

Report points to need to bolster health preparedness

By Christine Sexton
The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — As the 2019 hurricane season looms and as hepatitis A cases continue to soar in Florida, a report issued Wednesday shows that more work needs to be done to ensure the health and safety of residents against emerging infectious diseases, terrorism and extreme weather conditions.

Florida scored a 6.7 on the 2019 National Health Security Preparedness Index, putting it on par with the national average. The report, issued by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, analyzed 129 different measures for each state and the nation. The measures are spread across six broad categories and tallied for an overall score.

Glen Mays, a professor of health policy at the University of Kentucky who worked on the index, said the information is being shared to try to improve the nation’s ability to ensure the public health and safety of citizens during disasters.

“Given that as a country we are facing more of these emergency situations, natural disasters, man-made disasters and more disease outbreaks, so raising awareness about what each state can do and where the strengths are and also where the weaknesses are, we hope that can mobilize some people to take some action,” he said. “That’s the major purpose. Because when it comes to disaster preparedness, it’s largely a

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The assessment was originally developed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2013. The goal is to attain a composite score of 9, which would indicate a “strong health security level.”

Florida earned a 9 in two categories: health security surveillance and incident and information management.

Health security surveillance encompasses the ability to monitor and detect health threats and to identify where hazards start and spread so that they can be contained rapidly. Incident and information management focuses on the ability to deploy people, supplies, money and information to locations where they are most effective in protecting health.

Mays said the state’s scores in those areas are buoyed by its experiences with hurricanes. “Practice makes perfect,” he said.

Florida lags the national average in half of the six categories and

outperforms the nation in the other half. For example, Mays noted Florida’s lackluster performance in community planning and engagement, which involves developing and maintaining relationships among government agencies, community organizations and households.

Florida scored a 4.8 in the category, below the national average of 5.2.

“That’s foundational to everything else you do to be prepared for disasters,” Mays said. “In that domain, we are measuring how well organizations are communicating and coordinating their activities and if they are well-positioned to kind of share information and resources to better respond when disasters strike. So it’s really critical stuff.”

The state also lagged behind in two other categories: health-care delivery and counter-measure management.

Health-care delivery focuses on the ability to ensure access to high-quality medical services across the continuum of care during and after disasters and emergencies. Mays said the state’s overall performance in the category was hindered by worse-than-average nursing home performance and mental-health access.

Mays said Florida nursing homes in 2018 had a higher-than-average number of federal citations for failing to comply with emergency preparedness plans. Moreover, he said, “a

larger share of the population in the state of Florida is underserved by mental-health professionals. They are very important in helping people, particularly in the aftermath of disasters.”

Countermeasure management evaluates the ability to store and deploy health-related products and supplies that protect people from diseases and injuries. The average score nationwide was 6.5 out of 10. Florida scored 6.1.

Mays said the performance on the measurement also was due to the state’s relatively low vaccination rates for seniors and young children. Though there is growing controversy about vaccines, they are one of the best countermeasures to keep people protected from disease.

“It’s a problem nationally, but it looks like Florida may have a little more of a problem in that area,” Mays told The News Service of Florida.

The score regarding vaccinations came amid an outbreak of hepatitis A. Florida has had a reported 1,037 cases of the liver disease this year, nearly double the amount reported for all of 2018, according to numbers posted on the state Department of Health website.

Hepatitis A can be spread through such things as food or drinks that have been contaminated with fecal matter from people with the disease. Health officials have urged people to get vaccinated against the disease.

DeSantis, state contingent ready for Israel trip

By Ana Ceballos
The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — In his quest to become the most “pro-Israel” governor in the nation, Gov. Ron DeSantis this month will lead a first-ever Florida Cabinet meeting in Israel as part of a week-long trip in which he is also scheduled to talk with executives who might want to do business in the Sunshine State.

A number of details about the May 25 to May 31 trip have not been announced, including how much it will cost taxpayers, how the public Cabinet meeting will be televised in Florida and what policy issues will be discussed at the meeting.

But The News Service of Florida confirmed that the governor has requested the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to provide security for Cabinet members and that Attorney General Ashley Moody and Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis will attend with one staff member each. The office of Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried did not immediately confirm her plans.

At least two state lawmakers, Rep. Randy Fine, R-Palm Bay, and Sen. Lauren Book, D-Plantation, have confirmed they will take part in the trip.

Katie Strickland, a spokeswoman for Patronis, said the CFO’s office has not received an agenda for the Cabinet meeting. The Florida Channel, which is funded by the state and broadcasts Cabinet meetings and numerous other types of

government events, does not plan to cover the meeting in Israel, Beth Switzer, the channel’s executive director, said in an email Monday.

All events, particularly the Cabinet meeting, will “comply with sunshine laws,” and there will be public access to all Floridians, according to Helen Ferre, a spokeswoman for the governor’s office.

But Floridians who are members of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, which is highly critical of Israel, might not be welcome.

“I don’t think there is room for (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) activists to come to Israel,” Lior Haiat, the consul general for Miami, told the South Florida public-radio station WLRN. Haiat added that while DeSantis can hold a meeting in Israel, “we decide who enters and who doesn’t.”

The trip, which was planned with the help of the economic-development agency Enterprise Florida, is DeSantis’ first international trade mission. It is meant to enhance the strong relationship between Florida and Israel in areas of academic research, technology, business and science, DeSantis’ office said.

The governor, in announcing the trip last month, also touted his support of Israel.

“I promised to be the most pro-Israel governor in America and that the first delegation I would lead would be to the state of Israel,” DeSantis said in a statement. “Today, I’m pleased to report that I’m keeping that promise. Our delegation will bring business, academic and political leaders to help strengthen the bond between Florida and Israel.”

While plans are subject to change, DeSantis’ office said more than 10 business meetings are scheduled during the week with CEOs of Israeli companies that do business in Florida or hope to do so. Florida’s embattled tourism-marketing agency, Visit Florida, is also scheduled to host a reception with Israeli companies during the trip.

Florida lawmakers during the legislative session that ended Saturday also took steps designed to strengthen ties with Israel and combat anti-Semitism.

For example, they approved providing \$400,000 to the Florida-Israel Business Accelerator program, which is an initiative of the Tampa Jewish Community Center and is meant to “act as a conduit for Israel high-tech ventures to open U.S. headquarters in Florida” in an effort to “increase the business connections between the economies of Israel and Florida,” according to a funding request considered by lawmakers.

Also, lawmakers passed a bill, sponsored by Fine, that would treat discrimination against Jewish people at Florida education institutions the same as acts of racial discrimination are treated.

As the trip approaches, Israel has seen an escalating conflict involving Gaza, including rocket attacks by Hamas and retaliatory airstrikes by Israel. DeSantis said he has not been asked by Israelis to postpone the trip.

“We don’t want to put anyone in danger, but hopefully everything will be good,” DeSantis said Tuesday.



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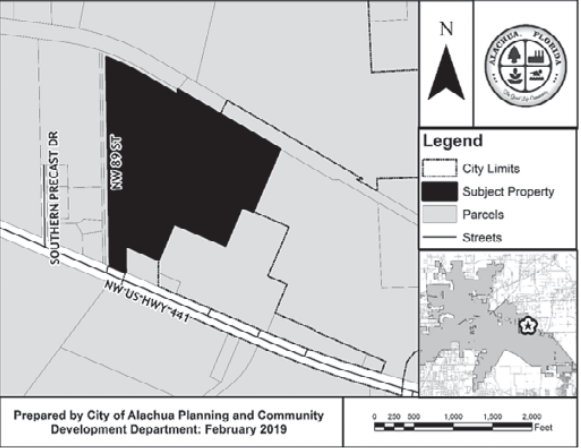
PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

Notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of Alachua will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance. The hearing will be held on May 20, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the James A. Lewis Commission Chambers in City Hall, located at 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida.

The ordinance title is as follows:

ORDINANCE 19-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE LARGE SCALE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP; AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP CLASSIFICATION OF A ±82.40 ACRE PROPERTY FROM COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND RURAL EMPLOYMENT CENTER (ALACHUA COUNTY) TO CORPORATE PARK; LOCATED IN THE 13000 BLOCK OF NW US HIGHWAY 441; TAX PARCEL NUMBERS 05962-002-000, 05855-005-000 AND A PORTION OF 05855-004-000; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Prepared by City of Alachua Planning and Community Development Department: February 2019

At the public hearing, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the application. Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the Planning and Community Development Department, 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida, on any regular business day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Written comments on the application may be sent to the following address: City of Alachua, Planning and Community Development, P.O. Box 9, Alachua, FL 32616. Notice is given pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, that, in order to appeal any decision made at the public hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk at (386) 418-6100 x 101 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.



City of ALACHUA

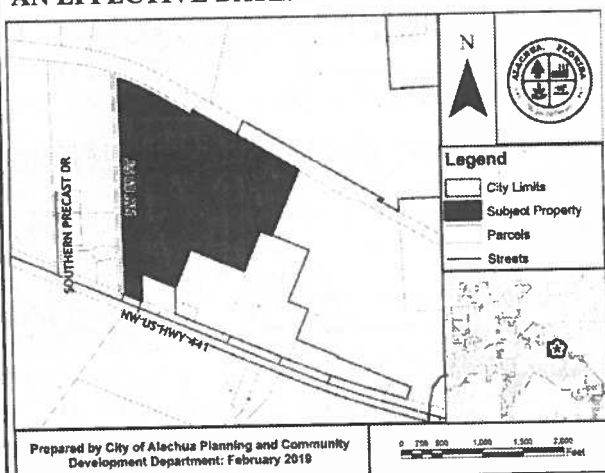
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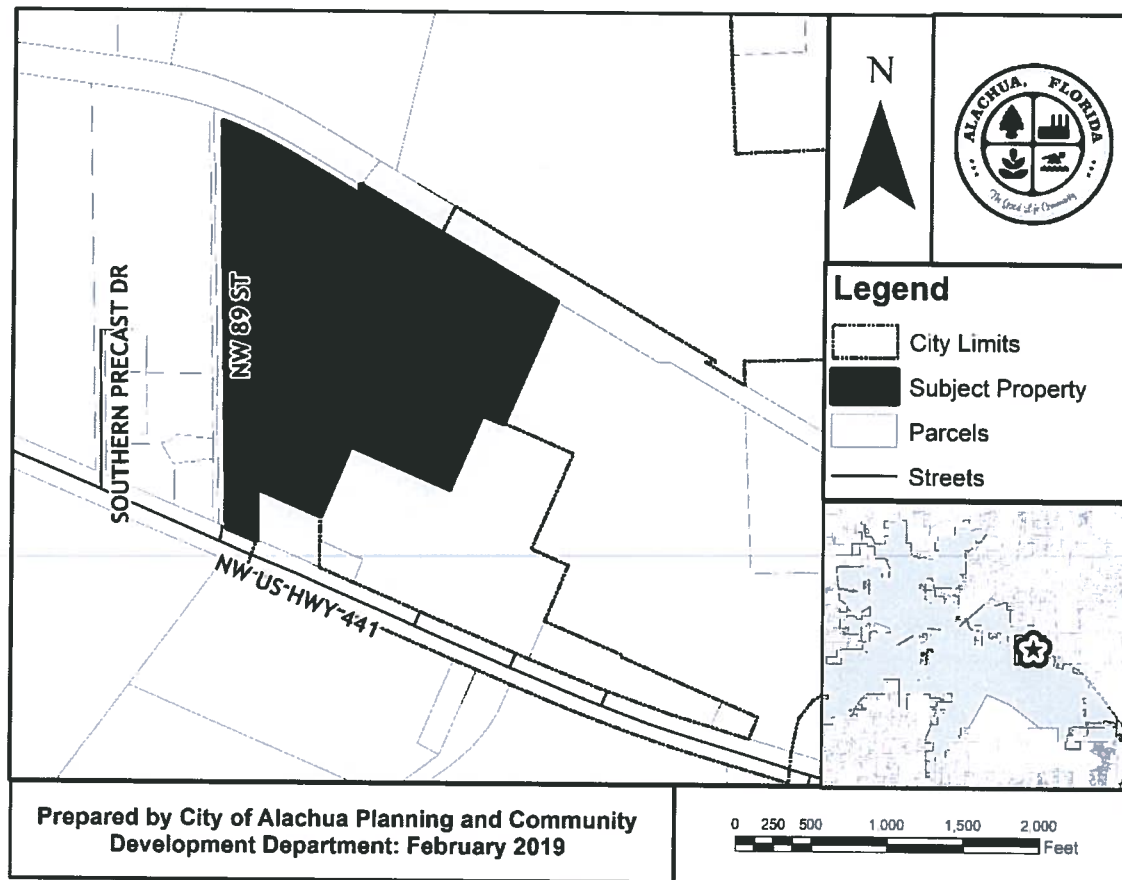
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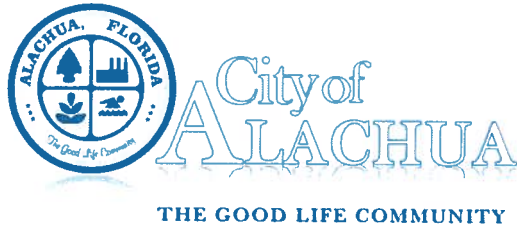
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13313 SOUTHERN PRECAST DR
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13313 SOUTHERN PRECAST DR
ALACHUA, FL 3261505857-001-001
LOWE MICHAEL S TRUSTEE
13929 NW 89TH ST
ALACHUA, FL 3261505857-002-000
F&R HOLDINGS OF GAINESVILLE
13929 NW 89TH ST
ALACHUA, FL 3261505949-005-002
HIPP INVESTMENTS LLC
14610 NW 129TH TER
ALACHUA, FL 3261505963-000-000
WERSHOW, J F
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GAINESVILLE, FL 3260105857-002-001
F&R HOLDINGS OF GAINESVILLE
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LITHIUM NICKEL ASSET HOLDING
3 EXPRESSWAY PLAZA
ROSLYN HEIGHTS, NY 1157705962-002-000
LASER INVESTMENT GROUP LLC
(THE)
3201 SW 42ND ST STE 2
GAINESVILLE, FL 3260805857-001-000
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SHELBURNE, VT 0548292060-517-900
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 Alachua, FL 32615

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I Melissa Watson, POSTED THE LAND USE
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SIGN ON 5-2-19 FOR THE LSCPA-San Felasco Tech City
(Date) (State type of action and project name)
LAND USE ACTION.

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Melissa Watson
(Signature)

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(Number of signs)