



From the Desk of Andrew D. Gillum
Mayor Pro Tempore / City Commission, Seat 2



2009 - 1:10

🌀 Season of New Beginnings 🌀

September ushered in the first day of Autumn and I'm quite sure you have noticed nature's seasonal changes—cooler morning temperatures, golden leaves cascading the yards and squirrels wrestling over fallen pecans—such a sight to see. As seasons change, our fiscal year (FY) has changed, as FY 2009 closed, FY 2010 began October 1. This year will also bring change in how we conduct City business, yet we will still work towards becoming more effective and efficient with a citizen-based approach. It's been said that since change is inevitable, the best way to handle change is to learn how to manage it rather than resist it.

“Growth means change and change involves risk, stepping from the known to the unknown.”—Author Unknown

The September 23rd final budget proceedings ([agenda item #15](#)) were excruciatingly painful for elected officials, City management, general employees, as well as constituents. Controversial and sensitive issues were addressed, different strategies explored, and difficult decisions made. City employees and services fell victim to budget cuts. Several constituents vocally and some violently expressed their dismay at the causes, choices and conclusions that were presented. Yet, we had to press through the fallout and seek amicable means and resources to maintain integrity, prudence and fiscal efficiency for now and years to come. I'm sure the broader community will come to see our acts as selfless and for the good of the whole.

🌀 Welcome Commissioner Gil Ziffer 🌀

[On August 31, 2009](#), the City Commission selected Gil Ziffer to serve in the seat vacated by former Commissioner Alan Katz. This appointment was made consistent with [City Policy #144](#) that dictates it be made within 20 working days or the governor of the state will make the appointment.

🌀 Target Issue Committees 🌀

October 1, 2009 marked the shift of City elected officials' assignments for [City Commission Target Issue Committees](#). Each committee is charged with reviewing specific focus areas, propose effective solutions to achieve efficiencies and improve the quality of life in the community.

New assignments for FY 2010 are as noted below. The first commissioner listed will serve as the lead commissioner for the committee.

[Economic Development](#) – John Marks, Gil Ziffer

[Long Range Planning](#) – Mark Mustian, John Marks

[Health and Human Services](#) – Debbie Lightsey, Andrew Gillum

[Financial Viability](#) – Andrew Gillum, Mark Mustian

[Environmental and Energy Resources](#) – Gil Ziffer, Debbie Lightsey

🌀 Palmer Munroe Center 🌀

Effective October 1, 2009, the Palmer Munroe Center closed due to budget cuts. It proved beneficial to the community in its prime; yet, gentrification of the neighborhood invoked a necessity for change in program purpose and format. Changing trends in the community also impacted youth participation at the facility.

Hence, the City will explore options to preserve and convert the vacated facility into a resource/activity center geared towards teens. This initiative will be approached with innovation and a fresh community perspective for teen investment and teen involvement.

*“Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely.”—
Arthur Unknown*

“Serving is Leading”

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Community Spotlight

New Zion P. B. Church 82nd Church Anniversary



Elder/Pastor F. R. & Mrs. Delorise Rush and Gillum

It was my honor to give greetings at the August celebration that reflected upon the longevity of the church as well as recognized several senior members who had been instrumental in the growth of the church and in the community.



New Zion PB Church Honorees

My recent experience with the death of a high school/college colleague and friend brought home the significance of treasuring each day of life given to us, those whose path merges with my own, and heed the lessons and examples of our forefathers.



Gillum and Ms. Willie Mae Pemberton-Gaines

Pioneers believe beyond boundaries to accomplish remarkable feats because of their spirit of “I Can”. These honorees’ ranged from 72 to 95 years of age, with some of them having served the church since its early stages. Reports of their servant leadership and humble sacrifices were inspiring and invigorating.

Thus, during the bereavement of my friend it was healing for my spirit to offer these elders a proclamation and a medallion of honor from the Mayor for their testament of faith, endurance and commitment. Let their legacy live on.

Director of Youth Leadership Programs

As the founding director of People For the American Way Foundation’s (PFAWF) Young Elected Officials Network (YEO), I helped create a network which supports over 500 young, progressive elected leaders nationwide with leadership and personal development training and public policy support. Effective August 2009, (PFAWF) appointed me as Director of their Youth Leadership Programs.

In this new role I will continue to oversee the work of YEO, as well as that of Young People For, which identifies talented progressives on college campuses to give them knowledge and skills for a lifetime of activism and leadership. I will also provide leadership for the strategic planning, implementation, and development to a new program, the Young Professionals Activists Network, which will develop young progressives leaders who are out of school but who are not elected officials.

October Calendar Events

“Subject to Change”

Date	Time	Events
10/5	7 am	Rickards Challenge Day
10/7	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC
10/13	8 am	Nims Volunteer Breakfast
10/13	11:50 am	Youth Leadership Talla. Education Day
10/13	5 pm	Jt. Public Safety Mtg. @ Courthouse
10/13	6 pm	Jr. Comp Plan Adoption Hearing @ Courthouse
10/14	9 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
10/15	8 am	Teen Center @ Palmer Munroe Center
10/17	8:30 am	Digital Harmony Rollout
10/19	Noon	CRA @ CHC
10/19	1 pm	CRTPA @ CHC
10/21	9:30 am	Financial Viability @ CH
10/21	1 pm	Charter Review @ CHC
10/21	3:30 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC
10/28	9 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
10/28	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC
10/29	8 am	Teen Center @ Palmer Munroe Center

Code:

- CC – City Commission
- CH– City Hall
- CHC – City Hall Chambers
- CRA – Community Redevelopment Agency
- CRTPA – Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency
- HHS – Health & Human Services Target Issue Committee
- LRTI – Long Range Target Issue Committee

“Serving is Leading”