



*Seated (left to right):
Karen T. Marcus,
Tony Masilotti,
Chairman,
Addie L. Greene,
Vice Chairperson
Standing (left to right):
Warren H. Newell,
Mary McCarty,
Jeff Koons,
Burt Aaronson*

Your County Commissioners Welcome You

The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and the Office of Economic Development are convening the 2005 Economic Summit to gather input for a revision of Palm Beach County's long-range Strategic Economic Development Plan. Involving citizens in the decision-making process has always been a top priority of the Board. Public comment is invited during County Commission meetings and workshops, public hearings, seminars and general policy discussions. Our residents are welcome to speak on any agenda item during regular BCC meetings, and each month we set aside time for comments not necessarily related to the agenda.

The BCC serves as the legislative and policy-setting body of Palm Beach County government. Its seven commissioners, elected from single-member districts, are empowered to enact countywide laws and to authorize all expenditures of County government. In addition to setting policy, the BCC acts as the Child Care Facilities Board, the Solid Waste Authority, the Environmental Control Board and the Zoning Commission.

Chairman Tony Masilotti, District 6

Tony Masilotti was elected to the Board of County Commissioners in November 1998. His district is the largest geographically in the county, extending from the Town of Haverhill west to the Lake Region. The owner of a State Farm insurance agency, Commissioner Masilotti resides in Royal Palm Beach with his wife and four children. Prior to election to the Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Masilotti was a four-term mayor of Royal Palm Beach where he was twice honored as Palm Beach County "Mayor of the Year." He is an active member of many boards and commissions, including the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, the Palms West Chamber of Commerce, the Western Communities Council, and the Performing Arts League. Commissioner Masilotti is an advocate of children's issues, serving as a board member of the Palm Beach County Children Services Council and the Coalition for Children.

Vice Chairperson Addie L. Greene, District 7

Addie Greene was elected to the Board of County Commissioners in September 2000. Her district extends from Lake Park south to Delray Beach. Prior to becoming a County Commissioner, she served eight years in the Florida House of Representatives and was also mayor and vice mayor of Mangonia Park. Before entering politics, Commissioner Greene taught English in the Palm Beach County Public School system and at Palm Beach Community College. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and a Masters from Florida A&M University. A native of Alabama, Commissioner Greene has been a resident of Palm Beach County since 1965. Since joining the BCC, Commissioner Greene organized the first Homeless Task Force for Palm Beach County and is a strong supporter of cultural events such as Heritage Fest, the Roots Festival, the Soul of Delray, and the annual Jazz & Blues Festival in Riviera Beach.

Karen T. Marcus, District 1

Having served since 1984, Commissioner Marcus is the longest standing member of the BCC. She is immediate past-president of the BCC and has also served as president of the Florida Councils Association and the Florida Association of Counties. For two decades, she has served on the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and was appointed by the governor to serve on the Public Schools Construction Study Commission for school concurrency. A proponent of growth management, Commissioner Marcus has led the drive to acquire more than 23,000 acres of unspoiled land to be set aside as preserves and conservation areas. She has received both the Distinguished Public Service Award and the Grassroots Leadership Award from the Nature Conservancy. She was also the recipient of the 2004 Executive Women of the Palm Beaches 21st Annual Women in Leadership Award. A native Floridian, Commissioner Marcus is married and has three daughters and one grandchild.

Jeff Koons, District 2

John F. "Jeff" Koons was elected to the BCC in November 2002. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Miami University, and for 30 years was employed with the Fort Lauderdale/Palm Beach Pepsi Cola Bottling Company, beginning as a delivery driver and succeeding to Vice President of Community Relations. He has resided in West Palm Beach since 1972 and is the father of three daughters. Commissioner Koons has a long history of community service having served 11 years on the West Palm Beach City Commission. He was Mayor of West Palm Beach for a year and City Commission president for three years. Among his main BCC priorities are revitalization of blighted neighborhoods, creation of more affordable housing, building new neighborhood parks, working closely with law enforcement to solve problems in high-crime areas, and expanding public transportation. Commissioner Koons has arranged the installation of more bus benches and shelters in urban areas to better serve fixed-route transit riders. He also has supported expansion of paratransit services for the elderly, the economically disadvantaged, and the disabled.

Warren H. Newell, District 3

Commissioner Newell has served on the BCC since 1992. A native Floridian with more than 30 years of growth management experience, Commissioner Newell continues to be a leading supporter of environmental issues. In October 1999, Commissioner Newell was invited to participate in the Governor's Manatee Summit. Commissioner Newell has led the cause to restoration of the Lake Worth Lagoon. He is chairman of the Artificial Reef and Estuarine Enhancement Committee and serves on the Marine Industries Education Foundation. Commissioner Newell helped organize the Drowning Prevention Coalition and the Locks to Cops program. Thanks to Commissioner Newell's initiative, many communities in the county continue to benefit from Recreational Assistance Program (RAP) funding. Commissioner Newell has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Atlantic University. Before being elected to the BCC, he was an active partner in a civil engineering firm. He resides in Lantana with his three children.

Mary McCarty, District 4

Commissioner McCarty has been a member of the BCC since 1990. Prior to that, she served on the Delray Beach City Commission. Recently, Commissioner McCarty was named "County Commissioner of the Year" by the Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc., for the second consecutive year. She also was appointed by Governor Bush to the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida, a 15-member committee that will focus on growth management throughout the state. Commissioner McCarty is a founding chairperson of Toward A More Perfect Union (TMPU), which helps foster understanding of the commonality of issues and concerns of people of diversity. The organization is often a resource for cities and agencies who need help in dealing with sensitivity issues in race relations. Over the years, Commissioner McCarty has been actively involved with the Lupus Foundation, the I Have A Dream Foundation, the United Way and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Burt Aaronson, District 5

Commissioner Aaronson was first elected to the Board of County Commissioners in November 1992. He resides in the Delray Beach area with his wife. Prior to coming to Palm Beach County from New Jersey, Commissioner Aaronson served as vice president and executive vice president of two home furnishing manufacturing companies. Before his election to the BCC, Commissioner Aaronson was president of the Gleneagles Country Club, and is still active in community service and philanthropic organizations in the area. He serves as chairman of several County advisory committees, including the Film Liaison Advisory Committee. Commissioner Aaronson is a recipient of the Israel Solidarity Award and the "Man of the Year Award" from the Migrant Workers of South Florida, Inc.