



Magnolia Heights Neighborhood Association

General Meeting – AGENDA – Tuesday, June 18

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. by Video Conference Call

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82403168966?pwd=eERocUJvc29BOWdqTTAwdGV1SDNSdz09>

- 1) Welcome & Call To Order
- 2) Police Report: Officer Samantha Reeder
 - a) Last month's calls for service
 - i) Two animal complaints, one was a dog bite (medical attention needed & victim advised to call animal control), and second was dogs on the loose (police couldn't find the dogs and advised that caller contact animal control)
 - ii) A vehicle was following someone, she believed it was her neighbor, but police spoke to the neighbor and it wasn't them. Police advised the caller to call police again if she is being followed.
 - iii) Suspicious circumstance, person in someone's backyard having an argument. Person was gone by the time police arrived.
 - iv) Ordinance violation where workers were working on a property before 8:00 AM, police advised workers of ordinance violation
 - v) Illegal parking, car cited for parking in a no-parking zone
- 3) State Representative Lindsay Cross! (see slideshow at the end of this document)
 - i) She is here to talk about her previous experience representing District 60 and her campaign to be re-elected. Please give her a warm welcome and feel free to ask her questions during our Q&A portion.
 - ii) Lindsay has a full-time staff member there 5 days a week to answer questions at her district office
 - iii) 325 bills passed house and senate in this last legislative session, governor then has power to pass or veto
 - iv) Budget cuts were made to water, infrastructure, affordable housing, arts and culture by the governor
 - v) She proposed and supported many bills regarding water quality, workers rights, climate resiliency, etc.
 - vi) See powerpoint for more detailed information
 - vii) Q&A
 - (1) George - Maryland exonerated marijuana convictions, is Florida looking to do something similar?

- (a) She has not heard of that but there is Amendment 3 on the ballot related to recreational marijuana. The governor is against and is trying to discourage its passing. Our prisons are full of people who don't need to be there, we could use some good criminal justice reform to allow them back into society and reduce the burden on tax payers
 - (2) George - Albert Whitted Airport is a significant part of our City, our Mayor would like to shut the airport down, could the runway be expanded to allow larger aircraft? Could the state from a legislature have jurisdiction?
 - (a) The state may not have jurisdiction, but she has been in meetings with those who want to protect the airport. She has worked on bills supporting different kinds of aircraft (not just planes and helicopters). State preemption is a delicate process because it could impact other municipalities.
 - (3) Sheryl - with our climate being so important to our coastline and our economy here in Florida, why was "climate change" taken out of our state's language?
 - (a) Great question. That bill also bans offshore wind production, it's a very corporate driven bill. The bill is trying to protect industries like natural gas, oil, etc.
 - (4) Sheryl - concerned about academic freedoms
 - (a) Lindsay is also concerned about academic freedoms, she has seen people leaving the state or choosing to go to school elsewhere because of the recent laws passed
 - (5) Madison - What is your opinion on the Gas Plant Site Redevelopment, especially with regards to sustainability and resiliency?
 - (a) The recommendations made last week about including LEED Certification, more green space, renewable energy, evacuation sites are all good recommendations and she agrees with them. We just have to see if they end up in the final development agreement.
 - (6) George - position on "illegals"
 - (a) More appropriate to be addressed at the federal level, but some people in the state have tried to pass bills. We should try to cooperate with the federal government to see some reforms.
 - (7) Stephen - researcher at USF St Pete, thanks for helping us get funding.
- viii) Team will be walking in Pride this Saturday, an event is on her Facebook page
- (1) Sign-up Sheet:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10O-4QxJ_i69ipEn8wy_-rQEhcNUR9wt dnTHVsea5WLw/viewform?edit_requested=true
- ix) Link to Lindsay's campaign website: <https://www.lindsaycrossfl.com/>
- (1) She is running for re-election. She is not in the primary election, but it is important to vote in the primary for city council, judges, school board, etc.
- x) **GO VOTE!**
- (1) **Primary = August 20th**
 - (2) **General = November 5th**
- xi) **If you want a write-in ballot, or need to make changes to your voter registration, follow this link: <https://www.votepinellas.gov/>**
- 4) President's Report: Warren Willingham

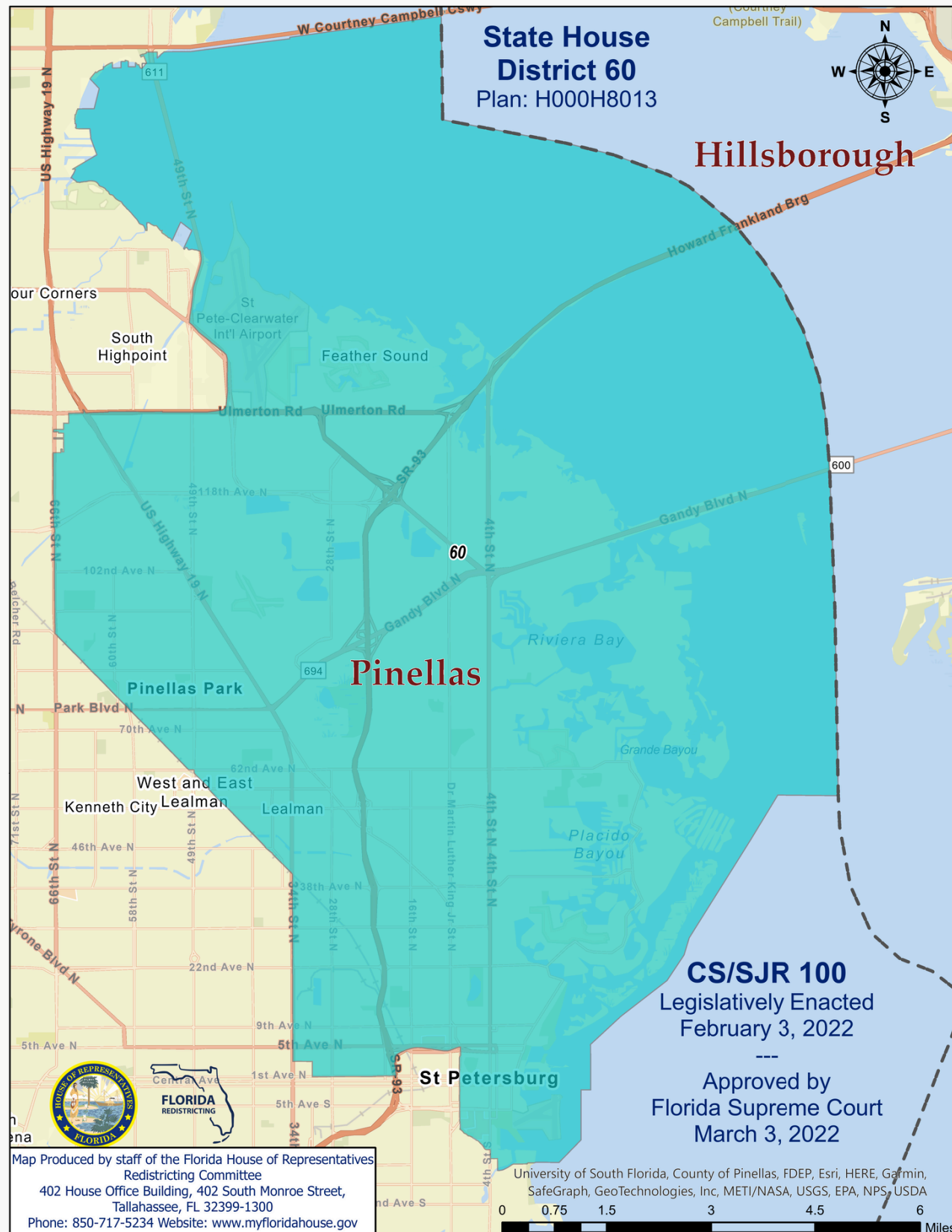
- a) Next brewery hang out date is July 2nd at 6 pm
 - i) We will call Golden Isles to reserve a table just like last time
 - ii) Our last hang out was a hit! Please let everyone know and post on socials.
- b) Our next meeting (July 16) will be in the Golden Isles back room!
 - i) Same third Tuesday and same time (7 pm)
 - ii) Making this meeting “hybrid” will be a challenge, the room isn’t set up for good audio, someone will have to bring a laptop and connect to their Wifi, it will likely be difficult to hear remote participants. Given these challenges, would anyone like to take the helm for making the meeting hybrid (Warren and Maddie are not doing it)? Do we care about making the meeting hybrid?
 - iii) If we really want good quality hybrid meetings we will have to go to Allendale UMC and change our meeting days/times.
- c) Fall Block Party will be scaled back, we are looking for volunteers for giving out food and handing out flyers
- d) Lindsay is looking for a replacement Treasurer as she's done it for years. If you are interested, she'd love to take you under her wing and teach you the ropes.
 - i) She will not be leaving the position before the end of her term, just would like to have a plan for next year and provide guidance
- e) Board meeting taking place tomorrow at Golden Isles at 6 pm!
 - i) If you're on the board, please show up!
 - ii) If you're interested in becoming Treasurer, please also show up!
- 5) Vice President Report: George Sykes
 - a) Fall block party will only be as good as the volunteers make it!
 - b) Our first planning meeting will be right after Labor Day weekend, maybe one in August. We will keep you posted.
- 6) Treasury Report: Lindsay Petty
 - a) \$1565.83 in the bank, with no expenses
 - b) A few members and two flags have been sold since the last meeting.
- 7) Secretary Report: Madison Rice
 - a) Golden Isles has “donation-based” yoga monthly, the next one is July 6th 10-11 am. You get a free beer if you participate.
- 8) Membership Committee Update
 - a) No updates
- 9) Neighborhood Concerns & Suggestions
 - a) Chris - power outages due to tree limbs
 - i) Duke has not come through and trimmed trees around the power lines
 - ii) SeeClickFix has a category for tree trimming and the info will get to Duke if needed
 - b) Geoffrey - Sandy mentioned a service opportunity, the person is willing to allow us to work on his yard
 - i) We will formalize things at our board meeting tomorrow
- 10) Adjournment: **Next meeting will be held IN PERSON at GOLDEN ISLES on July 16, 2024**
magnoliaheightsneighborhood.com/membership

MAGNOLIA HEIGHTS JUNE 2024

Representative
Lindsay Cross

Florida State House District 60





Representative Lindsay Cross, District 60

Constituent Casework

Our office is ready to assist you with referrals to government offices, provide information, manage casework, and share legislative updates.
Call (727) 552-2747 to connect with a member of our staff.

Staff

Andrea Campos, District Aide Andrea.Campos@myfloridahouse.gov
 Laurel Kerkman, District Staff Laurel.Kerkman@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Priorities

Lower Insurance, Affordable Housing, Clean Water, Education and Workforce Development, Consumer Protections



2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

2024 Session Schedule

- Committee Weeks:
 - **September 18-22**
 - **October 16-20**
 - **November 6-9**
 - **November 13-17**
- Start of Session: **January 9th**
- Sine Die: **March 8th**

Session Information

- **1,902 BILLS** filed in the House and Senate
- **325 BILLS** Passed
- A **\$117.5 BILLION** budget passed by the Legislature



COMMITTEES

2024 Committee Assignments

- Health & Human Services Committee
- Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
- Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee
- Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee
- Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee
- Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee

Agenda

District 60

2024 Bills

2024 Appropriations

Announcements

Q & A

PASSED BILLS

HB 165: Sampling of Beach Waters and Public Bathing Spaces

- Will protect Floridians from the negative health effects of water polluted by sewage.
- Requires more monitoring and timely notification (within 24 hours or next business day) to the public when waters are unsafe for swimming.



PASSED BILLS

HB 1389: Digital Voyeurism

- Increase penalties and accountability for sexual predators who are using digital spaces to exploit children and the most vulnerable in our society.
- Updates many facets of the voyeurism statute and closes loopholes.



SPONSORED BILLS

HB 1299: Property Tax Exemptions for Affordable Property

- Would provide a tax abatement of up to 100% if a homeowner rents an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) on their property at 60% or less of the area median income.
- Removes requirement for cities or counties to renew the tax exemptions passed in the Live Local Act every four years.



SPONSORED BILLS

HB 1143: My Safe Florida Home Program

Would expand the My Safe Florida Home Program to flood mitigation measures.

- 2:1 government match up to \$10,000
- Flood mitigation measures such as:
 - Flood vents
 - Dry proofing
 - Commercial flood barriers

Requires communities to participate in resiliency measures such as those within the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.



SPONSORED BILLS

HB 1187: Carbon Sequestration

Establishes a new interagency task force to develop framework for a state-level carbon sequestration program to:

- Inventory and study suitable natural and agricultural areas for carbon sequestration
- Establish methodologies and goals
- Recommend ways to enhance habitats
- Identify funding and market opportunities for a carbon sequestration program



SPONSORED BILLS

HB 1153: Advanced Wastewater Treatment

Directs the Department of Environmental Protection to compile a comprehensive list of wastewater facilities including:

- Size, treatment levels, age of facility
- Spills or infrastructure impairment
- Health of the receiving water bodies

Develop priority rankings for upgrades and inform public and decision makers.



SPONSORED BILLS

HB 397: Urban Agriculture Pilot Projects

- Will add 'new commercial' to the definition of urban agriculture.
- Allow the municipalities included in this pilot program to monitor and regulate any potential nuisances (odors, noise) arising from new commercial agriculture operations.



SPONSORED BILLS

HM 1411: Shore Protection

- Requests that Congress direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to change its restrictive beach renourishment policy.
- Current, USACE require perpetual easements from 100% of property owners within a renourishment area.
- Has led to significant delays in critical shore protection projects and the potential for local communities to lose federal funding if they cannot secure 100% of the easements.



BILLS I OPPOSED

SB 256: Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees

- Require most public sector unions to maintain 60% dues payment rates or face decertification and the inability to bargain for pay raises, health benefits, or safe working conditions
- Most affected employees perform core public sector jobs like teaching, doing clerical work, answering 911 calls at call centers, and working at city parks.

WLRN Investigations

Tens of thousands of workers in Florida have just lost their labor unions. More is coming

WLRN 91.3 FM | By Daniel Rivero
Published February 15, 2024 at 7:00 AM EST



▶ LISTEN • 12:50



Daniel Rivero / WLRN

Members and staff of AFSCME Local 199 held a drive in June of 2023 to get the amount of dues paying members past the 60 percent

BILLS I OPPOSED

SB 266: Higher Education

- Prohibits public colleges and universities from allocating funds to activities and educational majors that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

POLICY POLITICS

Florida has launched an “unparalleled” assault on higher education

Ron DeSantis is threatening academic freedom everywhere.

By Fabiola Cineas | Jun 2, 2023, 6:00am EDT

f t SHARE



Students and others attend a rally to protest Florida education policies outside Orlando City Hall on April 21, 2023, in Orlando, Florida. | Paul Hennessy/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images



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POLICIES I OPPOSED

HB 1645: Energy Resources

- Strikes more than 100 lines related to Florida's current state energy goals, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the implementation of alternative energy technologies.
- Discourages use of EVs and removes the requirement of state agencies and local governments from selecting the most fuel-efficient vehicles.

Florida could remove the majority of mentions of climate change from state law

A bill backed by the speaker of the Florida House would also make wide-ranging changes to state energy policies.



POLICIES I OPPOSED

SB 1526: Local Regulation of Nonconforming and Unsafe Structures

- Prohibits local governments from blocking the demolition of buildings that fall within the Coastal Construction Control Line and are “non conforming.”
- Property owners would be able to construct new buildings on the site up to the maximum height and density of the area.



MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Lowering Property Insurance

- No significant policies or improvements to Florida's home (and building) insurance market.
- Follows 2023 legislative sessions that provided \$3 Billion in bailouts to insurance companies with no requirements to pass savings on to homeowners.

HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE

Florida remains hot housing destination despite home insurance crisis



Christopher Fau/Getty Images

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ON THIS PAGE

- Thousands of Americans moving to Florida
- The cost of living in Florida
- The Florida insurance crisis
- The added cost of flood insurance
- How climate change is affecting Florida's insurance landscape

9 MIN READ

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Healthcare and Medicaid

- Failed to expand Medicaid access to 1,463,000 Floridians.
- Since April 2023, 460,000 children have been dropped from Medicaid.

6 SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL WEATHER VIDEO ENTERTAINMENT INVESTIGATIONS RESPONDS NEWSLETTERS...

MEDICAID

'It's disheartening': Thousands of Florida kids are losing Medicaid coverage on Easter Sunday

A Port St. Lucie kid with complicated medical needs is losing his coverage in days – and his family is claiming the notice was sudden

By Ari Odzer • Published March 29, 2024 • Updated on March 30, 2024 at 4:25 pm



Trending Stories

- FORT LAUDERDALE** Video shows... when two... during Florida... Show
- BROWARD COUNTY** Person... rescue fr... into cana...
- KEY BISCAYNE** What we... search fo... killed tee...

APPROPRIATIONS PROJECTS IN FINAL BUDGET



\$750,000 - USF St. Petersburg Trafficking Lab

This newly-established research lab works to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the human trafficking industry, and how to combat it. This funding will support the extensive research and data analyses.



\$300,000 - St. Pete Fire Ladder Truck

This funding will help purchase a new ladder truck for the St. Petersburg Fire Department.

Rep. Cross's sponsored appropriations projects in the final budget. These projects will support programs in District 60 and Pinellas County.



Q&A

- Priorities and concerns
- Potential appropriations for 2024
- Events in your neighborhood



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Newsletter

