Stuart life

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

City of Stuart Commissioner Troy McDonald, Commissioner Tom Campenni, City Manager Paul Nicoletti, and Legislative & Economic Strategies Manager, Jim Chrulski all attended the March Florida Legislative Session in Tallahassee.

City officials visited with Treasure Coast Legislators from the House & Senate, gave support to various Bills and educated the Legislators on how these bills could positively or negatively affect the City of Stuart. City representatives also attended sessions with Legislators coordinated by the Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce and attended Florida Tourism Day. The City of Stuart met with the following legislators:

Florida House of Representatives
Representative Gayle Harrell
Representative MaryLynn Magar
Representative Debbie Mayfield
Representative Larry Lee
Representative Cary Pigman

Florida Senate
Senator Joe Negron
Senator Thad Altman
Senator Denise Grimsley

The City of Stuart's Top 3 Legislative Priorities
(Adopted by the City Commission):
1. The St. Lucie Estuary
2. Rail Infrastructure
3. Direct access by Cities to the Infrastructure Sales Tax

SB 198 (Altman): An act relating to the local government infrastructure surtax; authorizing a county governing authority to levy a discretionary sales surtax to fund capital restoration of natural water bodies for public use; limiting expenditures of the proceeds and interest from the surtax or specified bonds pledging the surtax to dredging operations related to ecologically beneficial muck removal.

HB 151 (Harrell) & SB 326 (Clemens): Requiring the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to create a voluntary certification for recovery residents; requiring DCF to approve credentialing entities to develop and administer a certification program; require background screening of recovery residence employees; provides for denial suspension, or revocation of certification; directs DCF to approve at least one credentialing entity by a specific date to develop and administer a certification program; requires DCF to publish a list on its website.

HB 153 (Lee) & SB 1116 (Abruzzo): Requiring the Office of Early Learning to establish a pilot program to assist low-income, at risk children in developing emergent literary skills; requiring the office to select an organization to implement the pilot project; requires the office of Early Learning to allocate funds for the pilot project.