

## **Chamber Hosts VIRTUAL Volusia Days at the Capitol continued.....**

Construction will start next year for SunRail's Phase 2 to DeLand and its ridership is expected to begin in mid-2024.

The **Florida Housing Finance Corporation** allocated \$2.1 million to assist 681 households with the rental assistance and \$1.4 million for Daytona Beach to assist 914 households. The Governor's budget recommends \$423 million for housing for FY 2021-22.

**Visit Florida Exec Dana Young** said that international visitors to Florida and Volusia is down, however, VF has begun promoting a new family vacation campaign. The Governor's budget is recommending \$50 million for FY 2021-22.

**Dept of Economic Opportunity Exec Dane Eagle** stated Volusia's unemployment rate is 5.1% compared to the nation at 6.3%, and that Florida had nine months of continuous job growth.

**Florida Hospital Association CEO Mary Mayhew** stated Florida hospitals had a \$3 billion revenue loss last year and their costs to cover extra staffing, overtime, PPE was \$1 billion. While Florida hospitals received \$2 billion from Washington, New York hospitals received \$12 billion.

**Florida Insurance Commissioner David Altmaier** described "Florida's insurance market as being unstable. With so many private insurance companies turning away from our state, Florida could face an immense financial burden should a major hurricane make landfall". It was suggested that a Citizens' rate hike could stabilize Florida's insurance market.

Regarding reapportionment, **Rep Tom Leek** stated that Florida could possibly pick up two additional congressional districts next year. However, with US Census Dept data delayed until September, the committee is only doing preliminary work at this time.

**Senator Tom Wright** expressed his continued support to bring new aerospace industry to Volusia as well as his support for Qualified Target Industry Refund Renewal.

**Senator Travis Hutson** and **Rep Paul Renner** expressed their support for online sales tax legislation which would generate an additional \$1 billion. This was amended to now help pay down the \$3.5 billion unemployment compensation fund shortfall. Otherwise employers would see their unemployment compensation taxes go from \$7 to \$80 per employee.

**Rep Elizabeth Fetterhoff** and **Rep Webster Barnaby** expressed their support for Covid 19 Business Liability Protection legislation as well as renewing the Qualified Target Industry Refund.

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