

SPEAKERS

-in order of appearance-



Mayor Carlos Alvarez **Miami-Dade County**

Re-elected overwhelmingly by voters to a second term on August 26, 2008, Carlos Alvarez continues to usher in a new era of integrity and accountability in local government. Mayor Alvarez oversees the day-to-day operations of Miami-Dade County government which employs more than 28,000 employees and operates with a budget of \$7 billion dollars. The Mayor is responsible for the management of all administrative departments within the County, following a decision made by voters in January 23, 2007, to change the way Miami-Dade County government was run. His priorities include keeping the County's two largest economic engines - the Airport and Seaport - competitive; stimulating the economy by championing public infrastructure projects, including a Marlins Baseball Stadium and a Port Tunnel; and, holding the Urban Development Boundary to prevent urban sprawl. Mayor Alvarez has also been an advocate for senior citizens and individuals suffering from mental illness. Mayor Alvarez first entered elected office on November 16, 2004, after a distinguished 28-year public service career in the Miami-Dade Police Department.



Commissioner Natacha Seijas **Miami-Dade County**

Commissioner Seijas was elected to the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners in 1993 becoming the first Hispanic woman to serve on the County Commission. She has focused her attention primarily on conservation and infrastructure issues: solid waste disposal, water supply, wastewater treatment, recycling, stormwater drainage, and carbon emissions. Concerned about the threat to South Florida posed by sea-level-rise, Commissioner Seijas established the Climate Change Advisory Task Force. The Task Force is charged with developing adaptation recommendations for the county. Under her leadership the County joined the Chicago Climate Exchange a move that has made every county department accountable for their carbon emissions. To support these conservation efforts, Seijas secured the funding to establish the Office of Sustainability. As an advocate for federal support of local government solutions, Seijas is proud to serve on the Executive Committee of Climate Communities. She sponsored the 'Cool Counties' commitment, and has been designated as the Miami-Dade County representative to the International Council for Local and Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).



Art von Lehe, **Policy Advisor, ICLEI USA**

Art von Lehe serves as Senior Policy Officer and Policy Advisor to ICLEI's Executive Director, Martin Chavez. In this role, Art works to provide ICLEI members with information, analysis and support regarding key federal policy relevant to sustainable local action. Art joined ICLEI USA in July of 2009. Art is an attorney and a LEED Accredited Professional. He earned his undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies from the University of North Carolina at Asheville, his Master of Studies in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School, and his Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Art's background in environmental science, law and policy combined with his knowledge of both the federal and local landscapes informs his current efforts with ICLEI. Most relevant is his experience analyzing emerging climate and clean air policy at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., and as Project Manager with the Coastal Conservation League in Charleston, SC where he advised a large portfolio of local governments on climate and sustainability measures covering the range of relevant sectors.



James F. Murley
Chair, Florida Climate & Energy Commission

James F. Murley serves as Assistant Dean for External Affairs, College of Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs and Director of the Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions, Florida Atlantic University. Governor Charlie Crist appointed Jim as the first Chair of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission. Jim also serves as Vice Chair of the Miami-Dade County Climate Change Advisory Task Force and is a member and chair of the Build Environment Committee of the Broward County Climate Change Task Force. Jim is Chair of the Sustainability Committee of the Urban Land Institute's Southeast Florida/Caribbean District Council and was recently appointed a member of Mayor of Miami-Dade County's new Sustainability Advisory Board. Jim is a former Secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs and Executive Director of 1,000 Friends of Florida. Jim is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Jim graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio with a BA in History and George Washington University Law School. He is a graduate of Class IX Leadership Florida.



Commissioner Kristin Jacobs
Broward County

Kristin Jacobs was elected to represent the people of District 2 on the Broward Commission. She served as Broward County Mayor in 2005 and as Vice Mayor in 2004. Commissioner Jacobs may be most recognized for her work to protect natural resources, including water and air. Her support has been central to the creation of water conservation and preservation programs such as NatureScape Broward and Water Matters. On a regional level, Commissioner Jacobs brings her concern for sustainability to her work as a member of the following organizations: Chairwoman Broward County Climate Change Task Force; The Water Resources Advisory Commission for the South Florida Water Management District; Broward County's Water Advisory Board; The National Association of County's Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee; The Florida Association of Counties' Board of Directors and the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization.



Mayor Roseann Minnet
Lauderdale By The Sea

Mayor Minnet was first elected Mayor of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea in 2008, and elected for a second term of office in March 2010. In her first term as mayor, Ms. Minnet was instrumental in defeating the Calypso project, a liquefied natural gas deepwater port proposed off the coast of Broward County. Her primary concerns are to bring unity to the town and be fiscally responsible to all of the residents and business owners. Mayor Minnet was appointed in 2008-2009 to serve as the representative to the Broward League of Cities and serves on the Sustainability Committee. She was appointed to the Florida League of Cities Energy and Environmental Quality Committee in 2008-2009 and currently serves on the League's Finance and Taxation Committee. She was also appointed to the Broward County Climate Change Task Force and is a member of the Florida League of Mayors and Women in Municipal Government. Prior to being elected Mayor, she served on the Charter Review Board, Board of Adjustments and was past Chairwoman of Planning & Zoning in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea.



Commissioner Shelley Vana
Palm Beach County

Commissioner Vana was elected to serve as Palm Beach County Commissioner District 3 on November 4, 2008. In her first term as a County Commissioner, Shelley, has been appointed Chair of the Audit Committee, sits on the Artificial Reef Estuarine Enhancement Committee, Early Childhood Cabinet, Early Learning Coalition, Education Foundation, Intergovernmental Coordination Program/Executive Committee, JFK Board of Trustees, Public Arts Committee, Corrections Task Force, WRAC, Treasurer Coast Regional Planning Council, and was a signatory on the Four County Compact regionalizing South Florida.

Commissioner Vana was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2002. She represented Florida State House District 85 which included various cities in Central and Western Palm Beach County. She served as Vice Chair of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation from 2007-2008. As an elected member of the Florida House of Representatives, District 85 Shelley Vana was appointed to serve on the Education K-20 Committee, Education Appropriation Subcommittee, Policy and Budget Council, Growth Management Committee and Agriculture Committee.



Mayor David J. Levy, P.G.,
City of Palm Beach Gardens

Mr. Levy is a native Floridian who has lived in Palm Beach Gardens since 1989. Mr. Levy received a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Florida State University and a Master of Science degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Geological Science. Mr. Levy works as a professional geologist, providing environmental consulting services in contamination assessment and remediation, and is also an adjunct professor teaching Environmental Geology at Palm Beach State College.



Commissioner Katie Sorenson
Miami-Dade County

Commissioner Katy Sorenson, representing southern Miami-Dade County since 1994 has been an outspoken advocate for her community and all of Miami-Dade County. Commissioner Sorenson has worked diligently to enhance the quality of life for South Miami-Dade through environmentally progressive economic and growth management policies and by protecting the region's agricultural and environmental resources from urban sprawl. Commissioner Sorenson is the chair of the County's Budget, Planning and Sustainability Committee, and she serves on the Housing and Community Development Committee, the Transit, Infrastructure and Roads Committee, and the Recreation, Culture and Tourism Committee. She is a member of the South Florida Regional Planning Council and is past Chair of the Regional Transportation Organization. She has championed a number of environmental policy initiatives including the County's green building policy, championing smart growth plans along dedicated mass transit facilities, and removing barriers to installation of solar energy equipment. During the past year Commissioner Sorenson has served as chair of the Mayor's Sustainability Task Force guiding the process for the County's sustainability plan, GreenPrint.



Mayor Cindy Lerner
Village of Pinecrest

Mayor Lerner was elected as Pinecrest's third mayor on November 4, 2008. Has been a practicing attorney for 30 years. Her last position was with the Guardian Ad Litem Program at Miami-Dade County's Juvenile Court where she represented the best interests of thousands of abused and neglected children, and recruited, trained and supervised hundreds of pro bono attorneys for 16 years. She suspended the active practice of law in 1998 to focus on advocating for better, more proactive legislative policies and priorities and was elected, in 2000, to the Florida House of Representatives to represent District 119, which included Pinecrest and all South Miami-Dade. Her legislative district was eliminated in the 2002 redistricting effort however, making it impossible to run for re-election. She continued her advocacy as a professional consultant and sometime volunteer on numerous community boards and child advocacy organizations. Mayor Lerner is currently President of Grassroots Connections, LLC, where she provides her expertise as a Consultant in Governmental and Community relations to such well regarded not for profit organizations as the Tallahassee based Children's Campaign, Inc.



Commissioner George Neugent
Monroe County

George Neugent has been the District 2 Monroe County Commissioner for 12 years. He has lived Marathon for 25 years. He has served as the County Mayor twice in his 12 year tenure, most recently in 2008-2009. He has been a successful business owner in Marathon and in his native Louisiana.



Shannon Estenoz
Board Member, South Florida Water Management District

Since 1996, Shannon has worked in the NGO sector for the restoration of the Everglades, She began her Everglades career as the Executive Director of the Environmental & Land Use Law Center. In 1997 Shannon joined the World Wildlife Fund as its Everglades field representative, and later as its Everglades Program Director. Shannon joined the National Parks Conservation Association as the Director of its Sun Coast Region, a position she held until July 2007. In April of 2007, Governor Charlie Crist appointed Shannon to the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District, and today she serves as Chair of the Water Resources Advisory Commission. Shannon also chairs the Broward County Water Resources Task Force and is a member of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, and the Broward County Water Advisory Board. Shannon's career has focused on advocating on the policy, funding, legal and technical aspects of restoring America's Everglades. Shannon served three terms as National Co-Chair of the Everglades Coalition. Shannon served on a number of key advisory bodies including Governor Chiles' Commission for a Sustainable South Florida, Governor Bush's Commission for the Everglades, the Water Resources Advisory Commission, the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Advisory Committee, and the Broward County Water Advisory Board Technical Advisory Committee.



Commissioner Sylvia J. Murphy
Monroe County

Sylvia J. Murphy is a 57 year resident of Monroe County and is retired from the County's Emergency Medical Services. She has been a District V (Key Largo) County Commissioner for four years and is currently the Mayor of Monroe County.