



# Council Minutes

August 11, 2008  
10:00 a.m.

## **REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT**

Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County  
Past Chair, Mayor Scott Black, City of Dade City  
Commissioner Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor  
Ms. Jane Bittner, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County  
Commissioner Woody Brown, City of Largo  
Ms. Jill Collins, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County  
Deputy Mayor Bob Consalvo, City of New Port Richey  
Commissioner Rose Ferlita, Hillsborough County  
Council Member Alison Fernandez, City of Temple Terrace  
Mr. Julian Garcia, Jr., Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County  
Mr. Robert Kersteen, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County  
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole  
Commissioner Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island  
Councilman Karl Nurse, City of St. Petersburg  
Councilman Patrick Roff, City of Bradenton  
Vice Mayor Robin Saenger, City of Tarpon Springs  
Commissioner Karen Seel, Alternate, Pinellas County  
Councilman Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park  
Mr. Charles Waller, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pasco County  
Ms. Laura Woodard, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County  
Mr. Earl Young, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pasco County  
Mr. Mike Downs, Alt., Ex-officio, Department of Environmental Protection  
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-officio, SWFWMD  
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-officio, Enterprise Florida  
Ms. Lee Royal (Alt.), Ex-officio, Florida Department of Transportation

## **REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT**

Chair, Commissioner Deborah Kynes, City of Dunedin  
Vice Chair, Commissioner Bill Dodson, City of Plant City  
Mayor Larry Bustle, City of Palmetto  
Commissioner Linda Chaney, City of St. Pete Beach  
Commissioner Larry Crowley, City of South Pasadena  
Mr. Harry Kinnan, Gubernatorial Appointee, Manatee County  
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County  
Council Member Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar  
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa  
Mr. Andy Núñez, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County  
Council Member Carlen Petersen, City of Clearwater  
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County  
Ms. Kim Vance, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County  
Commissioner Jane von Hahmann, Manatee County  
Commissioner Robert Worthington, City of Gulfport

## **OTHERS PRESENT**

Calvester Anderson, Justice-2-Jesus  
Mickie Valente, Communications Progress Director, The Florida Council of 100  
Tony Carvajal, Executive Vice President, Florida Chamber Foundation  
Deborah Nicklaus, SPB  
Diane Chadwick, Wilson Miller  
Karl Holley, Community Development St Pete Beach  
Rickard Arkin, G.L. Glomer  
John Strowbridge, G.L. Glomer  
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County  
Tim Butts, Principal Planner, EHA  
Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD  
Deborah Martalne, Attorney  
Jason Mickel, Planner, SWFWMD  
Will Augustine, Planner, Hillsborough County Planning Commission  
Will Redd, Citizen

## **STAFF PRESENT**

Mr. Manny Pumariaga, Executive Director  
Mr. Donald Conn, Legal Counsel  
Ms. Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner  
Ms. Lori Denman, Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary  
Mr. John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager  
Ms. Wren Krahl, Manager of Administration/Public Information  
Mr. Bill Lofgren, Principal Planner  
Mr. John Meyer, Principal Planner  
Mr. Greg Miller, Senior Planner  
Mr. Patrick O'Neil, Senior Planner  
Mr. Brady Smith, Senior Planner  
Ms. Jessica White, Senior Planner  
Ms. Erika Wiker, Planner  
Ms. Kim Williams, Communications/Graphics Coordinator  
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director

## **Call to Order** -Secretary/Treasurer Mariano

The August 11, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council was called to order by Acting Chair, Secretary/Treasurer Mariano, at 10:12 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Councilor Bob Matthews, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

## **Roll Call** - Recording Secretary

A quorum was present. There were no voting conflicts.

## Announcements –Secretary/Treasurer Mariano

Attention was called to a Save the Date Flyer located in Council folders. Staff is currently planning a one-day seminar entitled A Cents Of Place. The seminar will take place on October 31<sup>st</sup> at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa. Presenters, both local and national, will talk about place-making and transportation, and how vital this is to our economic future. Council members were encouraged to share this with their local planning staffs because it will provide an opportunity for them to earn professional development credits. TBRPC has partnered with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and the Central Florida

Regional Planning Council on a multi-regional workshop entitled Sustainable Solutions: A Multi-Regional Approach. This event will be held on October 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Fete Ballroom in Sarasota. Information regarding this event was located in Council folders.

### Special Recognition

Philip Waller served on the Council as a Gubernatorial Appointee from Hillsborough County for 2 terms, 2002-2008. Mr. Waller joined Secretary/Treasurer Mariano at the podium and received a pen and a plaque thanking him for his dedicated service.

Mr. Waller: It has been great being on the Regional Planning Council. I think what you have embarked on with the One Bay Visioning is a significant effort and will provide a good roadmap for our region for the future. I know I will see many of you at other venues in the future. Thank you.

1. **Approval of Minutes** - Secretary/Treasurer Mariano

The minutes from the June 9, 2008 meeting were approved. (Kersteen/Black)

2. **Budget Committee** -Secretary/Treasurer Mariano

A. The Financial Report for the period ending 06/30/08 was approved. (Black/Waller)

B. Building Revenue Note Refinancing Bank Selection Process

Mr. John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager provided a recap of the Bank Selection Process.

We advertized in the St. Pete Times, the Tribune and the Bradenton Herald on July 24<sup>th</sup>. In accordance with the Tax Exempt Federal Reform Act (TEFRA) we placed a Notice of Public Hearing in the full distribution publication Pinellas News on July 25<sup>th</sup>. The Public Hearing was held on August 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at our facility.

In response to our Request for Bids, we received five proposals by the August 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. deadline. The proposals range in interest rates from 3.74% to 5.38%. Several rates were locked in for a period of time; while a few were floating until shortly before the closing date. Our current rate with Northern Trust is 4.55%. We have a target closing date of September 10<sup>th</sup>.

The bidders out of pocket expenses, which is an issuance cost born by the Council, ranged from \$1,750 to \$3,500. Several of the bids had prepayment penalties, additional costs for locking in a rate or penalties for any reason the loan does not close.

Based on the aforementioned, staff recommends the selection of Mercantile Bank, a division of South Financial Group which ranks among the top 50 U.S. commercial bank holding companies with \$14 billion in total assets and 180 branch offices in Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina. Mercantile Bank offered the lowest fixed interest rate of 3.74% with a maximum out of pocket of \$1,750 and a 15 year term with no prepayment penalty at anytime.

Secretary/Treasurer Mariano provided kudos to Mr. Pumariega and staff for securing the future and submitted a statement from Commissioner von Hahmann, who was absent from the meeting. Her statement read as follows: *It is my intention by this email to have entered into the record on Monday, August 11, 2008, my support as the TBRPC board member representing Manatee County of Agenda Item 2.B. I am in full support of the Mercantile Bank offer to finance up to \$2,500,000 at 3.74% fixed rate for 15 years to replace our existing building loan. Please accept my thanks to you and staff for a job well done. These*

*are great terms and will save the planning council many dollars in the long run. Sorry I can't be there but I will see you in September. Sincerely yours in service, Manatee County Commissioner Jane von Hahmann. I think between this statement, and the great work that was done with our tenant, it puts the Council in great stead.*

Mr. Kersteen moved approval and Mr. Waller seconded.

Mayor Black made an amendment with the following:

Move to confirm the refinancing bid award to Mercantile Bank; approve the refinancing commitment received from Mercantile Bank and authorize the execution of the commitment by our Executive Director; and authorize staff to take those action necessary to finalize this refinancing and to bring to the Council the final terms of refinancing for approval at the September Council meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Pinellas Park Resolution Request

Mayor Black moved to approve the Council's Refinancing Resolution; and request that the City of Pinellas Park hold a hearing authorizing the issuance of the Revenue Note that will result from our refinancing, and request the City approve the Resolution included in our materials following that public hearing. (Black/Matthews) Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Consent Agenda** -Secretary/Treasurer Mariano

Ms. Jill Collins, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County, filed a Voting Conflict Form 8B in connection with Consent Agenda Item #3.E.1. Notice of Proposed Change Report DRI #194-DG Farms, Hillsborough County, and refrained from voting on this item.

APPROVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

A. **Budget and Contractual** - None

B. **Intergovernmental Coordination & Review (IC&R) Program**

1. IC&R Reviews by Jurisdiction
2. July 2008 IC&R Database
3. IC&R #102-08 – Hillsborough County MPO 2008/2009 - 2012/2013 Transportation Improvement Plan, FSC SAI #FL200807074329, Hillsborough County
4. IC&R #103-08 – Sarasota/Manatee County MPO 2008/2009 - 2012/2013 Transportation Improvement Plan, FSC SAI # FL200807104351, Sarasota/Manatee Counties
5. IC&R #104-08 – Pasco County MPO 2008/2009 - 2012-2013 Transportation Improvement Plan, Pasco County
6. IC&R #105-08 – Pinellas County MPO 2008/2009 - 2012/2013 Transportation Improvement Plan, Pinellas County
7. Review of the Progress Energy Florida Levy County Nuclear Plant Site Certification Application

By law the Council is a reviewing entity for such projects. Staff reviewed the proposed project which entails a new 230kV transmission line within Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. As shown on the attached map, the entire line in our region is proposed to be within existing transmission line right-of-

way. Further action will depend upon responses to review comments.

- C. DRI Development Order Reports (DOR) - None**
- D. DRI Development Order Amendment Reports (DOAR)**  
DRI # 236 – Riviera Dunes, City of Palmetto
- E. Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) Reports**
  - 1. DRI # 194 – DG Farms, Hillsborough County
  - 2. DRI # 218 – Gateway North, Manatee County
  - 3. DRI # 245 – Big Bend Transfer Company, Hillsborough County
- F. Annual Report Summaries (ARS) / Biennial Report Summaries (BRS)**
  - 1. DRI # 95 – Wingate Creek Mine, RY 2007-08, Manatee County
  - 2. DRI # 130 – Cypress Banks, RY 2007-08, Manatee County
  - 3. DRI # 131 – Regency Park North, RY 2007-08, Hillsborough County
  - 4. DRI # 163 – Cannon Ranch, RY 2007-08, Pasco County
  - 5. DRI # 170 – Westfield Citrus Park Mall, RY 2007-08, Hillsborough County
  - 6. DRI # 195 – Gateway Areawide, RY 2007-08, City of St. Petersburg
  - 7. DRI # 246 – Suncoast Crossings, RY 2007-08, Pasco County
  - 8. DRI # 248 – Sunlake Centre, RYs 2006-08, Pasco County
- G. DRI Status Report**  
Information Only.
- H. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments Reviewed**
  - 1. DCA # 08-1, City of Seminole (adopted)
  - 2. DCA # 07PEFE-1, City of Tampa (adopted)
  - 3. DCA # 08-2AR, City of St. Pete Beach
  - 4. DCA # 08-1ER, City of Dunedin
  - 5. DCA # 07-1ER, City of Port Richey
  - 6. DCA # 08ER-1, Town of Indian Shores (adopted)

The Consent Agenda was approved. (Waller/Matthews)

- 4. **Item(s) Removed from Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s) - None**  
*Council members shall notify Chairman of any items they wish to be pulled from the Consent Agenda. These items will be discussed and voted on separately after the remainder of the Consent Agenda is approved.*
- 5. **Review Item(s) or Any Other Item(s) for Discussion - None**
- 6. A. **Antonio T. Carvajal, Executive Vice President for the Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc.**  
The Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation is a non-profit research entity focused on issues important to Florida’s future business climate. The Foundation, first established in 1968, has been responsible for a number of groundbreaking reports on topics as broad as education, transportation, economic development, and international trade. Mr. Carvajal stated he is a futurist and provided an overview of a current project - the Innovation Caucus, which is a group of stakeholders talking about the future of Florida.

Six months ago I was going around the state talking about how wonderful it had been that our state had an economic growth unmatched across the country. We had employment that had brought in 1 million new jobs and now, just six months later, I'm talking about an unemployment rate that moved from an almost historic low of 3.3% to a little over 5%. An economic growth that is still growing although puttering. Housing, is a somewhat slowed situation with projections of 12-14 more months worth of surplus on the marketplace. Why am I still doing what I do? The reality is that Florida is still a good investment. If Florida was a stock would we be buying right now? The answer is wholeheartedly yes. This is still the place to be making an investment, this is still a place for businesses to grow, this is still a great place to live, work, and play.

The Florida Chamber likes to say the future is about Florida. It is about business in Florida. When we focus on what is good for business, the long term of Florida, we turn to the fact that this is one of the places that's going to be a leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. You can see growth and a lot of change across the globe, but Florida is well positioned for the growth we are going to see across the continent. When we look at Florida we need to keep in mind that the business of Florida is the future and the future of world economy.

When we talk about the future of Florida we're talking about moving from a low cost state that was built on low wages and cheap land, to one that is built on talent, innovation and global connections. With that in mind, back in September of last year we had an Innovation Summit where we brought together 250 leaders from across the state to talk about what the potential of the state was. We also brought in many of the high tech industries that we have recruited into the state, bioscience, education leaders and we had a full day of programming set, from 8:30am to 4:30pm. We were going to try and figure out what it would take to position Florida for the future. One of the best things and worst things that could happen for a planner occurred - by 10:30am we had the answers. The answers were talent, innovation, and global connections in the economy.

We put together a group of stakeholders and brought them together under the Florida Innovation Caucus and for the last 8-10 months we have been working on an agenda for the future. We will be working in policy directions on the creation of value through the adoption and exploitation of ideas through the economy. This talks about what the future of Florida's businesses are about, and more importantly, its citizens. What do we have to be focusing on?

We are in a historical transition. We are going into an environment where not only is productivity and how we position business important, its also how we reposition human resource capital for the next 20 years. One of the trends that is concerning, and yet hopeful, is that within 20 years we are going to start approaching almost 50% of our population at traditional retirement age, somewhere between 60-65. The good news about that is we will have a lot of individuals with tons of experience, capital and potential in this state. The bad news is that if you are going to be 60 or older around that time, we aren't going to be able to let you retire. We will not be able to let you move on to the next stage of your life because the assets and resources you have are going to be absolutely essential. What's called our replacement rate is actually occurring such that for every three people that are going to be entering retirement age, only one person is entering the workforce. The future potential is great for those of us who are going to be

in that age group and want to make sure we are viable and active and contributing to the economy. The bad news is that we need to rethink our entire economy. We have to rethink what Florida is and what it is about. We think it is about innovation.

There are a number of things that are currently set up, what we call industry clusters and we thank Enterprise Florida for designing some of the ideas behind this. Enterprise Florida actually manages the state's strategic roadmap. They talk about the clusters that will be important into the future. The clusters that we have to make investments for now. Many of them are in your backyard. Life sciences, trade, information technology, tourism, aviation, security, financial. Those are going to be viable well into the future but there will be new clusters. New clusters that are already being developed here in this region. You are part of the future of Florida in terms of its economies.

One of the things that the Innovation Caucus is trying to do is figure out how to get to where we need to be in 2030. I'll keep mentioning 2030 because there are a number of interesting facts that are going to occur. Not only is our population going to be aging and reaching the retirement age, that's also when we are expecting the next 10 million people in Florida. One of the things we also try to focus on is the fact that we have to plan better for the next 10 million people than we did for the last 10 million people. I don't think anybody would say this has been a historic success on how we've come to this 18-19 million people that we have around the state. I look forward to working with you not only on the immediate pressures you have, but the long term pressures that you have.

When we've discussed about how to bridge the gap between today and tomorrow we've focused on two key areas. Cluster builders are those areas that have to do with research/development/commercialization/capital/entrepreneurs and talent-builders which are the traditional measures of higher education, pre-K through 12 education, and workforce education. One of the areas you will see evolving in this area is, how do we use human resource capital at all levels? Where are we today? I wish I could say we were the top five in every sector that we absolutely need, but we're not. When you look at the high quality economy metrics we're generally about the bottom half of the states. When you look at talent builders we're about the bottom 20 of the states. When you look at the innovation cluster builders though we do move up in some of the ranks, however, not at a stellar performance but we are ranking a little higher.

We are looking at very detailed metrics and numbers that allow us to compare against peer groups in everything from wages and productivity to education, commercialization, and assets in capital. It's a difficult situation but the trends are positive. We are developing the right type of economy and improving our education system. Decisions have to be made at the policy level where we are going to have to start recognizing the consequences of those decisions. Thank goodness we have people like you that get to listen to all the input and make the decisions day in and day out. We have to make some long term policy decisions, and more importantly, investments in our economy that will pay out to the long term.

The Innovation Caucus is trying to come up with projects and ideas that involve investments in everything mentioned above and we will take them to the legislature. The Florida Chamber is going to be taking the initiative of moving many of our recommendations forward. The Florida High Tech Corridor Council commissioned a report called *Florida's Innovation Benchmark Study* which is available on-line at:

[www.floridahightech.com](http://www.floridahightech.com) and it talks about some of the things that Florida is currently doing right, but more importantly what some of our benchmark states are doing right. They aren't just recommendations at the state level, there are some local recommendations as well. There might be something for your particular communities that would be of importance. The Florida High Tech Corridor Council services this region and is a partner in the Innovation Caucus and they are happy to answer any questions you might have on how to build an innovative economy in this region.

When we talk about governance we're talking much more than government. We're talking about re-engaging citizens in civil society, in civic engagement which is something you deal with day in and day out. We know that is a part of the future of Florida. With our plan of engaging the business community, not only in local civic activity but in long term policy positioning, hopefully you will see some progress for the state of Florida. Enterprise Florida and a few other organizations measure the progress of Florida, but we are also giving local communities access to economic data, long-term planning data that you may not have day in and day out. You know that if we go too far away from the ability to make improvements at the local level, businesses not only will not come but they will leave. We know the importance of infrastructure and we have to figure out how to track this and make sure that we understand the right investments that need to be made. One of the critical areas that this region particularly has a stronger hold than some of the rest of the state is water management. We need to understand that we need to work as one entire system. There is no part of Florida that is separate from any other part of Florida. We have to find system solutions for the entire state.

I look forward to working with you on finding solutions. If you would like additional information please go to the New Cornerstone Report on line at: [www.newcornerstoneonline.com](http://www.newcornerstoneonline.com). Also, on October 6-7 we will have the State of the State Summit where we will be providing executive briefings. We are inviting economists to talk about the realities of where Florida is; and we will be inviting leaders to come up with the next level of policy. The meeting will be held at the Renaissance at Sea World in Orlando.

Presentations can be found at [www.tbrpc.org/councilagendas/councilpresentations.htm](http://www.tbrpc.org/councilagendas/councilpresentations.htm)

7. **Council Members' Comments** - None

8. **Program Reports**

A. **Agency on Bay Management (ABM)** - Chair, Mr. Robert Kersteen

There was no meeting in July. Commissioner Seel and others took a boat trip to look at the Gulfstream natural type gas pipeline from Port Manatee into the Progress Energy Plant on Weedon Island. The boat trip was very interesting. The pipeline is 100 feet under the main shipping channel in Tampa Bay. We watched them lay the pipe into the trench in Tampa Bay and learned how they are protecting the seagrasses, etc. in the bay.

The Agency's Natural Resources Environmental Impact Review Committee will meet Thursday, August 14. All were invited to attend.

B. **Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC)** - Chair, Commissioner Bill Dodson  
No Report.

C. **Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)** - No Report.

The breach in the Tampa Bay Ammonia Pipeline on November 12, 2007 and the subsequent response to this attempted theft of anhydrous ammonia has prompted renewed concern from many sectors throughout Florida. Local elected officials in the Tampa Bay region were asked questions about the safety of transporting Anhydrous Ammonia in our area. Approximately 93% of all ammonia in the county is found on the Port of Tampa in the three terminals and this accounts for about 70% of the total volume of extremely hazardous substances found in the county. In addition to the pipeline, the ammonia, which arrives from the Caribbean and South America by ship, is transported to the fertilizer manufacturing plants by rail and by truck.

The United States Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is hosting a roundtable discussion of emergency response issues concerning anhydrous ammonia incidents. Hillsborough County is a co-sponsor of the roundtable which will be held at the USF Downtown Tampa facility located in the Tampa Port Authority building on Channelside Drive on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Registration instructions appear on the golden colored flyer in your folders. The breakout session in the afternoon entitled Emergency Planning Partnerships Panel Discussion is being hosted by the LEPC and I will chair this panel discussion.

We are informed that several members of the Tampa Bay Legislative Delegation have expressed interest in this roundtable and plan to attend, as well as the PHMSA Administrator, Carl T. Johnson and other Washington USDOT officials. In addition to the target audience listed on your flyer, local elected officials are also invited to attend and we hope that this roundtable will answer many constituents questions.

**D. Emergency Management** - Ms. Betti Johnson - No Report

**E. Legislative Committee** - Chair, Mr. Julian Garcia, Jr. - No Report.

The Legislative Committee will meet in either September or October, following the Council meeting.

**F. Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)** - Mr. Avera Wynne - No Report.

**G. Economic Development** - No Report.

**H. Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF)**

Ms. Erika Wiker provided an overview of the RDSTF. The RDSTF is under the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and Ms. Wiker is a planner that is housed at the TBRPC.

The RDSTF was established as a direct result of the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the October anthrax attacks in Boca Raton. Tampa Bay is known as RDSTF IV and is made up of 8 counties: Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sumter. It is multi-disciplinary made up of public and private sector partners such as the Department of Health, Law Enforcement, etc. Meetings are held quarterly to discuss terrorism task force initiatives.

We have an all hazards incident management team. During the Iowa flooding we stood up and mobilized, but ultimately stood down. We are working on a regional response plan, and a catastrophic plan which is built around two scenarios - terrorism or a CAT 3 hurricane threatening the Tampa Bay area. We are doing a 5-year training and exercise plan and an area maritime security exercise in coordination with the Coast Guard. We actually partnered up with the LEPC to do a full scale exercise that tested our forensic response team and our regional hazmat team, which I will show you later in the presentation. We are also going to do an active shooter exercise based on the Columbine scenario which will take place in Hardee County.

The RDSTF has a statewide exercise and training subcommittee, an urban area security working group, and is conducting all the Super Bowl planning and preparation.

The Tampa Bay RDSTF & LEPC Biennial Exercise was dubbed "9709." The objectives were to test activation protocols. PSTA donated a bus that was utilized for the exercise.

We have a litany of specialty teams in our region but none of our teams have been tested outside of normal law enforcement functions or fire rescue functions. We wanted to test our activation protocols and look at Incident Management Structure (ICS) and how we manage an actual incident. The Feds have actually mandated ICS for any event, whether it be a special event, terrorism, all hazards, whatever it is - we are required to do it by the Feds.

We wanted to demonstrate the ability to communicate. A lot of people don't think that you actually need primary and secondary modes of communication. Most people think they are going to be able to pick up their cell phones and land line phones and communicate with the next person but that's not always the case during emergency events.

We wanted to test adherence to pre-established evidence management guidelines. We have to work hand-in-hand with the FBI. They have their own set of evidence management protocol as opposed to what Pinellas County does so we needed to merge those two efforts.

We also wanted to test the capability of our hazmat teams when responding and collecting evidence for a terrorism event.

The Scenario:

We had the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) that is housed out of the FBI building in Tampa. The JTTF is primarily FDLE, City of Tampa, and FBI. They indicated via intel that we had some activity going on. We really weren't sure what was going on, but they placed our law enforcement and fire rescue on heightened alert. A suicide bomber hijacked a PSTA bus heading to Tyrone Mall in St. Petersburg. At 12:10 p.m. the bus slammed into Tyrone Mall exploding a bomb. The aftermath is 48 dead, 125 critically injured, and 220 wounded. This was the first exercise of this scale in our region.

The Players:

Pinellas County Emergency Management; Pinellas County Sheriff's Office; Pinellas

County Hazmat; Hillsborough County Emergency Management; Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office; Region IV AHIMT; ATF; FBI; state agencies - a wide variety of people who would respond. These are the people who would normally respond to terrorism activity or to an overwhelming activity.

The exercise took place over 3 days. Day 3 of the exercise took place at the Florida Fair Grounds. The Pinellas County Sheriff had their command vehicle on site. This vehicle was purchased with grant dollars and it responds to any incident locally, regionally, or out of state. Once forensic evidence was found they processed it through that command vehicle.

If anything came out of this exercise it was the coordination piece. We had never exercised with our federal partners. We rarely exercise with our state partners. Even more than that, we rarely exercise with our local partners.

The strength of the exercise was that we already had a working relationship with specialty teams. We were able to activate and mobilize. Of course there were errors in the response and the recall, but at the end of the day we were still able to mobilize. Our emergency management staff is rarely included on anything that is terrorist related so we were able to bring them into the fold and a lot of our responding partners can now understand what emergency management does, which is a benefit in and of itself. This exercise was the first time the FBI has ever been able to have a communication mode that was secure and un-secure for them to be able to communicate.

Overall, the exercise was very successful. Subsequent emergency operations plan updates and future exercises should include a focus on the aforementioned areas for improvement, as well as the continued implementation of NIMS. We will continue with future exercises that will help facilitate and prep for the Super Bowl, and to identify the gaps and move forward.

9. **Other Council Reports** - None

10. **Executive/Budget Committee Report** - No Report

11. **Chair's Report** - No Report

12. **Executive Director's Report** - Manny Pumariega

Mr. Pumariega thanked staff, John Jacobsen, Avera Wynne, Wren Krahl, and Don Conn for their work on the refinancing with Mercantile Bank. Mike Merrill and Tim Simon of The Debt Management Department of Hillsborough County provided technical assistance for the bid package. I would like to thank them for their assistance. Also, the assistance of our bond counsel.

Next month, at the September Council meeting, we will bring the legal documents and loan package to the Council. The savings over 15 years will be close to \$200,000 in interest payments.

**Adjournment** 10:58 a.m.

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Lori Denman, Recording Secretary

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Commissioner Deborah Kynes, Chair