

Pinellas County Commissioner Janet C. Long and Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Executive Director Sean Sullivan named to new Florida Advisory Council on Climate & Energy

Council will address climate change, sea level rise, renewable energy, and alternative vehicles

TALLAHASSEE, FL (March 5, 2020) – Pinellas County Commissioner Janet C. Long and Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) Executive Director Sean Sullivan have been appointed to the state’s new Florida Advisory Council on Climate & Energy, which will play a key role in helping prepare Florida for the future.

“Florida faces the nation’s greatest risk of extreme heat and flooding, increasingly frequent and devastating hurricanes, and destabilizing weather reshaping our lands, waters, farms, and cities,” said Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nicole “Nikki” Fried, who appointed Long, Sullivan and 24 other Floridians from various backgrounds and disciplines.

“I’m proud to convene this diverse group of experts that will explore innovative solutions to one of the greatest challenges of our generation,” Fried added. “From academic institutions to consumer advocates and environmental organizations to utilities, everyone has a seat at our table, and a stake in the fight against the climate crisis.”

Long, Sullivan and the other Council members will discuss and offer advice on issues such as energy conservation, renewable energy, climate change, sea level rise, alternative vehicle technology, and the state’s Florida Energy and Climate Plan.

In addition to driving resiliency efforts through her role as a Pinellas County Commissioner, Long is chairing the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition, which was formed by the TBRPC and is comprised of a group of west-central Florida municipalities that come together to discuss complex regional issues,

develop strategic regional responses for resolving them, and build consensus for setting and accomplishing regional goals.

“Being chosen to work alongside other leaders from around the state on resiliency issues is a tremendous honor, and a testament to the hard work we have put into this area in the Tampa Bay region,” Long said. “Now, it’s critical that the different areas across the state come together to share information and best practices, as well as work to facilitate solutions that make all of our communities more resilient moving forward.”

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s Sullivan became Executive Director of the organization in 2016. Since then, the group has taken a leadership role in addressing sea level rise and extreme weather in the Tampa Bay area, including coordination of the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition’s activities.

“I believe the FACCE will play a key role in understanding and implementing new ideas for protecting our state in the face of sea level rise and extreme weather,” Sullivan said. “In the Tampa Bay region, we are already learning from other areas of the state, like South Florida, and the work of this Council should help enhance these relationships.”

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