



*From the Desk of Andrew D. Gillum*  
City Commission, Seat 2

Winter/Spring 2011



## Stimulating Our Local Economy

With more than one of every 10 people in Florida out of work, our local government is working to address ways to stimulate the local economy.

In 2009, the City of Tallahassee instituted the “Local Economic Emergency Fast Tracking Program for Public Sector Projects.” Since its inception, more than \$300 million—representing approximately 60 percent in contract funding—has been released for projects processed under the fast track procurement procedures. During that period we realized an average reduction from 90 days to 42 days to award contracts.

At our March 9, meeting, the City Commission permanently amended the procurement policy to further encourage local businesses during these difficult times. Revisions to the process included faster and more efficient means to resolve bid protests, to develop standardized contracts, to develop a pool of pre-qualified contractors and design firms, and to increase local preference points for local vendors.

One of our City Commission 2011 priorities is to aggressively foster a strong local/small business environment throughout the community and identify opportunities for City involvement to support local business expansion and development. The Mayor’s launch of the “Local Business Saturday” initiative promotes patronage of all locally owned and locally operated businesses on the second Saturday of each month during 2011 and a convenient website with money saving deals at <http://www.localbusinessaturday.com>.

Another robust means to stimulate our local economy is the new [“Local Business Certification Program.”](#) The program helps local businesses to garner more city work through a certification that allows a 20 percent preference to businesses in Leon County and a 10 percent preference to those in Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla Counties.

Very small or "micro" local businesses have a competitive disadvantage in competing for work on public contracts. Numerous local businesses have shared concerns about the inability to compete when larger companies

*[Continued next column.](#)*

offer cheaper bids. This new preference program should help local vendors compete more effectively with non-local firms as well as larger businesses who can spread costs throughout their company.

This new certification process is an acknowledgement that local businesses are a part of our community. They pay local taxes. They use local utilities, and they contribute to the quality of life of those who live here. We appreciate the businesses that reside in our immediate and surrounding area. Several of the initiatives I’ve highlighted came about through collaborative conversations with our partners at the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Council, Leon County, Leon County School Board and the local universities, all of who are working diligently to attract new industry and diversify our economy in the wake of uncertainty at the state level.

The current economic climate stresses the need to recirculate funds generated in the community back to the community. During these difficult times, we are all challenged to think creatively about how we keep people working. Make no rhetoric mistake about it – the City of Tallahassee is focused on getting people to work. Thank you to the businesses that have made Leon County their home. We value you and consider you a full partner in keeping our collective community vibrant and growing.

View my “2011 Awake The State Response” at:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQRu53Cj1oM>.

## Financial Sustainability

The Financial Sustainability During Recessionary Times initiative offers a forum for joint planning to address the current economic climate in Tallahassee and future collaborative efforts to improve the community's economic and financial viability. View progress reports on this initiative and information from the sessions and working group meetings at our Talgov.com website at: <http://www.talgov.com/commission/finsustain.cfm>

View the January City Commission Retreat agenda materials at <http://www.talgov.com/commission/meetings/110128/agenda.html> and a video showcasing some of the City’s accomplishments at <http://www.talgov.com/communications/cc-retreat.cfm>.

“Serving is Leading”

## What's On Your Mind?

As a city commissioner, my primary role is to focus on policymaking for efficient government operations. The gamut of our topics range from police/fire negotiations to new business/community developments to financial viability in government and so much more.

Occasionally I have the opportunity to meet with constituents who want to explore ideas for new/expanded companies; philanthropic enterprises; novel initiatives for improving the City's service and performance; and issues regarding the impact of City programs/proposals within the community. Below are snapshots of two of those visits.



### The Man in Overalls

Nathan Ballentine, a.k.a. "The Man in Overalls" with Tallahassee Food Gardens ([maninoveralls.blogspot.com](http://maninoveralls.blogspot.com)), wants to develop a center for urban agriculture in Tallahassee. He sought advice on how to leverage folks to do community gardening together. Nathan

viewed the City's Palmer Munroe Teen Center initiative as a model to garner insights on how to develop an idea into an institution. Ballentine said, "The main thing I got out of my meeting with Commissioner Gillum was to learn methods and process from an established leader and to discern what my role is in said development."



### Political Grassroots Campaigns

Stanley Hardy, IV, a Miami native and a 2<sup>nd</sup> year political science pre-law student at Florida A&M University, serves as the student government's deputy director of student lobbying. He came as a freelance student concerned

about the Democratic Party and its progress in the next two years. Stanley asked how students around the state could get involved in the political process. He was grateful for the tips gained. "Commissioner Gillum offered a lot of insight and pointers about rallying fellow students, starting up the momentum for 2012, and getting the word out. There's a lot to be done and the work starts now." Stanley was ready to run with the concept that you have to get students angry to the point that it incites involvement (*not contention*) at the grassroots level and in that process people will get pumped up to bring about change.

What's on your mind? Call my office at 850-891-8503 to schedule an appointment to share your items of interest or "friend" me on Facebook at:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Andrew-Gillum/233733121020>.

## Information Technology Bridging the Gap with Local Government

Submitted by Cory Sanders

President of The Sanders Group LLC  
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for City Commissioner Andrew Gillum



Information technology (IT) and political leaders can team up to enhance our nation's development. Government leaders, including elected officials, benefit from having a comprehensive understanding of IT infrastructures and the functionalities that can enhance our local community. Understanding IT and the proper utilization thereof can be an incredibly powerful tool.

Today's society is computer savvy and technically sophisticated—practically everyone is "connected" by way of emails, text messaging, and web searches. These readily accessible and rapidly growing technological advances are crucial in today's business world. Thus, we must strive to bridge the gap between policymakers and deployment thereof. It is imperative to educate and demonstrate the merits of how technology can support internal operations and strengthen connectivity with constituents.

The staggering distribution numbers through channels like iTunes, YouTube, or podcasting websites during election season of presidential and congressional races indicate that IT contrivances can have a significant role in any election. Candidates can use these devices to communicate their message as well as allow supporters to post contributions. Progressive government entities use these mechanisms in similar fashion, including serving as a link to receive and respond to constituent concerns.

Hi-tech ingenuity makes cyber warfare a grave concern to all levels of government policymakers. Mitigating information security threats such as ID theft, data security breaches, hackers, viruses, and email threats is an ongoing battle. Government agencies must be diligent to protect information and systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, perusal, inspection, recording or destruction.

Changes in the political climate can negate or promote regulations governing safe and effective practices, which subsequently may result in directional discontinuity from one elected official to the next elected. It's crucial to safeguard network systems from internal and external criminal mischief. At the same time, we should find the means to employ IT resources for optimal service delivery.

"Serving is Leading"

## Andrew's Menu Unveiling



*Andy Reiss and Gillum  
at January 27, 2011  
menu unveiling press event*

[Andrew's Capital Bar and Grill](#) is a popular downtown hotspot year-round—hosting the every now and then drop-ins as well as the heavy foot traffic of legislative sessions and the festive [Downtown GetDowns](#). The owner, Andrew “Andy”

Reiss, teases me about the restaurant bearing my name. Although I can't take any credit for its successful longevity as a prosperous downtown vendor, Andy has given me an opportunity to influence his patronage.

On January 27<sup>th</sup> the restaurant hosted its 16<sup>th</sup> menu unveiling which included a menu item bearing my name, “Andrew Gillum’s Tuscan Veggie”. This vegetarian dish can also be ordered with grilled chicken. The menu is normally changed when Florida’s administration changes. During this election term, Reiss sought suggestions from his customers. I am honored to be one of the “people’s choice”. The new menu also features items named for local and state elected officials and celebrities such as the governor, lieutenant governor, school superintendent, the mayor, coaches and others. View the full menu at [www.andrewsdowntown.com](http://www.andrewsdowntown.com).



*Andrew Gillum's Tuscan Veggie  
Mozzarella cheese, roasted red  
Peppers, fresh spinach, sliced  
Tomatoes, with balsamic  
Dressing on grilled  
Rustic bread*

## Look Who's Cooking

I was flabbergasted when reality set in that I, as a guest celebrity chef, was to cook a dish in 3½ minutes on live TV (WCTV Channel 6, February 26, 2008, “Good Morning Show”). What was I to do? My wife R. Jai (my girlfriend at the time) gently guided me step-by-step on how to make one of my favorite dishes—pepperoni pizza. Her ingenuity to have the ingredients pre-sorted to make miniature pizzas helped me be organized, appear polished, and yielded a tasty dish for the TV crew.

[Continued next column](#)



*Gillum measuring  
ingredients*

## PMTC Entrepreneurs and Chefs in the Making

The “Joy of Cooking” didn’t evolve from that experience; yet, it heightened my awareness of the skills needed to prepare healthy and delectable meals. On a recent visit to the Palmer Munroe Teen Center’s (PMTC) Teen Top Chef Program, I observed Ms. Gloria Nicholson—former owner of “Dew Drop In Cafe”, now an independent caterer ([dewdropincafe@yahoo.com](mailto:dewdropincafe@yahoo.com)) emphasize and demonstrate kitchen safety and competences for food preparation.



*Gloria Nicholson  
and student  
volunteer Amy King*

Amy King, a FAMU Criminal Justice senior from Miami, FL serves as a student volunteer. Former PMTC Top Teen Chef alumnus Trionne Lane returned to help other youth learn. Trionne said, “I want to help them gain the skills that I got from the class because they might need them later”.



*Trionne Lane  
Top Teen Chef*



*Jakari Scott learns  
how to pare an apple.*



*D'Erykah Wright  
and Vashon York  
prepare to make  
fried cinnamon  
apples.*

Teens in the class (approximately 20 males and females) explore a full range of recipes—breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert—including dishes such as homemade biscuits and cheese potato frittata. They practice their skills in a safe and guided environment. Some students, like Jakari Scott attend solely to learn how to cook a meal. D'Erykah Wright wants to pursue culinary arts and aspires to be a chef or own a restaurant. Vashon York has philanthropic aspirations to provide a “soup kitchen” to feed the indigent.

The six-week class is sponsored through a partnership with Tallahassee Community College – College Reach Out program. The TCC program provides funds for the instructor. You can partner with PMTC also. The Top Teen Chef class needs and welcomes donations of aprons, cutting boards, cooking utensils, and food. Deliver to PMTC or staff will gladly pick the items up.



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“Serving is Leading”

## ☞ Health Reform Begins With You ☞

The nation is focused on the evolving effect of the Affordable Care Act enacted in March 2010. This legislation proposes to curtail the downward spiral of the health care system and to prevent the free rein of insurers to raise premiums on families and small business as well as their ability to deny or limit coverage with no accountability or recourse. A fact sheet entitled, "[Health Reform: Good for the Economy and Good for Jobs](#)" presented by President Barack Obama's administration highlights some of the early deliverables as being:

- 935,000 private sector jobs created since the legislation.
- The economy grew at an average annual rate of 2.7% during the first three quarters of 2010.
- Several predictors of future economic growth, including consumer confidence, retail sales, and auto sales have been on an upward trajectory since the enactment.
- Increased efficiency and reduction in health care costs frees up resources of individuals and businesses, thus, their resources can be used elsewhere.
- Increased insurance coverage and hence, improved health care is likely to increase labor supply by reducing disability and absenteeism in the work place.
- Reduced health care cost will serve as an incentive to promote business development and entrepreneurship.

The City's Financial Viability in Government Target Issue Committee is conscientious of the escalating costs to provide health care access as an employee benefit. We will continue to monitor the merits of this legislation and how it affects the City's efforts to provide our employees with optimum health care services at the lowest possible cost.

Putting a human face to the value of comprehensive care calls for our creativity in developing partnerships with health related entities and encouraging employees to be self-motivated and proactive regarding their overall health care. While the City stresses the importance of wellness and maintaining a healthy workforce to help reduce healthcare costs, personal health reform begins with you.

Under the City Manager's leadership, the Choose Health Wellness Program offers employees a vast array of access to resources related to wellness topics, health screenings, fitness classes such as Zumba and Pilates, and other physical activities and contests. Several City departments have added on-site fitness centers at their facilities. The most recent being City Hall, which made its debut on January 11, 2011.

[Continued next column – Choose Health Wellness Program](#)

## ☞ Florida Democratic Party ☞

### *Gillum's Appointment to Leadership Team*

Former State Senator Rod Smith was elected on January 8, 2011 to serve as chairman of the [Florida Democratic Party](#). He has vast experience in the political process and is focused on three major priorities: the 2012 reelection of President Barack Obama and U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, and thirdly, ensuring that the legislative task of redrawing new congressional and legislative districts yields fair districts that represent the people's will and the diversity of Florida. His work is cut out for him.

I am honored that Chairman Smith selected me to serve on his Leadership Team for youth outreach. My primary focus is to assist with recruiting and training young men and women to run for office. I envision various initiatives evolving geared towards building a grassroots base of statewide campaign managers, field organizers, finance directors, communications staff, and volunteer coordinators.

#### *Choose Health Wellness Program (continued)*

Judy Donahoe, a property management employee, declared, "It's the best thing that has happened this year." Although she works out at home, she also visits the City Hall Fitness Center twice a week for about 45 minutes. Her favorites are the treadmill and the elliptical.



*Judy Donahoe works out on the elliptical.*

Adrienne Bellflower, another property management employee, is an avid user of the stretching machine. She is also active in the twice a week Pilates class. Adrienne appreciates having the equipment on-site, yet she cautions, "It offers no value to you unless you use it."



*Adrienne Bellflower stretches during a break.*

## ☞ Calendar Events ☞

<http://www.tal.gov.com/commission/calendar.cfm>, located on our tal.gov.com website, provides a listing of upcoming City Commission related meetings. Please call my office at 850-891-8503 if you are interested in scheduling an office appointment.

***Thank you for your feedback and support.***

**"Serving is Leading"**