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Important Traffic Safety Message

Your input will help guide next steps for this traffic light

Dear Riverwalk Community Residents,

You are cordially invited to attend a meeting on February 26 at 7 P.M. I will be joining representatives from Palm Beach County's Traffic Division and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to discuss an important matter affecting your community.

As you may have noticed, FDOT installed a Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA) for the left turn signal on Okeechobee Boulevard at Riverwalk Boulevard on May 8th.

Understanding the Flashing Yellow Arrow:

The FYA replaces the traditional solid green light for left turns and operates in two modes:

- **"Permissive Only"** – a flashing yellow arrow where drivers must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians before turning left; or,
- **"Protected/Permissive"** – first a green arrow (protected turn when oncoming traffic stops), followed by a flashing yellow arrow (permissive turn where drivers must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians).

At Riverwalk Boulevard, the FYA is programmed to be skipped during peak hours to prevent left turns across heavy traffic. When the flashing yellow arrow is displayed, drivers must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

Since its installation, our office has received numerous complaints from residents expressing concerns about the traffic signal change.

Learning from the Baywinds and Andros Isle Experience:

Your neighbors at the Baywinds and Andros Isle Communities recently went through the same situation. After FDOT installed a similar FYA at their intersections in May, residents began contacting our office with mixed reactions—some appreciated the additional turning option, while others were confused or concerned about it. In early November, the Baywinds HOA president shared video of a serious crash that occurred after a driver attempted to make a left turn on a flashing yellow arrow, failing to accurately judge the speed of the westbound vehicle. In December the Andros Isle community lost one of its residents in a fatal crash as he made a left turn on a FYA.



We held meetings in both communities, where I, along with the county engineer and FDOT representatives, listened to residents. Following these meetings, the boards in both communities passed resolutions requesting the FYA be removed. Based on this community input, the county engineer advised FDOT to remove it, which they did.

All of this underscores the need for community engagement: it's important to get with people before making changes, and listen when they speak up. **FDOT never sought public input before implementing the FYA change, but we do want to hear from you.**

This meeting is your opportunity to share your thoughts and experiences:

- Do you support the FYA as it is currently operating?
- Would you like to see changes made to improve safety and traffic flow?
- Should the FYA be removed altogether and returned to the previous configuration?

Your input is vital as we work with FDOT and county traffic officials to ensure the safety and convenience of our community. Please join us for this important discussion.

I hope to see you there.

Gregg K. Weiss, Palm Beach County Commissioner for District 2