

## Public Policy

**From:** CFHLA\_info@cfhla.org  
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**Subject:** CFHLA - Tourism's Voice: Your Political Advocate - July 30, 2009



# Tourism's Voice

Your Political Advocate

July 30, 2009

## CFHLA

## Jacob Stuart

### Governmental Links

Florida  
 Governor Charlie  
 Crist

State of Florida  
 Senate

State of Florida  
 House of  
 Representatives

Orange County

Osceola County

Seminole County

City of Orlando

City of Kissimmee

City of Sanford



Jacob Stuart, President & CEO of the Central Florida Partnership speaks to CFHLA Members

On Thursday, July 23rd, the CFHLA Breakfast Club featured **Jacob Stuart, CEO / President of the [Central Florida Partnership](#)** presenting on the topic of **“Future of Central Florida Rail.”**

Mr. Stuart informed CFHLA Members that President Obama will award \$13 billion in federal stimulus money to only 1 of 10 major U.S. corridors, one being Orlando, Tampa, and Miami. Mr. Stuart also asked members to join the grassroots effort “Connect Us” that will focus on bringing rail to Florida and will conduct a “Whistle Stop Tour” in October 2009.

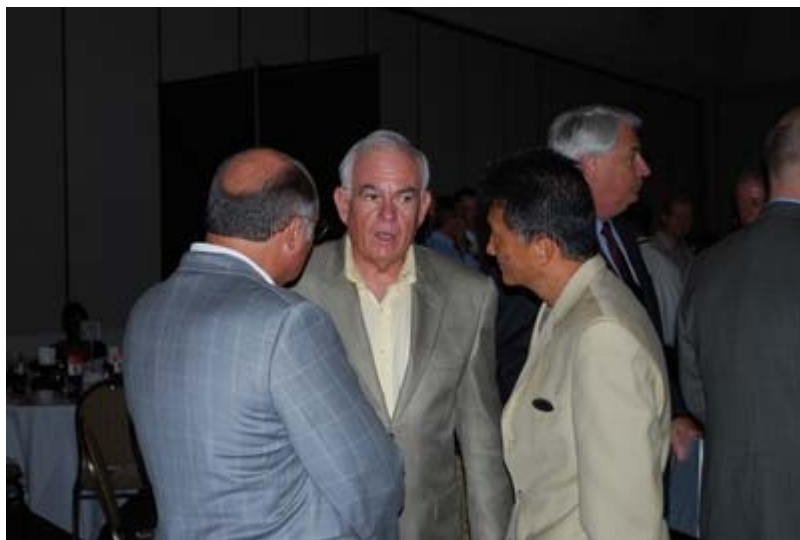


Jacob Stuart with CFHLA Members Michael Hanley, Jeff Brinda, Greg Hauenstein, and Chairman Paul Tang

CFHLA thanks corporate sponsor **Moran-Kidd** for making this event possible and would also like to thank the [Orlando Business Journal](#) for serving as the Media Sponsor.

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## Crotty, Gardiner, Haynie, Ings, Segal



Orange County Mayor Richard T. Crotty speaks with CFHLA Chairman Paul Tang & CFHLA Board Member Jeff Brinda

On Friday, July 17th at the Forward Thinking 2010 Seminar / Luncheon hosted by the [Doubletree Hotel At The Entrance To Universal Orlando](#), several elected officials attended to hear future industry trends.

The following elected officials and community leaders attended this event:

- \*Richard T. Crotty, Mayor of Orange County
- \*Andy Gardiner, Florida State Senator - District 9
- \*Martha Haynie, Orange County Comptroller
- \*Samuel B. Ings, City of Orlando Commissioner - District 6
- \*George Rodon, Mayor Crotty's Chief of Staff

## \*Bill Segal, Orange County Commissioner - District 5

CFHLA thanks these individuals for their commitment to enhancing their knowledge of the future of the tourism industry in Central Florida.

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## I-Drive CRA Budget Approved



On Tuesday, July 21st, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners approved the 2009 - 2010 budget for the I-Drive Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). The I-Drive CRA Advisory Committee is responsible for determining how to spend property taxes collected in and around International Drive.

The following new projects were approved:

\*\$2,300,000 for the final design of Bus Lanes dubbed the I-Drive Circulator with coordination with the Convention Center Campus Circulator.

\*\$4,000,000 for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over I-Drive to the West Concourse.

\*\$750,000 to complete sidewalks on Westwood Boulevard (I-Drive to Central Florida Parkway and also around SeaWorld).

\*\$200,000 to fix signage on Central Florida Parkway.

\*\$200,000 for Tangelo Park improvements including, sidewalks, pedestrian improvements and traffic calming.

\*\$100,000 for SCOOT System Expansion including real-time traffic signal timing, new intersections, and system modifications.

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## GM Meets Mayor

On Monday, July 27th CFHLA Member **Sholeh Kia** and newly appointed General Manager of the [Grand Bohemian Hotel](#) met with City of Orlando **Mayor Buddy Dyer** and his Chief of Staff **Brie Turek**.

At this introductory meeting, the future of downtown venues were discussed as well as the "blacklisting" of Orlando as a 'non-meeting destination.' Recently, Mayor Dyer was featured on CNBC's Street Signs noting, "Tourism, business meetings, conventions - that's our No. 1 industry. We know how to do it. We're a great value."

CFHLA President Rich Maladecki and CFHLA Public Policy Coordinator Erin Hellkamp also attended this meeting.

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## Rep. Precourt



Rep. Steve Precourt with CFHLA Members Michael Hanley of

[AXA Advisors](#) and Bill Baril of [First Payment Systems](#)

On July 29th at the Dr. Phillips Rotary Club Meeting, **Florida Representative Steve Precourt** - District 41, spoke to Rotarians about the recent legislative session as well as his future priorities for the next.

Precourt mentioned proposed legislation to prevent penalties for individuals who do not seek government and / or other forms of healthcare as well as his focus on providing tax incentives to boost movie production in Florida. Several CFHLA Members are active in the Dr. Phillips Rotary.

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## School Board + 1 = 9 Members?



On Tuesday, July 21st the Orange County School Board met to discuss expanding the board to nine people. This meeting was called by Orange County School Board Member - District 6, **Nancy Robinson** who cited the board's governance study committee which recommends having 9 members, with two of whom should be elected at large. In November 2008, Orange County voters approved a measure that would add an eighth member to the board who would be elected at large for a 4-year term as the Orange County School Board Chair. Board Members could not find the relevance of this issue at this time and did not reach a vote, leaving the possibility for discussion to continue at another point in time.

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## Nelson Offers Solution to Blacklisting



**U.S. Senator Bill Nelson calls together CFHLA and other leaders of the tourism industry to discuss Orlando "blacklisting"**

On Friday, July 24th CFHLA President Rich Maladecki, CFHLA Board Members Paul Tang of [Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress](#) and Duane Winjum of the [Royale Parc Suites](#) met with **U.S. Senator Bill Nelson** (D-FL) to discuss new development relating to the "blacklisting" of Orlando as a 'non-meeting' destination by Federal agencies. According to the U.S. Travel Association, three federal agencies - the Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. of Justice and the Dept. of Homeland Security - have policies in place that ban travel to 'resort destinations,' such as Orlando. Senator Nelson has proposed amendments that would make it unlawful for federal government agencies to design travel policies that blacklist U.S. cities based on their perception as a 'non-meeting' destination.

Other industry leaders included **Gary Sain**, President / CEO of the [Orlando / Orange County Convention's Visitors Bureau](#) and **Tom Ackert**, Executive Director of the [Orange County Convention Center](#).

CFHLA is meeting again with Senator Nelson on Friday, July 31 to specifically discuss the Employee Free Choice Act.

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## Register for Powerhouse PAC - Golf Today!



The CFHLA - PAC Golfing Outing, with Event Chairman **Senator Andy Gardiner (R), District 9**, is set to occur on **September 24, 2009, 1:00pm** at the [Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress](#). This new event will serve as a fundraiser for the CFHLA Political Action Committee.

[Click Here To Register Online](#)

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