



INSIDE VOLUSIA BUSINESS

Daytona Regional Chamber Calls for Business Liability Protection

The Daytona Regional Chamber recently expressed its support of legislation to discourage frivolous lawsuits against businesses operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many businesses are struggling to either maintain or return to operations and Governor DeSantis has worked to balance pandemic safety concerns with the survival of Florida's economy. Across the country, the number of lawsuits related to COVID-19 is growing and business owners are barely managing to persevere through the pandemic recession while battling crippling litigation.

The Florida Legislature is considering measures that would provide tort immunity and liability protections for businesses from claims of COVID-19 exposure. These liability protection measures are also being considered as a part of the next stimulus package being negotiated in Washington, D.C. In a recent Tallahassee Speaker Series event hosted by the Daytona Regional Chamber, Florida



Leek

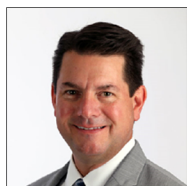


Patronis

Representative Tom Leek commented, "Liability cases can become complex, drawn out and expensive – it is not losing the lawsuit that gets you, it's the fact of the lawsuit that gets you."

State CFO Jimmy Patronis said, "As a former small business owner myself, I understand the real liability challenges facing our businesses as they work to reopen safely in the face of COVID-19. I would like to thank the Daytona Regional Chamber for their support and I look forward to working together to ensure Florida businesses and employees are protected."

Chairman's Perspective



Robert W. Lloyd
Daytona Regional
Chamber Chair

Occasionally, in my remote-working pandemic existence, I have succumbed to the temptation to watch television news for updates on the active hurricane season, the dynamic political arena or the hope of encouraging news about college football this

fall. The only thing worse than the dire reports of natural disasters threatening our coastal communities, hysterical stories of political intrigue and the touch-and-go status of a 2020 college football season is the ceaseless barrage of ads by plaintiffs' lawyers. It is a startling reminder of why the American Tort Reform Association (ATRA) has consistently listed the entire state of Florida as a "judicial hellhole." In fact, Florida had the distinction of being listed by ATRA as the Number 1 "judicial hellhole" in the United States. The ads and billboards that overwhelm our consciousness in Florida are a testament to the fertile ground for tort litigation and the strength of the plaintiffs' bar. Now, with

COVID-19, the plaintiffs' bar is not letting a good crisis go to waste. They have sprung into action seeking businesses to assail. Restaurants, nursing homes, hotels, hospitals, schools and just about every other segment of our economy are under attack even as they struggle for survival in the pandemic-induced economic recession. Florida businesses desperately need tort liability protections from our legislature, but timing and substance of this hopeful legislation is a fraught issue.

The 2020 Florida legislative session was in its final weeks when the pandemic descended upon the United States. Unfortunately, it was too late to provide needed tort immunity or liability protections for businesses being ravaged by shutdown orders and lawsuits arising out of an unprecedented global phenomenon. The upcoming 2021 Florida legislative session is scheduled to commence on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. That is approximately five months of additional time for businesses to continue to endure the COVID-19 pandemic, the uncertain

See CHAIRMAN, P5

Learn About Candidates at Hob Nob 2020

Presented by **Jon Hall Chevrolet**

Each election year the Daytona Regional Chamber, VCARD and VYPG host a special meet the candidates event. This year, Hob Nob 2020 will be virtual using the Acelevents online platform on Wednesday, October 14, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Attendees will interact online with candidates and participate in our straw vote which will include elections for President, House District 6; Fla Senate District 7; House District 25, 26, 27; County Chair and Council Districts 2, 3 & 4; City elections - Daytona Beach, Ormond Beach, Florida Constitutional Amendments, Volusia County Charter Amendments as well as other offices/issues.

Volusia Elections Supervisor Lisa Lewis will be available to answer questions about vote-by-mail, new precinct locations, early voting dates/locations, ballot security and other topics.

For more information on attendance, sponsorship, or candidate booths for Hob Nob 2020, please contact Jim Cameron, Senior VP of Government Affairs at jim@daytonachamber.com or 386.523.3673. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by going to daytonachamber.com.

Thank you to Platinum Sponsor **Daytona Beach News-Journal**, Silver sponsors **Charter-Spectrum**, **Halifax Insurance Partners**, **B. Braun Medical, Inc.** and **FPL**. And Bronze Sponsor **Charles Wayne Properties**.

It's a great opportunity for voters to learn about candidates one-to-one.



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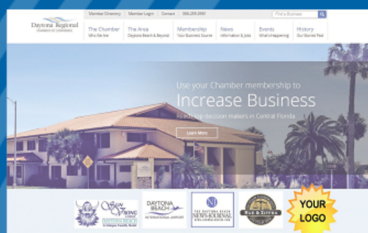


Inside Volusia Business

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CONTACT KEN PHELPS
386.523.3675

Florida Enters Phase 3 of Reopening

On Friday, September 25, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued an executive order ushering the state into Phase 3 of reopening amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the highlights of Phase 3:

- Restaurants may reopen at a minimum capacity of 50% if local regulations prevent them from resuming full capacity.
- While mask rules and regulations may still be implemented at the local level, the executive order suspends the collection of fines and penalties upon individuals.

The Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce will share additional information on

on the impact of the Governor's executive order as it becomes available. Please follow the Daytona Regional Chamber's Facebook page as an additional outlet for information.



2021 Board of Directors Named

At the September meeting of the Board of Directors, the slate of nominees for the 2021 Board of Directors was ratified after notification to the membership. Joining the Board in January 2021 as new board members are:

Chris Bowler, Daytona Beverages, LLC; **Dr. E. LaBrent Chrite**, Bethune Cookman University; **Rufus Johnson**, Johnson Agency, Inc.; **Geico**; **Laquetta McGill**, Vystar; **Jack Palmorn**, Coca-Cola Beverages Florida; **Dean Schneider**, Ladies Professional Golf Association; **Chris Tolland**, Foundation Risk Partners; **Holly Woerschling Zitzka**, Cobb Cole;

Returning to the Board to complete another term are: **Shawn Abbatesa**, The Advocate; **Rodney Cruise**, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University; **Will Landreth**, Truist; **Mike Sibley**, James Moore & Company, P.L., CPAs & Consultants; **Rose Ann Tornatore**, Wholesale Lighting, Inc. and **Terry Cain Tyler**, TCT Advantage, LLC.

Remaining on the Board are: **Jim Carnall**, Command Medical Products, Inc.; **Owen Chittenden**, Geri Westfall Real Estate; **Margaret Conn**, TD Bank; **Cheryl Coxwell**, NASCAR; **Kevin Craig**, AT&T-Florida; **Tim Davis**, SVN Alliance/Commercial Real Estate; **Randy Dye**, Daytona Dodge Chrysler Jeep RAM Fiat; **Tad Durrance**, Halifax Paving; **Steve Farmer**, Brown & Brown; **Harold Goodemote**, Coleman Goodemote Construction Co.; **Nancy Guran**, The Daytona; **John Guthrie**, Halifax Health; **Jordan Jiloty**, NASCAR; **Jane Katona**, Daytona

Beach News Journal; **Kelly Parsons Kwiatek**, Halifax Heath **Bob Lloyd**, Brown & Brown; **Nellie Lupoli**, ICI Homes; **Brent Handshoe**, Wells Fargo; **William Landreth**, Truist; **Dr. Tom LoBasso**, Daytona State College; **Philip Maroney**, Root Company; **Len Marinaccio**, Bomar Construction; **Chris Mavronas**, Steve's Famous Diner; **Stephanie Mellenberndt**, Advent Health; **Frank Molnar**, Lifestyle Group-Oceans Luxury Realty; **Keith Norden**, Team Volusia; **Ed Noseworthy**, Advent Health; **Bob Rand**, Coldwell Banker Commercial Benchmark; **Natali Reyes**, Paul, Elkind, Branz & Kelton, PA; **Carmen Ruiz**, FASTSIGNS of Daytona Beach; **Dave Schandel**, Florida Healthcare Plans; **Bobby Thigpen**, Ritchey Automotive; **Jim Tobin**, Realty Pros; **Chip Wile**, Daytona International Speedway and **Linda Webster**, Florida Power and Light. Providing legal counsel is **Michael Sznajstajler**, Cobb Cole and serving as ex-officio, **Bob Davis**, Lodging & Hospitality Association of Volusia County.

Nominating Committee Chairperson, **Len Marinaccio**, Bomar Construction would like to thank the following members of the Nominating Committee for their work in presenting the strong slate of candidates for the Board: **Bob Lloyd**, Brown & Brown; **Randy Dye**, Daytona Dodge Chrysler Jeep RAM Fiat; **Philip Maroney**, Root Company; **Bobby Thigpen**, Ritchey Automotive; **Teresa Rand**, Rand Consulting, LLC; **Eric Peburn**, Halifax Health and ex-officio's; **Kelly Parsons Kwiatek**, Halifax Heath and Chamber President & CEO, **Nancy Keefer**.



BALLOT SCORECARD

ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2020



BALLOT ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	POSITION
FLORIDA AMENDMENT 1: Citizen Requirement for Voting	Stipulates that only US citizens are qualified electors in Florida. Florida's current constitution says every citizen can vote. This would stipulate only citizens can vote.	
FLORIDA AMENDMENT 2: \$15 Minimum Wage	Raises minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour effective September 30, 2021. Each September 30 thereafter, minimum wage increases \$1.00 per hour until the minimum wage reaches \$15.00 per hour September 30, 2026. Afterwards, future minimum wage increases would then be adjusted annually for inflation starting September 30, 2027.	
FLORIDA AMENDMENT 3: Top-Two Open Primaries	Would allow for open primaries for state offices. It would replace closed primaries with a 'top two' primary system whereby all candidates would be placed on one ballot regardless of political affiliation. Top two candidates with most votes would advance to general election.	
FLORIDA AMENDMENT 4: Require Constitutional Amendments to be Passed Twice	Currently in Florida, an amendment is approved at one general election (with a 60% majority) to become part of the constitution. Amendment 4 would require that any future amendments be approved by two consecutive general election ballots (by a 60% majority) to be ratified.	
FLORIDA AMENDMENT 5: Extend "Save Our Homes" Portability Period	Would increase the period during which a person may transfer "Save Our Homes" benefits (assessed at less than just value) to a new homestead property from two years to three years.	
FLORIDA AMENDMENT 6: Homestead Property Tax Discount for Spouses of Deceased Veterans	Would allow a homestead property tax discount to be transferred to the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran.	
VOLUSIA COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT: Volusia ECHO: Environmental, Cultural, Historic and Outdoor Recreation Projects to Enhance Our Quality of Life	Would allow Volusia County to continue to fund environmental, cultural, historic and outdoor recreation projects for public use, including issuing bonds not exceeding \$40 million, payable from continuation of an existing ad valorem tax not exceeding 1/5 mill levied for 20 years.	
VOLUSIA COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT: Volusia Forever	Would allow Volusia County to continue to fund the acquisition and improvement of environmentally sensitive, water resource protection, and outdoor recreation lands for conservation and resource-based recreation, including issuing bonds not exceeding \$60 million, payable from continuation of an existing ad valorem tax not exceeding 1/5 mill levied for 20 years.	

"Neutral" indicates that the Daytona Regional Chamber did not take a position as it was deemed not a business issue

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JIM CAMERON AT 386.523.3673

A Celebration of Community, A Rally to Resilience



Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 17 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. for a twist on the Daytona Regional Chamber's Annual Luncheon. As we have all navigated an unprecedented year trying to get Back in Business Safely, the Daytona Regional Chamber will celebrate community, recognize those businesses that have persevered through incredibly difficult circumstances, and

provide a little inspiration that will help us all continue to move forward.

The program will feature a limited amount of in-person attendance as well as an opportunity to join in on the fun virtually for those interested in an electronic option.

We need your help to celebrate the business community throughout the Daytona Beach region. Send us a photo of your team doing business. Show your fellow Daytona Regional Chamber members how you are working hard to be resilient in difficult times. Photos will be featured in montages throughout the program. Submit your photo to Shanna Coley Hughes, Program Manager, at shanna@daytonachamber.com.

Welcome New Members Investing in Daytona

As the area grapples with getting back in business safely, the following have still chosen to invest in this community with a membership in the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Find out how you can both expand your business opportunities while supporting an organization that works to improve the business climate for the greater Daytona Beach region. Contact Brian Miseveth, Business Development Consultant at 386.522.3680.

Aabco Cabinetry and Design
Aegis Consulting
Audio Visual Group
Bob Williams
Boogie Down Golf Carts & Bicycles
Greeknalia
Hunt House Vacation Homes
Manatee Scenic Tour Boat
Sea Spirit Deep Sea Fishing
Silver Coast Coins

Daytona Regional Chamber Upcoming Events

Hob Nob presented by Jon Hall Chevrolet

Wednesday, October 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Virtual via Accelevents

\$10 to participate

Business After Hours

Tuesday, October 20 at 5:30 a.m.

Location TBD

\$10 member / \$35 non-member or

day of event is \$15 member / \$35 non member

Non-Profit Roundtable

Friday, October 23 at 8:00 a.m.

For participation criteria contact Nichole Sprague at 386.523.3677

Zoom into Eggs & Issues: Developing Beach Street

Thursday, November 12 at 8:00 a.m.

Virtual via Zoom

\$17 member / \$35 non-member or day of event is

\$22 member / \$35 non member

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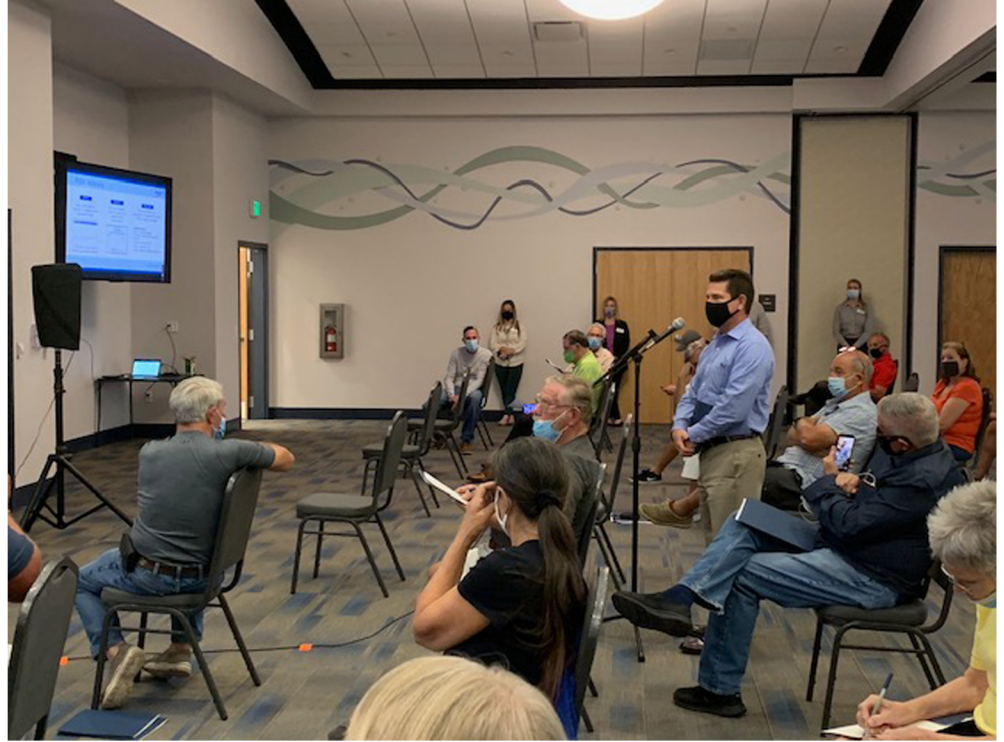
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outcome of local and national elections, the volatile economic environment, and the highly active litigation climate. Even with the very best of legislative results, it may be too little, too late for businesses currently being sued and hanging on by their fingernails. Retroactive applicability of tort immunity or liability protections to actions already pending or filed prior to effective legislation is highly unlikely.

Substantively, tort immunity and liability protection for businesses may take two forms: (1) an absolute bar of any common law tort cause of action for COVID-19 exposure; or (2) a cause of action with a heightened burden of proof (clear and convincing evidence instead of a preponderance) or limitation to certain types of defendant conduct (willful and wanton conduct instead of simple negligence). Both options have great promise and a steep political hill to climb. Proving causation or, in other words, where a person might have “caught the bug” of COVID-19 is an almost insurmountable burden of proof when dealing with a virus that is aerosolized and highly transmissible. Also, the liability protections might be great, but businesses will continue to incur defense fees and costs in fighting to assert the protections. Thus, litigation will continue to be expensive for businesses even with statutory defenses and protections.

Nevertheless, some protection from our state legislature is better than nothing at all regardless of the timing, the effective date or the substance of the law. Your Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce steadfastly aligns with the U.S. Chamber and the Florida Chamber in supporting and encouraging our legislature and congressional delegation to enact legislation to protect businesses from COVID-19 lawsuits. I understand that plaintiffs’ law firms are businesses too. They have payrolls to meet, advertising budgets to fulfill and ad spaces to purchase. Profiting off the anguish of other local businesses in a global pandemic should not be a business plan suffered or allowed, even in a “judicial hellhole.”

CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Daytona Regional Chamber Chair Bob Lloyd told FDOT officials that while the Chamber is on record for supporting a roundabout at the intersection of East ISB and A1A, we are open to an enhanced signalization plan. The main goal is to provide an improved roadway as our gateway to the beach. One that is aesthetically pleasing and one that accommodates improved safety for our citizens and visitors. Lloyd stated that the Chamber supports efforts that will expedite the completion of this important corridor.



Golfers enjoy the day at the Daytona Regional Chamber's Business Links Golf Tournament presented by Brown & Brown

*This monthly publication is produced by the
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O. 386.255.0981*



CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

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TRUSTEE - VISIONARY



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