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**From:** cfhla@memberclicks-mail.net on behalf of Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association  
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## TOURISM DAY

On Wednesday, March 13 a **35-member delegation** from the **Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association** traveled to Tallahassee on a Mears Bus to advocate for the tourism industry and their local community during **VISIT FLORIDA's** annual "**Florida Tourism Day**" event.

The CFHLA Delegation spent the day meeting with the following **16 Elected Officials**, advocating for VISIT FLORIDA's reauthorization, the Sadowski affordable housing trust fund, and fair-legislation to end human trafficking:

1. **Rep. Mike La Rosa**
2. **Rep. Rene "Coach P" Plasencia**

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4. [Senate President Bill Galvano](#)
5. [Rep. Joy Goff-Marcil](#)
6. [Rep. Amy Mercado](#)
7. [Rep. Matt Willhite](#)
8. [Rep. David Smith](#)
9. [Rep. Anthony Sabatini](#)
10. [Rep. Anna Eskamani](#)
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13. [Sen. Jason Pizzo](#)
14. [Sen. Perry E. Thurston Jr.](#)
15. [Sen. Linda Stewart](#)
16. [Sen. David Simmons](#)

These meetings also served as an opportunity for the Delegation to educate the Elected Officials on the importance of the tourism industry by utilizing the new [Central Florida Tourism Calculator](#), highlighting the economic impact of tourism in their respective Districts and Counties.

Thank you to the members of the CFHLA Delegation for their participation and advocacy, to our partners at [GrayRobinson](#) for securing a high-profile meeting with [Senate President Bill Galvano](#), and to [Roger Chapin](#) and [Mears Transportation](#) for donating bus travel to-and-from Tallahassee!



CFHLA Tourism Day Delegation Members in the Senate Chamber with Senate President Bill Galvano



CFHLA Tourism Day Delegation with Representative Joy Goff-Marcil (District 30)



CFHLA Board Member and CFHLA-PAC Chair Jay Leonard, General Manager of the Wyndham and Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area, Representative Kamia Brown (District 45), Michelle Brady-Palmer of SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, and CFHLA Board Chairman Jesse Martinez, General Manager of The Alford Inn at Rollins



CFHLA Tourism Day Delegation with Representative David Smith (District 28)



CFHLA Tourism Day Delegation with Representative Anna Eskamani (District 47)





CFHLA Tourism Day Delegation with Representative Amy Mercado (District 48) reviewing the Central Florida Tourism Calculator



CFHLA Tourism Day Delegation with Senator Linda Stewart (District 13)





CFHLA Tourism Day Delegation in front of the Florida State Capitol Building



Representative Anthony Sabatini (District 32) with Derek Ryan of OmegaScapes, Inc. and CFHLA Board Chairman Jesse Martinez, General Manager of The Alford Inn at Rollins



CFHLA Tourism Day Delegation with Representative Rene "Coach P" Plasencia (District 50)



CFHLA Tourism Day Delegation Members in the Senate Chamber

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## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The **2019 Legislative Session** kicked-off on Tuesday, March 5 and is set to conclude on **Friday, May 3**.

As Week 3 (March 18-22) comes to an end, the future of **VISIT FLORIDA** continues to hang in the balance. The Governor's proposed budget at the beginning of Session called for fully-funding the organization at \$76 Million. However, the House initial budget, released this week, only funds VISIT FLORIDA at **\$19 Million** so that it can continue its work until it is set to **sunset on October 1**. The initial budget released by the Senate this week, proposes funding VISIT FLORIDA at **\$50 Million** with the expectation that the organization is re-authorized.

House Leadership has shared that they have no intentions to support reauthorization for VISIT FLORIDA and have yet to place the house bill for reauthorization, **HB 6031**, on an agenda.

CFHLA has sent a **call-to-action** for all members to email and call their Representatives and request that HB 6031 be placed on the agenda of its first committee of review - the House Workforce Development & Tourism Subcommittee.

In the **Senate, SB 540 - a bill filed to combat and end human trafficking** is moving favorably. Its House companion bill, HB 851, has yet to be placed on an agenda but has been supported tremendously by anti-trafficking advocates and the tourism industry for its fair and sensible education protocols. The bill also includes language that would **prevent a cause of action, or liability**, against public lodging establishments where human trafficking might have occurred.

Lastly, HB 1103/SB 70, companion bills filed in both chambers to protect the integrity of the **Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund**, have seen no movement. The passage of this legislation would ensure that counties across the State would receive the full funding from the Trust to develop affordable housing and support housing placement and stability initiatives. However, the



continues to sweep funds away from the Trust.

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## GA

On Wednesday, March 6 the **CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee** met with **Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings** at the **Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area** (Thank You Jay Leonard, General Manager).

The Mayor discussed his first few months in office and shared his **vision for the future of Orange County**. Among his many initiatives, the Mayor shared his excitement for the new **Housing For All Task Force** whose mission will be to identify possible public-private partnerships to create affordable housing in the County.



CFHLA Board Member and March CFHLA GA Meeting Host Jay Leonard, General Manager of the Wyndham and Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area, CFHLA Board Member and CFHLA GA Chairman Jon McGavin, General Manager of the Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes, Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings and CFHLA Board Immediate Past Chairman Fred Sawyers, Complex General Manager of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort

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## ARC

The **Orange County Application Review Committee** completed their final review of the 5 proposed community projects seeking TDT grants. The 5 projects were scored by the Committee and had to achieve a score of 60% or higher to be considered for recommendation to the Tourist Development Council. **All 5 projects received scores above the 60% threshold** and were passed favorably for recommendation to the TDC.

The following 5 projects and their scores are as follows:

1. **The Orlando Science Center: 87.11%**
2. **The Orlando Philharmonic - The Plaza Live: 78.69%**

4. **The Orange County Regional History Center: 74.44%**
5. **The Winter Park Canopy Project: 69.11%**

The CFHLA congratulates CFHLA Board Members Ross Burke, Brian Comes, Jon McGavin, and Louis Robbins for their service on the Orange County Application Review Committee.

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## PAC RECEPTION

Please save the date for the annual **CFHLA PAC Reception** which will be held on **Wednesday, June 5** at **The Florida Hotel & Conference Center** (Thank You John Lamont, General Manager).

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## COFFEE CLUB

The CFHLA will host **Orange County Commissioner Maribel Gomez-Cordero, District 4** on **Friday, April 5** at 8 A.M. Commissioner Gomez-Cordero is one of the newest members on the Orange County Commission and CFHLA looks forward to learning more about her goals and sharing our insights on the tourism industry in Orange County.

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## PUBLIC POLICY INTERN

Please welcome our newest **2019 Public Policy Intern - Robert Inman**. Robert is currently an undergraduate student studying Entertainment Management at the University of Central Florida! Go Knights!






## LINKS

Below please find news articles relating to the political interests of the Hospitality Industry:

[Travis Hutson expects to "bump" on VISIT FLORIDA, Enterprise Florida and Sadowski money](#)


[Orange Co. kicks off contracting for convention center expansion](#)

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