

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Committee  
For October 7th, 2021**

This regular meeting of the Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Committee was held by Zoom and called to order at 7:07 pm. The Chair was in the chair, and the secretary was present.

**Opening Ceremonies**

County Commissioner Maria Sachs led the membership in reciting the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America. The Chair led the membership in a moment of silence for the victims of COVID-19.

**Attendance Report**

The secretary announced the attendance report. The chair declared a quorum established.

**Agenda Approval**

The agenda was approved as amended without objection.

**Election of Treasurer**

With Treasurer Bob Diffenderfer's resignation this past month, the election for a new Treasurer is held at the next regular meeting. Without any objection, the parliamentarian chaired the election process.

After explaining the rules, ruling on inquiries, and listening to campaign speeches, the election occurred. The vote count used the registered Zoom poll and a secret voice vote in break-out rooms with a representative of each campaign for those unable to cast their vote by poll. The announcement of the election reports was as follows:

300 votes cast  
151 votes elect  
George "Cliff" Long received 119 votes  
Joel Schleifer received 181 votes

The Chair declared Joel Schleifer the new DEC's treasurer.

**Report of the Treasurer, *Bob Diffenderfer***

The treasurer reported that the filed mandated quarterly report was on time with the Supervisor of Election's Office.

The Chair thanked the treasurer on behalf of the membership for his long and exemplary service to the DEC.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the regular meeting of September 2nd, 2021, were approved as distributed.

The minutes of the regular meeting of September 21st, 2021, were approved as distributed.

## **Membership Report, Janet Waxman**

The committee chair welcomed the inductees and reminded the inductees of their October 18th Zoom orientation.

The chair of the membership committee recommended to the membership the following motion to be adopted. The committee ***moved that the list of people be inducted into the PBCDEC by the membership as displayed.*** The motion was adopted by voice vote. The Chair instructed the Zoom host to update the participant's room inductee's status to membership status.

### **Seated Inductees**

<b><u>Zone</u></b>	<b><u>Precinct</u></b>	<b><u>First Name</u></b>	<b><u>Last Name</u></b>
2	1280	Roberta	Zivanov
2	1360	Michele	Napoli
3N	1356	William	Wilkins
3W	7108	Ralph	King
4	2106	Kathy	Clark
6W	3084	Brian	Moorer
6W	2216	Losmyr	Luberisse
6E	3062	Anthony	Gallegos
7E	4026	Lucy	Caputi
7E	7182	Irwin	Cineus
9	5058	Jacqueline	Crofton
9	5070	Amy	Kaplan
10	4144	Jodi	Bornstein

### **At Large Inductees**

1	1054	Gail	Marcareli
2	1252	Kimberly	Franklin
3W	2014	Alex	Hunt
10	4196	Dilcia	Phillips

## **Special Guest Speaker, Congressman Ted Deutch**

Congressman Deutch enthusiastically reported on the details of Congressional and Presidential domestic policy, with comments on the physical and human infrastructure bills.

## **Special Guest Speaker, Representative Angie Nixon, FDP Political & Coalitions Director**

Our guest speaker presented a program on statewide election tasks that included voter registration, voter turnout and membership recruitment.

## **Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

### **Report of the Chair, Terrie Rizzo**

The Chair reported a very successful virtual TKJ gala and thanked the TKJ Committee, participants, sponsors, and production team. The Chair announced the special fundraising event with Congressman Adam Schiff will be held on Sunday, October 31st, at the Marriott Hotel, with details to be announced. The Chair reported that Palm Beach County has had a reduction of 27,000 registered Democrats, with Republicans and NPA's also losing registered voters. The Chair is working with DEC leadership to implement strategies to compensate for the Democratic decrease in the county.

### **Report of the Vice Chair, *Mindy Koch***

The Vice Chair reported on the activities associated with Reproductive Rights. The Vice Chair asked that if a club or caucus needs assistance in organizing to reach out to leadership.

A member made a motion to extend the time to which to adjourn. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent. The Chair announced that the meeting would continue.

### **Report of the Events Committee, *Nicole Galante & Lynn Kobrin***

The committee chair and vice chair reported a more detailed successful TKJ gala. After the report, both announced their resignations and reported that they would help their successor(s) in any way possible. The chair of the committee also reported on the progress of the Adam Schiff event. Please see the member portal, DEC's website, or email for more information.

### **Report of the Legislative Committee, *Phil Levitt***

After debate and discussion, the following resolution recommended by the legislative committee was adopted by the membership.

#### **RESOLUTION ON ABORTION AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE**

**WHEREAS**, on September 22nd, 2021, Florida Rep. Barnaby filed FL House Bill 167, a 6 week abortion ban, for the 2022 Florida legislative session, which contains medically inaccurate information about fetal viability, and

**WHEREAS**, most women are not aware of being pregnant at 6 weeks, the time of a first heart movement on ultrasound cited in the bill as the standard for prohibiting abortion, and

**WHEREAS**, fetal viability comes much later in pregnancy than the 6 week standard claimed in the bill, and

**WHEREAS**, the bill is unconstitutional as it violates the provisions of the Roe v. Wade decision with regard to the duration of a pregnancy that can be interrupted, and

**WHEREAS**, HB167 allows any person to file a civil suit against any person—whether a health care provider, counselor, relative or financial donor-- who helps a patient obtain a prohibited abortion, and

**WHEREAS**, Governor DeSantis, FL Senate President Trilby, FL House Speaker Sprowls, and newly appointed Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee Chair Garcia, all Republicans, are on record as favoring more laws restricting abortion in Florida, and

**WHEREAS**, Florida law already contains multiple abortion restrictions, including

- mandatory ultrasounds regardless of medical need;
- hospital admitting privileges when there is no medical need;
- parental consent –in person or notarized--for minors;
- prohibition of telemedicine;
- prohibition of prescribing by nurse practitioners;
- prohibition of Medicaid funding;
- restrictions on abortion for fetal abnormality;

- and taxpayer funding of “crisis pregnancy centers,” anti-abortion facilities that give false medical information; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida does not provide a safety net where all residents have access to comprehensive sex education, contraception, STD prevention, prenatal and obstetrical care, and home based services for new parents and babies; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida’s neglect of the public health, and its abortion restrictions, unjustly and disproportionately harms young, Black and Latino, LGBTQ, low income, rural, and incarcerated Floridians, while Floridians of means have always been more likely to find a way to get abortion care;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Palm Beach County Democratic Party joins our Democratic elected officials in calling for Reproductive Justice. This means no further abortion restrictions in 2022, and expanding essential medical services around reproduction, including Medicaid expansion; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Palm Beach County Democratic Party will bring to the attention of the voting public, and especially women, the need to defend and expand Reproductive Justice in Florida by electing more Democrats to the FL Legislature.

After debate and discussion, the following resolution recommended by the legislative committee was adopted by membership as amended.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS REMOVE DR. JOSEPH LADAPO, M.D., Ph.D.  
AS FLORIDA’S SURGEON GENERAL**

**WHEREAS**, according to the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) website the first-ever State Surgeon General was established in 2007 to spearhead the efforts of FDOH, thereby designating a health officer to oversee all matters of public health. The Surgeon General’s role is to be the state’s leading advocate for wellness and disease prevention. On September 21st, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis, appointed Joseph Ladapo, MD, PhD as Florida’s new Surgeon General and the very next day Dr. Ladapo issued an emergency rule giving parents sole discretion over whether their children wear masks in school. Additionally, asymptomatic children who are exposed to Covid and have no symptoms no longer have to stay home or quarantine. His predecessor, who was not permitted to effectively combat COVID, oversaw the enormous spread of COVID in Florida and the second highest death rate in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, although Dr. Ladapo may be a well-educated physician who is board certified in Internal Medicine and has an MD and PhD in Health Policy from Harvard, he does not have a background in public health and has never been in charge of so much as a department at his previous position as an associate professor at UCLA Geffen School of Medicine. Dr. Ladapo has downplayed the urgency of Florida citizens being vaccinated against COVID-19 and says too much emphasis has been placed on COVID vaccines. His first executive order forbade masks. Dr. Ladapo is closely associated with the controversial fringe group called America’s Frontline Doctors, which has promoted bogus “cures” for Covid including ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control has said the only way to force COVID-19 to recede is through herd immunity wherein 70-90% of the population has to be vaccinated against the disease: and

**WHEREAS**, children under the age of 12 cannot become vaccinated as of October 1st, 2021 so they attend schools where masks are not required and vaccines cannot be obtained.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Senior Caucus and the Executive Committee of the Palm Beach County Democratic Party stand in support of removing Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo and replacing him with a physician who has experience in infectious diseases and supports the use of FDA approved COVID-19 vaccines as well as mask wearing.

**Report of the Finance Committee, *Mack Bernard***

The chair of the committee reported on the number of weekly and bi-weekly meetings held by the TKJ subcommittee, with the final meeting held the week of the TKJ. The chair reported that the TKJ pledge amount was \$197,525. As of this meeting, the pledges collected a total of \$119,000.

**Announcements**

- The Chair announced that the next regular meeting would be on Thursday, November 4th, 2021.
- The Chair reminded the membership about the Adam Schiff event and to check the website for more information.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.

[Kenneth Sommers DDS, Recording Secretary](#)