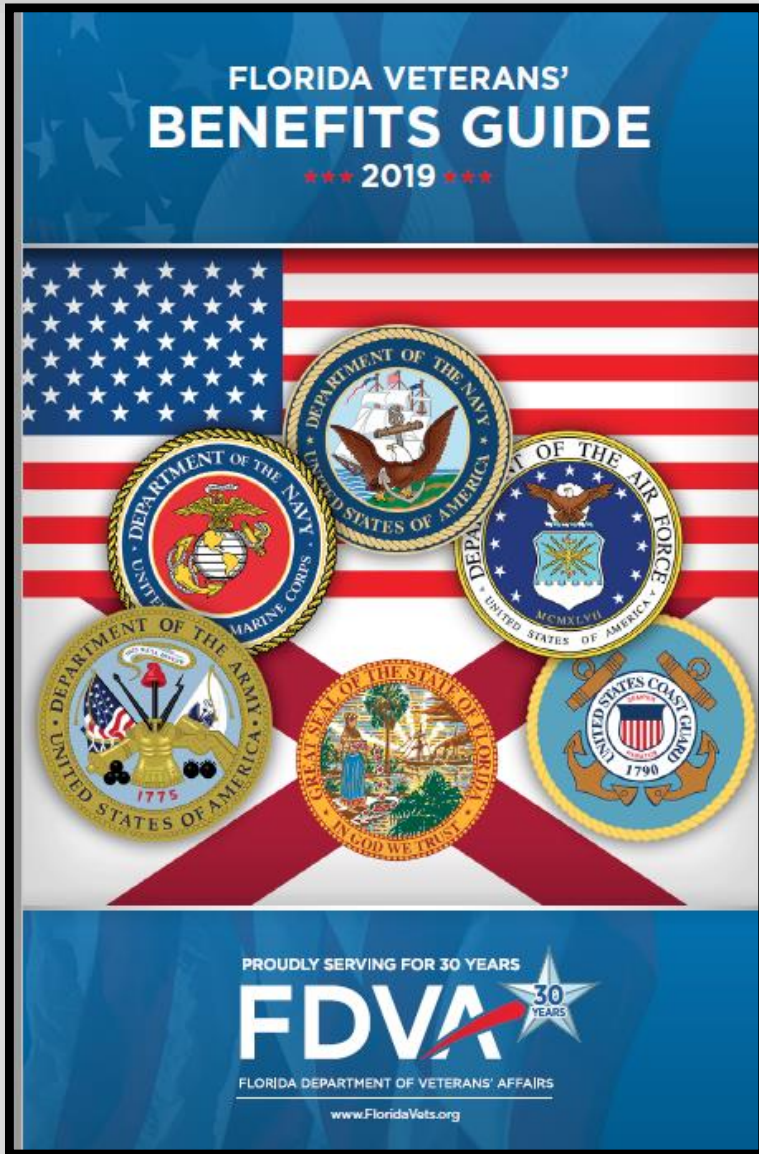


Veterans can apply for civil legal help by calling our Veterans Legal Helpline at 1.866.486.6161

Veterans can also apply online at www.bals.org



Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide



- 200,000 copies courtesy of the *Florida Veterans Foundation*
- Single copies available through e-mail request on FDVA website
- We bulk ship from publisher's warehouse at no charge
- Interactive versions available online at www.FloridaVets.org
- Available at Tax Collector's Offices & Driver License Offices

Connecting with FDVA



www.FloridaVets.org





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.

#FLVets

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

10/16/19 Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Florida Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Danny Burgess

Job Title Executive Director

Address 402 S Monroe Street, S 2105

Phone 487-1533

Tallahassee FL 32399

Email Burgessd@fdva.state.fl.us

Speaking: [] For [] Against [x] Information

Waive Speaking: [] In Support [] Against (The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing FDVA

Appearing at request of Chair: [x] Yes [] No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: [x] Yes [] No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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Florida's Support of Military and Defense

Senate Committee on Military and
Veterans Affairs and Space
October 16, 2019



Florida's Military Presence

- 20 major military installations.
- Defense contributions to state economy:
 - \$84.9 Billion annual impact from military and defense business presence.
 - 801,747 direct and indirect jobs.
 - 2nd largest economic driver
- Optimum training environment; extensive ranges.

BRAC

- Last BRAC in 2005--No new BRAC appears imminent.
- Services are conducting realignments under “Below the Radar” BRAC-like actions.
- Florida working to gain future missions.

The Florida Model for Support of Military and Defense:

- Governor's Base Commander Meetings
- Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF)
- Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)
- Defense Grant Programs

Florida Defense Support Task Force

Mission (from F.S. 288.987):

- Make recommendations to preserve, protect and enhance Florida's military missions and installations.
- Increase the defense industry in Florida.
- Improve the military-friendly environment for service members, families, retirees and businesses that bring military-related jobs to the state.

Florida Defense Support Task Force

Members

- Senator Doug Broxson – Chair – Senate
- Mr. Tom Neubauer – Vice Chair – Senate
- Representative Thad Altman – House
- **RADM, USN (ret.) Stan Bozin – Governor**
- Brig Gen, USAF (ret.) Chip Diehl – House
- Lt Col, USAF (ret.) William Dudley – Senate
- **Maj Gen, USAF James O. Eifert FLNG – Gov’s Personal Rep.**
- Ms. Amy Gowder – Governor
- Maj Gen, USAF (ret.) Richard “Beef” Haddad – Senate
- Col, USAF (ret.) James Heald – House
- **Captain, USN (ret.) Keith Hoskins– Governor**
- **Representative Mel Ponder – House**
- Rep. Holly Raschein – Governor



Note: Chair rotates on July 1st annually between Senate and House

Florida Defense Alliance

- FDA created within EFI per FS 288.980.
- Members: volunteer community leaders, base representation and local economic development leaders.
- Networking and best-practices sharing.
- Legislative issue generation and support.
- Meet bi-annually / teleconference bi-annually.
- Two standing working groups:
 - Family Support
 - Mission Sustainment

FDA Chair
Kellie Jo Kilberg



Top Priorities

- Tyndall AFB rebuild
- Protection of the Gulf Range
- Space Command/Space Force

Major Issues

- Prevent encroachment/incompatible development.
- Military family quality of life concerns
 - Spousal employment
 - Schools.
- Resiliency.
- Influence Pentagon decisions on basing.

Recommended 2020 Changes

- Optimize state support for military and defense.
- Rename the “Task Force” to Commission.
- Allow the Commission to review the statutory defense grants.
- Establish Defense Florida, Inc. as a nonprofit corporation to support the Commission.



Florida's Support of Military and Defense

Senate Committee on Military and
Veterans Affairs and Space
October 16, 2019



THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Oct 16, 2019 Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Ray Collins

Job Title FDSTF Executive Director

Address 101 N. Monroe St. Street

Phone (850) 878-4578

Tallahassee FL 32311 City State Zip

Email rcollins@enterprise Florida.com

Speaking: [] For [] Against [X] Information

Waive Speaking: [] In Support [] Against (The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Defense Support Task Force

Appearing at request of Chair: [X] Yes [] No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: [] Yes [X] No

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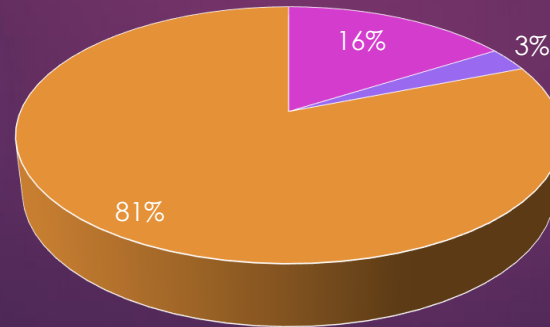
Senate Military & Veterans Affairs & Space Committee



Florida Housing Finance Corporation

- ▶ Florida's Housing Finance Agency
- ▶ Public Corporation of the State, administratively housed under DEO
- ▶ No STATE appropriations are used for Operations
- ▶ Our Staff are not State Employees

2019/20 Funding



■ State Program Funds ■ Operating Budget ■ Federal Program Funds

What is Affordable Housing?

- Safe, decent housing focused on households that are income eligible:
 - Statewide Average Income is \$32,550 per person
 - Moderate Income 80-120% AMI equates to at or below \$62,400
 - Low Income 50-80% AMI equates to at or below \$41,600
 - Very Low Income 30-50% AMI equates to at or below \$26,000
 - Extremely Low Income 30% AMI equates to at or below \$15,600

*The numbers above are based on a family of two



Where can we assist Veterans?

Florida Housing's Programs

State Programs

- ▶ State Apartment Incentive Loan Program(SAIL)
- ▶ State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program(\$HIP)
- ▶ Homeownership Assistance Program
- ▶ Foreclosure Counseling Program
- ▶ Predevelopment Loan Program
- ▶ Grants for Developmental Disabilities
- ▶ One-time Financing Initiatives:
 - ▶ \$1 million Veteran Appropriation
 - ▶ Hurricane Housing Recovery
 - ▶ Rental Recovery Loan Program

Federal Programs

- ▶ Homebuyer Loan Programs
- ▶ Low Income Housing Tax Credits
- ▶ Mortgage Revenue Bonds
- ▶ HOME Investment Partnership
- ▶ Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP)

➤ Local and Flexible

Needs are locally determined for each community

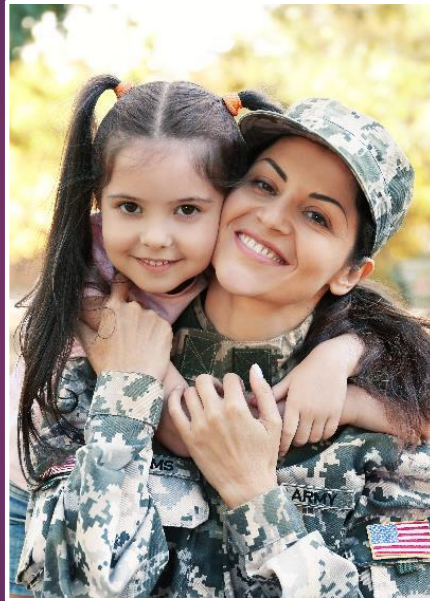
➤ Transparent

Local Housing Assistance Plans (LHAP) show how funds will be spent, annual reports show how funds were actually spent and who was served

➤ We don't currently track how many veterans we are serving through this program

➤ Impact

➤ Over the life of the program, more than \$2.4 billion has been used to help over 207,000. \$369 million has been recycled back into the program



Top Uses of SHIP

Down Payment Assistance

Rehabilitation of Owner
Occupied Housing

Emergency/Disaster Relief

Foreclosure Relief

Rental Housing Gap Financing

State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL)

This is the State's key rental program. We can use the funds 3 ways:

- Pair SAIL funds with Federal Bonds
 - Pair SAIL funds with Low Income Housing Tax Credits
 - Utilize SAIL funds as standalone for smaller developments, particularly to serve Persons with Special Needs
- ▶ Statute requires us to annually evaluate and allocate the resources across small, medium and large counties based on need as well population types;
 - ▶ Families
 - ▶ Elderly
 - ▶ Persons with Special Needs
 - ▶ Homeless

Permanent Supportive Housing Rental Developments

Development	No. of Units	County	Non-Profit Applicant	Veterans Served
Duval Park	88	Pinellas	Boley Centers	Service connected disabling conditions moving from VA Medical Centers, Homeless
Liberty Village	60	Miami-Dade	Carrfour Supportive Housing	Homeless with disabling conditions
Tampa Veterans Village	15	Hillsborough	Volunteers of America-Florida	Homeless with disabling conditions
Ozanam II	30	Pasco	St. Vincent de Paul-St. Pete	Homeless with disabling conditions
Ozanam III	30	Pasco	St. Vincent de Paul-St. Pete	Homeless Veterans and their families
Pinellas Hope II	80	Pinellas	Catholic Charities-St. Pete	Homeless and Homeless with physical disabilities
Ritz Preserve II	27	Marion	Volunteers of America-FL	Homeless Veterans and their families

2019 Veterans Appropriation

- ▶ The FY 2019-2020 State of Florida Budget, appropriated \$1 million to Florida Housing with the following language:

“From the funds in Specific Appropriation 2316, \$1,000,000 is provided to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to provide grants to nonprofit organizations that build, modify, maintain, transfer and enhance home to injured veterans, the family members of injured veterans, and Gold Star families. Homes may be modified, renovated or new construction.”
- We held two public workshops to get feedback from stakeholders.
- The RFP is currently posted on our website for anyone interested in applying and Responses will be due on November 6th

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

10/16/19

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Veterans housing

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Troy Price

Job Title Executive Director

Address 227 S. Bronough St Ste 5000

Phone (850) 488-4197

Street

Tallahassee FL 32301

City

State

Zip

Email Troy.Price@floridahousing.org

Speaking: [] For [] Against [x] Information

Waive Speaking: [] In Support [] Against

(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Housing Finance Corporation

Appearing at request of Chair: [x] Yes [] No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: [x] Yes [] No

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CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: LL 37

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Senate Military and Veterans Affairs and Space Committee

Judge:

Started: 10/16/2019 9:59:39 AM

Ends: 10/16/2019 11:30:29 AM Length: 01:30:51

9:59:38 AM Meeting called to order by Chair Wright
9:59:50 AM Chair with opening comments
9:59:55 AM Roll call by CAA, Lois Graham
10:00:02 AM Quorum announced
10:00:16 AM Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Torres
10:00:39 AM Chair with comments
10:01:24 AM Tab 1 - Presentation by Danny Burgess, Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
10:01:30 AM Director Danny Burgess presents
10:14:20 AM Senator Harrell with question
10:14:49 AM Director Burgess responds
10:17:35 AM Senator Cruz with question
10:17:53 AM Director Burgess responds
10:20:38 AM Senator Pizzo with question
10:20:46 AM Director Burgess responds
10:21:07 AM Senator Pizzo with follow-up
10:21:17 AM Director Burgess responds
10:21:21 AM Senator Pizzo with question
10:22:51 AM Director Burgess responds
10:23:34 AM Senator Broxson with comments
10:24:08 AM Director Burgess responds
10:27:55 AM Senator Harrell with follow-up
10:28:14 AM Director Burgess responds
10:29:19 AM Chair with comments
10:29:28 AM Director Burgess responds
10:30:03 AM Senator Torres with question
10:30:13 AM Director Burgess responds
10:30:22 AM Senator Torres with follow-up
10:30:34 AM Director Burgess responds
10:31:15 AM Chair with comments
10:31:19 AM Senator Harrell with comments
10:31:51 AM Chair with comments
10:32:46 AM Director Burgess responds
10:33:07 AM Senator Gainer with comments
10:33:28 AM Tab 2-Presentation by Ray Collins, Executive Director, Florida Defense Fund
10:33:37 AM Director Collins presents
10:50:49 AM Senator Broxson with comments
10:51:57 AM Senator Harrell with comments
10:53:14 AM Director Collins responds
10:55:24 AM Senator Harrell with follow-up
10:55:33 AM Director Collins responds
10:55:45 AM Senator Broxson with response

10:57:32 AM Director Collins with comments
10:58:22 AM Senator Harrell with follow-up
10:58:39 AM Director Collins with response
10:59:41 AM Senator Torres with question
10:59:58 AM Director Collins with response
11:01:33 AM Senator Torres with follow-up
11:01:46 AM Director Collins with response
11:02:21 AM Senator Torres with follow-up
11:02:27 AM Director Collins responds
11:02:46 AM Senator Torres with follow-up
11:02:57 AM Director Collins with response
11:03:49 AM Chair with comments
11:03:54 AM Tab 3- Presentation by Harold "Trey" Price, Executive Director, Florida Housing Finance
11:04:24 AM Director Price presents
11:15:27 AM Senator Cruz with question
11:15:39 AM Director Price responds
11:17:13 AM Senator Harrell with question
11:17:22 AM Director Price responds
11:18:59 AM Senator Pizzo with questions
11:19:38 AM Director Price responds
11:19:44 AM Senator Pizzo with follow-up
11:19:56 AM Director Price responds
11:19:59 AM Senator Pizzo with question
11:20:02 AM Director Price responds
11:20:09 AM Senator Pizzo with question
11:20:13 AM Director Price responds
11:20:15 AM Senator Pizzo with question
11:20:18 AM Director Price responds
11:20:22 AM Senator Pizzo with question
11:20:23 AM Director Price responds
11:20:28 AM Senator Pizzo with question
11:20:34 AM Director Price responds
11:20:39 AM Senator Pizzo with question
11:20:44 AM Director Price responds
11:21:06 AM Senator Pizzo with question
11:21:10 AM Director Price responds
11:21:15 AM Senator Pizzo with question
11:21:17 AM Director Price responds
11:21:21 AM Senator Pizzo with question
11:21:27 AM Director Price responds
11:21:33 AM Senator Pizzo with question
11:21:42 AM Director Price responds
11:22:40 AM Senator Pizzo with question
11:22:47 AM Director Price responds
11:22:59 AM Senator Pizzo with question
11:23:06 AM Director Price responds
11:23:30 AM Senator Pizzo follows-up
11:23:44 AM Director Price responds
11:23:54 AM Senator Cruz with question
11:24:03 AM Director Price responds
11:25:47 AM Senator Cruz with follow-up
11:25:54 AM Director Price responds

11:27:52 AM Senator Cruz with question
11:27:59 AM Senator Torres with question
11:28:14 AM Director Price responds
11:29:11 AM Senator Broxson with question
11:29:20 AM Director Price responds
11:29:30 AM Senator Torres with comments
11:30:10 AM Chair with comments
11:30:15 AM Senator Cruz moves to rise
11:30:20 AM Meeting adjourned