

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

THE FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION,
TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY,
GANNETT CO., INC., THE MIAMI
HERALD MEDIA COMPANY, and
GATEHOUSE MEDIA, LLC,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE FLORIDA CABINET; RON DESANTIS, in his
official capacity as the Governor of the State of
Florida; ASHLEY MOODY, in her official capacity
as the Attorney General of the State of Florida;
JIMMY PATRONIS, in his official capacity as the
Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida, and
NIKKI FRIED in her official capacity as the
Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of Florida.

Defendants.

Case No.: _____

**EMERGENCY HEARING
REQUESTED**

**EMERGENCY COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF TO PREVENT PUBLIC
MEETING OF THE FLORIDA CABINET IN VIOLATION OF SUNSHINE LAW**

Plaintiffs the First Amendment Foundation, Times Publishing Company, Gannet Co., Inc., The Miami Herald Media Company, and GateHouse Media, LLC, by and through undersigned counsel, hereby sues: (1) the Florida Cabinet (the "Cabinet");¹ (2) Ron DeSantis, in his official capacity as the Governor of the State of Florida; (3) Ashley Moody, in her official capacity as Attorney General of the State of Florida; (4) Jimmy Patronis, in his official capacity as the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida; and (5) Nikki Fried, in her official capacity as Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of Florida, and allege violations of Article I, Section

¹ Governor DeSantis' cabinet members include the co-defendants in this lawsuit: (1) Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody; (2) Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis; and (3) Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried.

24 of the Florida Constitution and Section 286.011, *et seq.*, of the Florida Statutes (the “Sunshine Law”). This action concerns an upcoming, intentional violation of the open meetings provisions of the Florida Constitution and the “Sunshine Law” by the Cabinet regarding a meeting *set to occur in Jerusalem, Israel at 3:30 p.m. on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 29, 2019* (Jerusalem time) (the “Meeting”).² According to published agenda materials, the Meeting—which the Cabinet has termed “Ceremonial”—will be held at the United States Embassy in Jerusalem. Through a spokesperson, Governor DeSantis has claimed that the Meeting will not violate the Sunshine Law because Cabinet members will not be considering board or agency business. Rather, the Meeting has been termed an “information gathering” session. But, even crediting this view, the law is clear that “information gathering” sessions fall within the Sunshine Law’s requirements. Regardless, as set forth below, agenda items for the Meeting demonstrate that it will constitute more than “information gathering.”

Moreover, the Meeting is being held over 6,000 miles away from the citizens of Florida, and in a secured U.S. State Department facility for which the public does not have ready access (indeed, due to Embassy security concerns, the public is being restricted from attending and the news media accompanying Florida’s government delegation to Israel are being severely restricted in how they can cover the Meeting). Holding a meeting at this distance in such a facility violates the constitutional and statutory rights of Florida citizens (and the news media) to personally observe the workings of, and for the public to offer comment to, their state’s highest officials.

This Court must, therefore, issue an injunction preventing the Meeting from taking place as scheduled. Alternatively, if this matter is not heard before the Meeting occurs, this Court

² Jerusalem’s time zone is +3 GMT, which equates to +7 hours ahead of Tallahassee time. Therefore, the scheduled meeting will occur locally on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

must issue an order voiding the Meeting and declaring it in violation of applicable law.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to Article I, Section 24(b) of the Florida Constitution and Section 286.011(2) of the Florida Statutes.

2. Venue is appropriate in Leon County because the Cabinet, and the co-defendants comprising the same, are located in Leon County and Cabinet meetings regularly take place there. The official actions of the Governor and Cabinet regularly occur in Leon County.

PARTIES

3. The First Amendment Foundation is a Tallahassee-based 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization created to ensure government openness and transparency in Florida. The Foundation provides education and training, monitors open records and meetings laws, and assists citizens and journalists in obtaining access to government.

4. Times Publishing Company is a Florida corporation. It owns and publishes the *Tampa Bay Times*, a daily newspaper of general circulation, and its affiliated news website www.tampabay.com. It relies on access to government proceedings and records to provide news and analysis regarding these important matters to its readers.

5. Gannett Co., Inc. is the publisher of *Florida Today* (Brevard County), the *Indian River Press Journal* (Treasure Coast Newspapers, Vero Beach), the *Naples Daily News*, *The News-Press* (Fort Myers), *PNJ.com* (Pensacola), *The Stuart News* (Treasure Coast Newspapers), the *St. Lucie News-Tribune* (Treasure Coast Newspapers, Fort Pierce), the *Tallahassee Democrat*, and USA TODAY. It relies on access to government proceedings and records to provide news and analysis regarding these important matters to its readers

6. The Miami Herald Media Company is the publisher of *The Miami Herald*. It relies on access to government proceedings and records to provide news and analysis regarding these important matters to its readers.

7. GateHouse Media, LLC, is the publisher of *The Daytona Beach News Journal*, *The Gainesville Sun*, *The (Lakeland) Ledger*, the *Ocala StarBanner*, the *Palm Beach Post*, and the (Sarasota) *Herald-Tribune*. It relies on access to government proceedings and records to provide news and analysis regarding these important matters to its readers.

8. The Governor's Cabinet consists of the following offices within the State of Florida: (1) the Attorney General; (2) the Chief Financial Officer; and (3) the Commissioner of Agriculture.

9. The Cabinet is a "board or commission of [a] state agency" as used in Section 286.011(1), Florida Statutes, and thus subject to the Sunshine Law.

10. The Cabinet is also a "collegial public body of the executive branch of state government" as used in Article I, Section 24, of the Florida Constitution and thus subject to the open meetings provision of the same.

11. Ron DeSantis is the Governor of the State of Florida, and presides over the Cabinet. Governor DeSantis is scheduled to attend the Meeting.

12. Ashley Moody is the Attorney General of the State of Florida and a member of the Cabinet. Ms. Moody is scheduled to attend the Meeting.

13. Jimmy Patronis is the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida and a member of the Cabinet. Mr. Patronis is scheduled to attend the Meeting.

14. Nikki Fried is the Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of Florida and a member of the Cabinet. Ms. Fried is scheduled to attend the Meeting.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

15. On May 22, 2019, Governor DeSantis formally announced he would be leading a delegation of over 90 people (consisting of, among others, government officials, business leaders, and academics) on a “business development” trip to Israel. Attorney General Moody, Commissioner Fried, and Mr. Patronis were named as members of the delegation. A true and correct copy of the Governor’s press release announcing the trip is attached as **Exhibit A**.

16. On May 23, 2019, Governor DeSantis released an itinerary for the trip. That itinerary included a “Ceremonial Meeting of the Florida Cabinet,” which is scheduled to occur on Wednesday May 29, 2019. A true and correct copy of the released itinerary is attached as **Exhibit B**.

17. The web homepage for the Cabinet (www.myflorida.com/myflorida/cabinet) provides additional detail about the Meeting. It states that the Meeting will occur May 29, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. (EDT) and be held at the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. It also states that the meeting will be “livestreamed” in the “Cabinet Meeting Room” at the Capitol Building. A true and correct copy of the Cabinet’s homepage is attached as **Exhibit C**.

18. The agenda for the Meeting has also been posted to the Cabinet’s website. Among other agenda items, the Cabinet will: (1) entertain a “Resolution” regarding the “Israeli-Florida relationship”; (2) consider a “Presentation” titled “Victims of Terror”; (3) consider a “Presentation” titled “Water Quality”; and (4) consider a “Presentation” titled “Emergency Management”. A true and correct copy of the released Meeting agenda is attached as **Exhibit D**.

19. Previous public meetings of the Cabinet in which “resolutions” and “presentations” have been considered were public meetings and held in Tallahassee, Leon

County, Florida. True and correct copies of Cabinet meeting agendas from March 12, 2019 and April 2, 2019 are attached as **Composite Exhibit E**.³

20. In justifying a Cabinet meeting occurring over 6,000 miles away from the citizens of Florida, Helen Ferre, spokesperson for Governor DeSantis, has stated that “This meeting of Florida cabinet members is not considering board or agency business; it will be an information gathering meeting where they will listen to Israeli best practices on issues of mutual interest for Florida and Israel, such as water resources and security.” A true and correct copy of a news article where Ms. Ferre’s statement appears is attached as **Exhibit F**.

21. Per the Meeting agenda, among other things, the Cabinet will take official action via resolution with regard to defining the nature of the relationship between Israel and Florida. The Cabinet will also consider matters related to environmental water quality and terrorism/security. Both subjects of direct import to the citizens of Florida and concern issues that could foreseeably come before the Cabinet upon which action could be taken.

22. Governor DeSantis has made clear these agenda items relate to official business, noting in statements to the media that partnerships between Israel and Florida relating to clean water and cybersecurity. Other government officials, including Florida’s Director of emergency management, Jared Moskowitz, have stated that officials are engaging with Israeli officials on emergency response procedures. A true and correct copy of a news article detailing these statements is attached as **Exhibit G**.

23. Fact-finding or informational meetings attended by members of a public body constitute meetings under the Sunshine Law. The right of direct public access attaches to such meetings.

³ Archived video of these public meetings is available at the Cabinet’s website and can be found at: <https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/4-2-19-florida-cabinet-meeting/> and <https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/3-12-19-florida-cabinet-meeting/>.

24. The Meeting will occur in Jerusalem, Israel, outside the jurisdictional limits of Florida.

25. Jerusalem is over 6,000 miles from Florida.

26. Among others, Florida citizens who do not maintain a valid travel passport cannot attend the Meeting.

27. Among others, Florida citizens of Palestinian, Arab, and/or Muslim descent would confront travel/access issues that significantly frustrate access to the Meeting.⁴

28. The Meeting will be held in the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, a secure facility for which the public has no general right of access.

29. Upon information and belief, due to security concerns, general members of the public will not be permitted to attend the Meeting in person.

30. Upon information and belief, due to security concerns only those individuals specifically authorized to attend the Meeting will be allowed to do so.

31. Upon information and belief, due to security concerns, members of the news media who are traveling with and reporting on the delegation will not be able to use laptops or cellular phones while attending the Meeting. A true and correct copy of a news article detailing media reporting restrictions is attached as **Exhibit H**.

32. Upon information and belief, only the Florida Channel will be permitted to live stream the Meeting. Live streaming the meeting from a single news source is not a legally permissible alternative to allowing the public direct access to the Meeting.

⁴ On May 23, 2019, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee wrote Governor DeSantis expressing these, and other concerns, related to the Meeting. A copy of that letter can be found at: <https://www.adc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Letter-to-Ron-DiSantis-FINAL-ADC-Letterhead-2.pdf>.

33. The Meeting is a public meeting subject to the requirements of Article I, Section 24 of the Florida Constitution and the Sunshine Law. By intending to proceed with the Meeting, the Cabinet and its co-Defendant members are willfully violating the law.

34. The public is being willfully denied their constitutional and statutory right to attend the Meeting, offer public comment, and otherwise monitor the official actions of the Cabinet.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

35. Section 286.011(1) states that “[a]ll meetings of any board or commission of any state agency or authority . . . at which official acts are to be taken are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times, and no resolution, rule or formal action shall be considered binding except as taken or made at such meeting.” Likewise, Article I, Section 24(b) of the Florida Constitution similarly provides that “[a]ll meetings of any collegial public body of the executive branch of state government or of any collegial public body of a county, municipality, school district, or special district, at which official acts are to be taken or at which public business of such body is to be transacted or discussed, shall be open and noticed to the public.”

36. The Florida Supreme Court has held that meetings governed by the Sunshine Law include any gathering, whether formal or informal, where two or more members of the same board or commission are present, concerning matters upon which foreseeable action will be taken by the board or commission. *Tolar v. Sch. Bd. of Liberty Cty.*, 398 So. 2d 427, 428 (Fla. 1981); *see also Sarasota Citizens for Responsible Gov't v. City of Sarasota*, 48 So. 3d 755, 764 (Fla. 2010).

37. As the Court also explained in *Town of Palm Beach v. Gradison*, 296 So. 2d 473, 477 (Fla. 1974):

One purpose of the government in the sunshine law was to prevent at nonpublic meetings the crystallization of secret decisions to a point just short of ceremonial acceptance. Rarely could there be any purpose to a nonpublic pre-meeting conference except to conduct some part of the decisional process behind closed doors. The statute should be construed so as to frustrate all evasive devices. This can be accomplished only by embracing *the collective inquiry and discussion stages within the terms of the statute*, as long as such inquiry and discussion is conducted by any committee or other authority appointed and established by a governmental agency, and relates to any matter on which foreseeable action will be taken. (Emphasis added.)

38. Consistent with the above, “fact-finding” meetings attended by at least two of a body’s ultimate decision makers (in this case, the Cabinet members), are subject to the requirements of the Sunshine Law. *See Finch v. Seminole Cty. Sch. Bd.*, 995 So. 2d 1068 (Fla. 5th DCA 2008) (school board’s non-public bus tour to consider rezoning plans violated the Sunshine Law, even though the school board members were separated from each other during the tour, no opinions were expressed, and no vote was taken during the trip, because “it undoubtedly had the opportunity at that time to make decisions outside of the public’s scrutiny”); *Citizens for Sunshine, Inc. v. Sch. Bd. of Martin Cty.*, 125 So. 3d 184 (Fla. 4th DCA 2013) (violation of Sunshine Law when three schoolboard members met with school administrator, students, and teachers, because issued discussed could foreseeably be subject of later board action).

39. Moreover, the Sunshine law prohibits public meetings from being held in “any facility or location ... which operates in such a manner as to unreasonably restrict public access to such a facility.” § 286.011(6), Fla. Stat. Accordingly, the public must be given a reasonable opportunity to attend public meetings. *See Bigelow v. Howze*, 291 So. 2d 645, 647-48 (Fla. 2d DCA 1974); Fla. Op. Atty. Gen 71-295 (public bodies advised to avoid holding meetings where

public and press are effectively excluded); Fla. Op. Atty. Gen 96-55 (body should not hold meetings in facilities that limit access or would have “chilling effect” on public’s willingness to attend).

40. That the Cabinet intends to “live-stream” the Meeting does not cure the Sunshine Law Violations. *See* Inf. Fla. Op. Atty. Gen, Aug. 5. 2015 (no legal authority permits body to remove public meeting beyond jurisdictional limits of body and claim compliance with Sunshine Law by providing remote, electronic public access to meeting thus improper to apply “fact-finding” exception to body travel to Massachusetts and Connecticut).

41. Considering all of the above, it is clear that the Meeting will violate the Sunshine Law. First, just like previous meetings held publicly in Tallahassee in March and April of this year, it will be a meeting where official actions such as potentially adopting a “resolution” regarding the Israel-Florida relationship will occur. Moreover, and again, just like previous public meetings held this year in Tallahassee, the Cabinet will consider “presentations” on issues very likely to be before it in the future: environmental water quality issues, and terrorism/safety issues. Simply, labeling the Meeting “informational” will not except it from the Sunshine law.

42. Additionally, the Meeting absolutely frustrates the public’s ability to attend. It is being held over 6,000 miles away in Israel. Florida citizens (and only those with valid passports) would need to arrange last-minute, costly travel to a foreign nation to attend the Meeting. Even assuming that travel could be accomplished, the Meeting is being held in the U.S. Embassy, a facility that the public does not have general access to. That the news media’s ability to fully report on the Meeting is being restricted over “security concerns” further evidences the fact that the chosen facility is not one that encourages citizens to attend.

43. Conducting the Meeting in this fashion will cause irreparable harm to the public. This Court should, therefore, hold the Meeting in violation of the Sunshine Law and enter an order enjoining it from occurring.

COUNT I (VIOLATION OF SECTION 286.011)

44. The Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 34 as if fully incorporated in this paragraph.

45. The Sunshine Law requires that *any* gathering of two or more members of the same board or commission of any agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision to discuss some matter on which *foreseeable* action will be taken be conducted in the Sunshine.

46. Two or more members of the Cabinet will attend the Meeting. The matters to be discussed and considered at the Meeting will foreseeably come before the Cabinet.

47. This Court has the authority to enjoin violations of Section 286.011.

48. Violations of Section 286.011 constitute an irreparable public injury.

49. The Defendants' refusal to make the Meeting open to the public, and to hold it at a time and place that does not allow for reasonable opportunity to attend, violates Section 286.011, Florida Statutes, and Article I, Section 24(b) of the Florida Constitution.

50. The Defendants' refusal to permit the public and/or media to attend the Meeting, and to hold it at a time and place that does not allow for reasonable opportunity to attend, causes and threatens to cause irreparable injury to the public.

51. No adequate remedy at law exists.

ATTORNEYS' FEE DEMAND

52. Section 286.011(4) provides that “[w]henver an action has been filed . . . to enforce the provisions of this section . . . and the court determines that the defendant or defendants to such action acted in violation of this section, the court *shall* assess a reasonable attorney’s fee against such agency” See Fla. Stat. § 286.011(4) (emphasis added).

53. Plaintiffs have retained the undersigned counsel and agreed to pay its attorneys a reasonable fee.

EMERGENCY HEARING/BENCH TRIAL DEMAND

54. Plaintiffs request an immediate, emergency hearing and bench trial on all issues so triable.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that this Court:

(a) Set an immediate hearing on this matter to prevent violations of the Sunshine Law *set to occur in less than 24 hours*, which constitutes irreparable injury to the public;

(b) Find that Defendants are in violation of the Sunshine Law for refusing to provide full public access to the Meeting, and for holding the Meeting in an inaccessible foreign country, and at an unreasonably restrictive facility.

(c) Enjoin Defendants from conducting the Meeting and any future Cabinet meetings while in Israel, or, alternatively find that if the Meeting occurs it is void an in violation of the Sunshine Law;

(d) Award Plaintiffs their reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs, and expenses incurred in this action pursuant to Section 286.011(4), Florida Statutes; and

(e) Grant such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: May 28, 2019.

THOMAS & LOCICERO PL

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EXHIBIT A



Ron DeSantis

46th Governor of Florida

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[Governor Ron DeSantis Receives 11 Bills from the Florida Legislature](#)

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Leadership and Delegation for Historic Business Development Mission to Israel

On May 22, 2019, in *News Releases*, by Staff

Tallahassee, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the leadership and delegation for the Governor’s Business Development Mission to Israel, which takes place Saturday, May 25th through Friday, May 31st. Organized in conjunction with Enterprise Florida, Inc., the mission includes more than 90 delegation members and serves to strengthen the economic, academic and cultural bonds between Florida and Israel.

“This group of diverse Florida leaders will represent our state and nation proudly on this historic business development mission to Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East,” said **Governor DeSantis**. “Our delegation includes professionals and experts from a wide range of policy and business areas, representing every corner of our state. During this trip, we will affirm Florida as the most pro-Israel state in the nation and strengthen the bond between Florida and Israel for decades to come.”

Business Development Mission Leadership and Delegation

Co-Chairs

Ellyn Bogdanoff

Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff is a Shareholder and member of the Government Practice Group at the Becker Law Firm. She began her career over 30 years ago, owning her first insurance business by the age of 21. In 2003, Senator Bogdanoff began her legal career as a litigator and was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2004, serving 9 sessions in both the Florida House and Senate. She retired from the Senate in 2012 as the only Jewish Republican member of the legislature.

Simon and Jana Falic

Simon Falic is the CEO and Chairman of Duty Free Americas, Inc. and Jana Falic is the Co-President of the Women’s International Zionist Organization. The Falics reside in South Florida.

Barbara Feingold

Mrs. Barbara Feingold has engaged in a lifelong pursuit of quality education for children, starting with her professional career as a speech and language pathologist and has served on the Florida State Board of Education. As a leader and philanthropist in the Jewish community, Mrs. Feingold and her husband dedicated The Dr. Jeffrey and Barbara Feingold Family Synagogue and Sefer Torah on the Mishmar Henegev Army Base in the Negev, Israel. She is currently on the Foundation Board of B’nai Torah Congregation where she and her husband recently established a STEM and Computer Coding Educational Center for the preschool, and sponsored the Feingold Family Inaugural Kids Concert Series.

The Honorable Dr. Jeffrey Feingold

The Honorable Dr. Jeffrey Feingold, a Florida-licensed periodontist, established MCNA Dental Plans in 1992, which has become the largest privately held dental managed care insurance company in America. Recently, the Hon. Dr. Feingold has been appointed to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council Board of Trustees by President Donald J. Trump. He also serves on the Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees and is the Florida Chair and a national board member for the Republican Jewish Coalition. The Hon. Dr. Feingold attended the opening of the United States Embassy in Jerusalem, as a representative of the U.S. State Department along with then-Congressman Ron DeSantis.

Marc Goldman

As owner until 1999 of New Jersey’s Farmland Dairies, Marc was responsible for numerous industry developments. By opening the New York milk market to competition, he saved New York’s milk consumers hundreds of millions annually. Since 1999, Marc has studied with and is on the advisory board of the Jerusalem based Aish HaTorah and is a board member of the Republican Jewish Coalition. He was appointed by President Bush to the U.S. Holocaust Museum Council and is a recipient of the First Annual Crains New York Business All Stars, Who’s Who in Sales and Marketing, Who’s Who in the East 1989-90, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the 2016 King David Award by The Jewish Heritage Commission.

Carlyn and Lothar Mayer

Both born in South Africa, Carlyn and Lothar Mayer emigrated to the USA in 1977 and bought a company called Liberty Hardware Mfg. Corp. which they ran together until it was acquired by Masco, a stock exchange company in 1997. The Mayers are very involved in philanthropic endeavors and many projects. Carlyn has been on the American Israel Public Affairs National Board (AIPAC) while Lothar is on the AIEF (American Israel Foundation).

Delegation Members**Florida Cabinet and Elected Officials**

- **Governor Ron DeSantis**
- **Attorney General Ashley Moody**
- **Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis**
- **Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried** (Jake Bergmann)
- **Senator Wilton Simpson** (Kathryn Simpson)
- **Representative Chris Sprowls**
- **Senator Lauren Book**
- **Representative Randy Fine**
- **Representative Chip LaMarca**
- **Representative Joseph Geller**
- **Broward County Mayor Marc Bogen**
- **Bal Harbour Mayor Gabriel Groisman**

Florida Department and Agency Personnel

- **Pamela Añez**, Senior Executive Assistant, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- **Justin Caporale**, Director of External Affairs, Executive Office of the Governor
- **Frank DiBello**, President and CEO, Space Florida
- **Selma Fates**, Director, International Strategic Initiatives, Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- **Helen Ferre**, Communications Director, Executive Office of the Governor
- **Tony Gannon**, Vice President, Research and Innovation, Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- **Fred Glickman**, Senior Consultant, Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- **Richard Martin**, General Counsel, Florida Office of the Attorney General
- **Manny Mencia**, Senior Vice President, International Trade and Development, Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- **Robert Mons**, Special Assistant to the Governor, Executive Office of the Governor
- **Jared Moskowitz**, Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management
- **Christopher Munoz**, Manager, International Trade and Development, Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- **Judith Rebollar**, Manager, Administration and Export Compliance, Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- **Jared Rosenstein**, Legislative Affairs Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management
- **Derek Silver**, Deputy Legislative Affairs Director, Florida Office of Insurance Regulation
- **Jamal Sowell**, President and CEO, Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- **Shane Strum**, Chief of Staff, Governor Ron DeSantis
- **Noah Valenstein**, Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
- **Ryan West**, Chief of Staff, CFO Jimmy Patronis
- **Dana Young**, President and CEO, VISIT FLORIDA

Business

- **Susan Amat**, Executive Director, Global Entrepreneurship Network
- **Alan Becker**, Founding Shareholder, Becker & Poliakoff, P.A.
- **Philip Brown**, CEO, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority
- **Bob Diener**, President, getaroom.com
- **Rachel Feinman**, Executive Director, Florida-Israel Business Accelerator
- **Howard Goldstein**, Senior Partner, Director of Business and Entrepreneurial Services, Appelrouth Farah and Co.
- **Marcy Goldstein**, President, Marcy E. Goldstein, CPA PA
- **Margy Grant**, CEO, Florida Realtors
- **Robert Grossman**, Chair, Israel Practice, Greenberg Traurig, P.A.
- **Fred Karlinsky**, Shareholder, Co-Chair, Insurance Regulatory & Transactions Practice, Greenberg Traurig, P.A.
- **Eytan Laor**, Chairman, Electoral Strategies
- **Vicki Rabenou**, President and CEO, StartUp Nation Ventures
- **Marc Reicher**, Senior Vice President, Rida Associates, LP.
- **Aaron Ripin**, COO, StartUp Nation Ventures
- **Ashley Ross**, Senior Advisor, Rubin, Turnbull & Associates
- **Scott Ross**, Consultant, Capital City Consulting
- **Mark Ruben**, Executive Director, Palm Beach, Israel Bonds
- **Eric Sain**, President, Florida Realtors
- **Domingo Sanchez** (Thomasa Sanchez), Chairman, Aviation Authority Board, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority
- **Danielle Scoggins**, Vice President of Public Policy, Florida Realtors

- **John Sholar**, Florida Realtors
- **Eric Silagy**, President and CEO, Florida Power & Light Co.
- **Sri Sridharan**, Director, Cyber Florida
- **Jason Unger**, Attorney, Tallahassee Managing Director, GrayRobinson PA
- **Melanie Weinstein**, Interim Executive Director, Miami-Dade/Broward/West & Central Florida, Israel Bonds
- **Jonathan Weiss**, Director of Strategic Innovation, INSIGHTEC, Inc.
- **Mark Wilson**, President, Florida Chamber of Commerce

Academia

- **Dr. Charles Adams**, Dean, Honors College, University of South Florida
- **Christina Bonarrigo Villamil**, Project Manager, Full Sail University
- **Heather Duncan**, Vice President of Government Affairs, University of North Florida
- **Dr. Brent Edington**, Director, Office of Commercialization, Florida State University
- **Dr. Daniel Flynn**, Vice President of Research, Florida Atlantic University
- **Dr. Melissa Friedman-Levine**, Adjunct Professor of Medicine, Florida Atlantic University
- **Dr. Enrique Ginzburg**, Professor of Surgery, University of Miami
- **Morgan Holmes**, Director of Corporate Partnerships, University of South Florida
- **Dr. Max Hooper**, Strategic Advisor – Business & Financial Modeling, University of Central Florida
- **Mimi Jankovits**, Executive Director, Teach Florida
- **Dr. Jeff Jones**, Vice Provost, UCF Connect and UCF Global, University of Central Florida
- **Dr. Sandra Kauanui**, Director, Institute for Entrepreneurship, Florida Gulf Coast University
- **Dr. John Kelly**, President, Florida Atlantic University
- **Brad Levine**, Trustee, Florida Atlantic University
- **Dr. Mag Malek** (Samia Abdel-Malek), Chair, Construction Management, College of Engineering, Computing and Construction, University of North Florida
- **Dr. T. Dwayne McCay**, President and CEO, Florida Institute of Technology
- **Dr. David Metcalf**, Director, Mixed Emerging Technologies Integration Lab, University of Central Florida
- **Dr. Dan Moon**, Associate Provost and Professor of Biology, University of North Florida
- **Jamie Moon**, Associate Lecturer, University of North Florida
- **Dr. Larry Robinson** (Sharon Robinson), President, Florida A&M University
- **Dr. Lenore Rodicio**, Executive Vice President and Provost, Miami Dade College
- **Dr. Mark Rosenberg**, President, Florida International University
- **Dr. Jeffrey Senese**, President, Saint Leo University
- **Dr. James Sullivan**, Executive Director, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Florida Atlantic University

Religious Leaders

- **Rabbi Howard Needleman**, Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El
- **Rabbi Schneur Oirechman**, Chabad of Tallahassee & FSU
- **Dvir Weiss**, Executive Director, Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El

Other

- **Matthew Bogdanoff**, State Director, Republican Jewish Coalition
- **Lior Haiat**, Consul General, Consulate General of Israel in Miami
- **Morton Klein**, National President, Zionist Organization of America (ZOA)
- **Lisa McClaskey**, Director of Political Affairs, Consulate General of Israel in Miami

###



Comments are closed.





Contact Governor DeSantis

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Ron DeSantis

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Itinerary of Governor's Business Development Mission to Israel

On May 23, 2019, in [News Releases](#), by Staff

Tallahassee, Fla. – Governor Ron DeSantis' first international trade mission, the Governor's Business Development Mission to Israel, is scheduled for May 25-31, 2019. Below is an itinerary of the Governor's Business Development Mission to Israel. Additional information is forthcoming.

SATURDAY, MAY 25TH

Depart Florida en route Tel Aviv, Israel

SUNDAY, MAY 26TH

Arrive in Tel Aviv, Israel

Meet and Greet with Florida Delegation

MONDAY, MAY 27TH – TEL AVIV

Morning: Business Meeting with Israeli Companies
Meeting with Israeli Officials

Afternoon: Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremonies

Evening: Tourism Networking Reception hosted by VISIT FLORIDA
Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony

TUESDAY, MAY 28TH – TEL AVIV

Morning: Meeting and Award Ceremony with Israel Innovation Authority
Business Meetings with Israeli Companies
Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremonies

Afternoon: Networking Lunch with Israeli Business Leaders
Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremonies
Roundtable Discussion on Issues Impacting Florida

Evening: Meeting with U.S. Ambassador
Reception Hosted by the U.S. Ambassador

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29TH – TEL AVIV/JERUSALEM

Morning: Keynote Address at the 2019 Israel-America Business Summit
Business Meetings with Israeli Companies

Afternoon: Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremonies
Ceremonial Meeting of the Florida Cabinet

Evening: Business Development Networking Reception

THURSDAY, MAY 30TH – JERUSALEM

Morning: Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony

Roundtable Discussion on Issues Impacting Florida

Afternoon: Cultural Visit to the Old City of Jerusalem
Meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Evening: Delegation Reception and Dinner

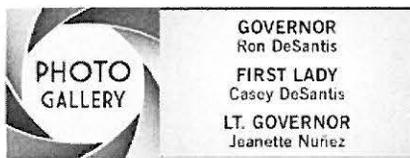
FRIDAY, MAY 31ST

Depart Jerusalem en route Florida

###



Comments are closed.



Contact Governor DeSantis

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EXHIBIT C



The Governor and Cabinet

Cabinet Meetings

Structure and History of the Florida Cabinet

Contact the Cabinet Members

Meeting Archive

2019 Meeting Schedule Downloadable PDF

Next Cabinet Meeting:

May 29, 2019 at 8:30 am EDT

U.S. Embassy/Livestreamed in Cabinet Meeting Room, The Capitol
Jerusalem, Israel/Tallahassee, Florida

June Cabinet Meeting:

June 4, 2019 at 9:00 am

Cabinet Meeting Room, The Capitol, Lower Level
Tallahassee, Florida

Cabinet Aides (For June 4 Meeting):

May 30, 2019 at 9:00 am

Cabinet Meeting Room, The Capitol, Lower Level
Tallahassee, Florida

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIRECTOR AND CHIEF JUDGE APPLICATIONS

EXHIBIT D

MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR AND CABINET

May 29, 2019

United States Embassy – Jerusalem, Israel

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RESOLUTION – ISRAELI-FLORIDA RELATIONSHIP, *Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet*

PRESENTATION – VICTIMS OF TERROR

PRESENTATION – WATER QUALITY

PRESENTATION – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

CLOSING, *Governor Ron DeSantis*

* This agenda does not involve the composition of any collegial body consisting of the Governor and Cabinet as a board, commission, or otherwise.

COMPOSITE EXHIBIT E

MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR AND CABINET

March 12, 2019 at 9:00 am

Cabinet Meeting Room – Lower Level, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida

INVOCATION, *Major Graham Glover, Chief of Chaplains Office, United States Army*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, *Sheriff Mark Hunter, Columbia County*

RESOLUTION – DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH, Governor Ron DeSantis

RESOLUTION – FLORIDA SURVEYORS AND MAPPERS WEEK, *Commissioner Nikki Fried*

RESOLUTION – NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK, *Commissioner Nikki Fried*

RESOLUTION – NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK, *Commissioner Nikki Fried*

RESOLUTION – WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH, *Attorney General Ashley Moody*

RECOGNITION – BACK THE BLUE, *Attorney General Ashley Moody*

RECOGNITION – FLORIDA SHERIFFS AND SHERIFFS DAY IN THE CAPITOL, *Attorney General Ashley Moody*

RECOGNITION – VETERAN OF THE MONTH, *Commissioner Nikki Fried*

PRESENTATION – POST-HURRICANE MICHAEL UPDATE, *Secretary Noah Valenstein, DEP, and Director Jim Karels, Florida Forest Service*

DIVISION OF BOND FINANCE, *Executive Director Ben Watkins*

1. Minutes – December 4, 2018
2. Reports of Award
3. Refunding Bond Issuance – State Board of Education
4. Refunding Bond Issuance – Department of Environmental Protection

OFFICE OF INSURANCE REGULATION, *Commissioner David Altmaier*

1. Minutes – December 4, 2018
2. Rule – Notice
3. Rule – Notice
4. Rule – Notice
5. Rule – Notice
6. Rule – Final Adoption
7. Rule – Final Adoption
8. Rule – Final Adoption
9. Rule – Final Adoption
10. Rule – Final Adoption
11. Second Quarter Report FY 2018-2019

ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION, Mark Kruse

1. Minutes – November 30, 2018
2. Rule – Notice
3. Rule – Notice
4. Discussion – Resignation of Chief Judge and Executive Director of the Division of Administrative Hearings Director

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, Executive Director Jim Zingale

1. Minutes – December 4, 2018, January 11, 2019, and January 29, 2019
2. Rule – Notice
3. Rule – Notice

STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, Executive Director Ash Williams

1. Fiscal Sufficiency to Bond Finance Item
2. Fiscal Sufficiency to Bond Finance Item
3. Appointment – Investment Advisory Council
4. Appointment – Investment Advisory Council

MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR AND CABINET

April 2, 2019 at 9:00 am

Cabinet Meeting Room – Lower Level, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida

INVOCATION, *Chaplain Rick Spence, Retired Firefighter/Medic from the Reedy Creek Fire Protection District.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, *Joint Fire Honor Guard*

2018 FIRE SERVICE AWARDS, *CFO Jimmy Patronis*

RECOGNITION – BACK THE BLUE, *Attorney General Ashley Moody*

RESOLUTION – CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, *Attorney General Ashley Moody*

RESOLUTION – WATER CONSERVATION MONTH, *Commissioner Nikki Fried*

PROCLAMATION – EVERGLADES, *Commissioner Nikki Fried*

RESOLUTION – WILDFIRE AWARENESS WEEK, *Commissioner Nikki Fried*

ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION, *Mark Kruse*

1. Discussion – Application process for Chief Judge/Executive Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND, *Secretary Noah Valenstein*

1. Land Conveyance – Palm Beach County
2. Land Acquisition – Columbia County
3. Land Acquisition – Hendry County
4. Rule – Notice of Change

DIVISION OF BOND FINANCE, *Executive Director Ben Watkins*

1. Minutes – March 12, 2019
2. Reports of Award
3. Revenue Refunding Bond – Board of Governors
4. Refunding Bond – State Board of Education

STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, *Executive Director Ash Williams*

1. Minutes – February 26, 2019
2. Fiscal Sufficiency to Bond Finance Item
3. Fiscal Sufficiency to Bond Finance Item
4. Fiscal Determination – Florida Housing Finance Corporation
5. 2019-2020 Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund Reimbursement Premium Formula
6. Rule – Notice
7. Corporate Governance Principles and Voting Guidelines
8. Quarterly Report

EXHIBIT F

Israel bound: Agenda for DeSantis trip short on details, but big on promises for Florida

Jeffrey Schwiers, Tallahassee Democrat Published 11:15 p.m. ET May 23, 2019 | Updated 11:33 a.m. ET May 24, 2019



Gov. Ron DeSantis explains why he thinks Amrith's delisting of Arab Space network is wrong during Call, Director Capitol Reception.

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Days before Gov. Ron DeSantis is set to embark on a much ballyhooed business mission to Israel, he finally produced a list of the 56 delegates who will join him in the Holy Land next week on his first overseas trip since taking office.

The list, which news media requested weeks ago, represents a cross-section of elected and government officials, business, academic and religious leaders, as well as several people deeply involved in the Jewish community, especially in conservative, political circles.

"This group of diverse Florida leaders will represent our state and nation proudly on this historic business development mission to Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East," DeSantis said in a news release.



The press interview Gov. Ron DeSantis after Sun the Saturday, May 4, 2019. Photo: Tom Schneider/Tallahassee Democrat.

Related:

- FAMU President Lorry Robinson among academic leaders heading to Israel
- See the names of the delegation members accompanying Gov. DeSantis to Israel

DeSantis, who has been to Israel several times during his five years in Congress, made a campaign promise to take a trade mission there as his first trip out of the country to affirm Florida as the most pro-Israel state in the nation and "strengthen bonds for decades to come."

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The goal is to come back with several memorandums of agreement with Israeli corporations and bring high paying jobs back to Florida.

One of his first acts as governor was, along with the State Board of Administration, to sanction Airbnb for denying to list properties in Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The vote made Airbnb the first American company to be placed on a "scrutinized" list of businesses that boycott Israel.

Airbnb has since reversed itself and settled all lawsuits that were brought by hosts and potential hosts and guests who objected to that policy.

DeSantis is not the first governor to visit Israel, which has deep ties to South Florida's Jewish community. Republicans Jeb Bush, Charlie Crist and Rick Scott also led trips to

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 - TPD, LCSO raid local arcades in gambling probe**
May 24, 2019, 11:30 a.m.
 - Cellphone data forces delay in Markel suspects' murder trial**
May 22, 2019, 9 p.m.
 - Work continues on Washington Square development**
May 22, 2019, 11:14 a.m.

issues when they were governor.

UPDATES FROM ISRAEL

USA Today Staffhouse Reporter Jeffrey Schoenfeld will accompany Gov. Ron DeSantis and his 10-plus member delegation on his Israel business development mission this week as a press reporter for the Florida Society of News Editors. Schoenfeld will provide regular reports and updates from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem for Florida's newspapers. Follow him on Twitter @JeffSchoenfeld and @TDCOnline



A picture taken on Dec. 4, 2017 shows a general view of the skyline of the old city of Jerusalem, with the Dome of the Rock, left, and the Al-Aksa Compound. (Photo: AP/WIDE WORLD, AP Photo/Imagoe)

Who is paying?

Meanwhile, questions remain about the cost and who is footing the entire bill for the trade mission consisting of business meetings with Israeli companies, round table discussions, attendance at the Israeli Business Summit and a Florida cabinet meeting at the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.

The mission is being paid in part by Enterprise Florida, which is partially financed by private donations for the purpose of funding trade missions. The Tallahassee Democrat has requested a list of which delegates the agency is paying for.

Enterprise Florida President and CEO Jamal Sowell will be attending, along with six other officers. Their travel expenses are being footed by Enterprise Florida.

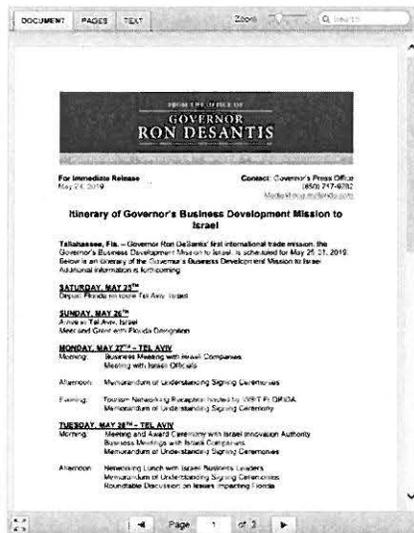
Two people are being covered by the Governor's Office, while several state legislators who are going will pay for the trip out of their own office budgets. They include Sen. Lauren Book and Rep. Joe Geller, both Jewish Democrats from Broward County. Republican Rep. Randy Fine of Melbourne Beach, who is also Jewish, Rep. Chris LaMarca of Broward County, and Broward County Mayor Marc Bogen.

Book is planning her own side trip to a school to see its security system. She also is paying for the trip out of her own pocket.

A trip in the sunshine?

Along with trip financing questions, there are also concerns about whether the Cabinet meeting to be held there skirts state open meeting laws, and what business they can conduct 6,000 miles away from Florida. Three prior Cabinet meetings were canceled, and no agenda for the May 29 meeting was posted until this week.

The agenda has a resolution strengthening the relationship between Israel and Florida, and three informational videos. At the bottom of the agenda is this caveat: "This agenda does not involve the composition of any collegial body, consisting of the Governor and Cabinet as a board, commission, or otherwise."



Helin Ferré, the governor's spokeswoman, explained it was a legal phrase to indicate it was a meeting of the Cabinet where no statutory decisions affecting any state agency or department would be made.

"This meeting of Florida Cabinet members is not considering board or agency business, it will be an information gathering meeting where they will listen to Israeli best practices on issues of mutual interest for Florida and Israel, such as water resources and security," Ferré said.

Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, said that goes against the very definition and function of the Cabinet and raises concerns that the meeting is in violation of Florida's open government laws.

"That response reveals a misunderstanding of the requirements of the Sunshine Law," Petersen said.

The Florida Constitution states that any meeting of a collegial body at which public business is to be transacted or discussed must be open and noticed to the public, she said. That includes the Cabinet, of which all four members will be attending — DeSantis, Agricultural Commissioner Nikki Fried, Attorney General Ashley Moody and CFO Jimmy Patronis.

Ferré, it is NOT ceremonial," she said.

Ferré also is unclear on the legal definition of the Cabinet, she said.

Fried, who is Jewish and the wife of a rabbi, also made a campaign promise to visit Israel to talk about agricultural trade and related issues, and is already there holding meetings.



Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried speaks during a press conference held to discuss Hurricane Michael recovery funding as budget negotiations continue at the Capitol in Tallahassee, April 26, 2015. (Photo: Tom Schickler/Tallahassee Democrat)

"To have all four of us going over to show our support for the state of Israel and economic development between the two countries I think is the bigger picture," she said.

The Cabinet is scheduled to meet in Florida a week after his Israel meeting, on June 4. No agenda has been posted.

'Nothing to do with 2020'

Besides Wednesday's Cabinet meeting, the sparse agenda includes meetings with Israeli corporations doing business in Florida, signing memorandums of understanding with various businesses and institutes of higher learning, attending the Israel-America Business Summit, and visiting the Old City of Jerusalem and meeting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The trip is being seen by some as a political boost for Republicans in a state with a large Jewish population in several counties that could be a deciding factor in helping President Trump capture Florida's 29 electoral college votes.

"There's no question it's going to help us," said Sen. Joe Gruters of Sarasota and chair of the Republican Party of Florida. "When people are criticizing members of the Jewish faith and Israel, you have a stark contrast in what Ron DeSantis is doing. Letting people know that we do care and that it is a priority for him and the state to be mindful and respectful of the Jews that are living here."

Gruters sponsored a bill outlawing antisemitism in public schools; a bill DeSantis is expected to sign while in Israel. Fine, the lawmaker from Melbourne Beach, was the House sponsor of the bill.

The Legislature sent the antisemitism bill to DeSantis Thursday.

Back story: Bill to combat antisemitism in public schools and colleges on way to Governor.

A close examination of the delegation's leadership team shows they are supporters of DeSantis and active in organizations with strong conservative leanings, as well as ties to Netanyahu.



Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and his wife Sarah get cheers during a speech in Tel Aviv April 9 following Israel's election. (Photo: JIM HOLLANDER/EPIC/SPF)

One of his co-chairs for the trip is Elynn Bogdanoff, the first Jewish Republican woman to serve in the Florida Legislature until 2012. She is a lawyer who voted for the privatization of prisons and expansion of charter schools, and donated \$1,000 to DeSantis's 2018 gubernatorial campaign.

Another trip co-chair, Simon Falck, CEO of Duty Free Americas, a chain of shops in 13 airports, is also attending. He donated \$5,000 to DeSantis. His wife, Jana, also a co-chair, is co-president of the Women's International Zionist Organization.

The Falcks are longtime financial supporters of Benjamin Netanyahu and are ranked among his top three U.S. campaign donors.

Ferre staunchly denied the business mission being political in nature.

"This has nothing to do with 2020," Ferre said. "Any one who thinks that doesn't really know the governor."

When you are on a trade mission to Israel to entice corporations to invest in Florida, you bring along people who are in with the leadership of that country," she said. And for now, since last month's elections, Netanyahu's Likud Party is still in charge even though Netanyahu himself faces corruption charges.

"You need people close to the Likud to open doors," Ferre said. "We are selling a product, and that is that the best product the United States has to offer is Florida."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

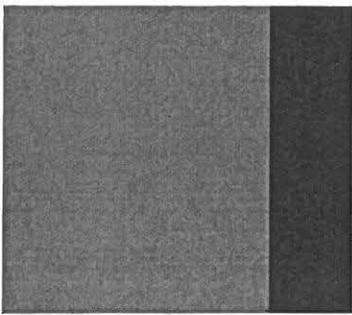
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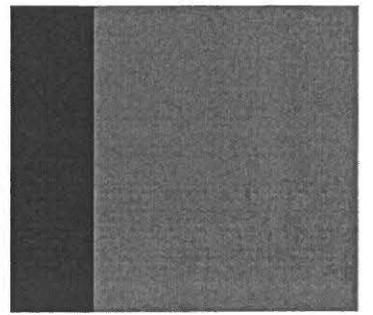
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EXHIBIT G



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THE BUZZ 

Ron DeSantis explores space in Israel

DeSantis said he was excited to see the possibilities for technology partnerships with Israel for space, agriculture, and water management.

By **Jeffrey Schweers**

15 minutes ago



JAFFA, ISRAEL – Tuesday’s agenda for the trade mission to Israel being led by Gov. Ron DeSantis is long and all about the business of space, security and protecting our water resources.

First up was a trip through the old town of Joppa to the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation, founded by late president Shimon Peres in 1996.

The press van arrived ahead of the delegation, which was treated to a presentation of the partnership between Space Florida and the Israel Innovation Authority and the Israel Space Agency. They also announced the sixth call for projects in the partnership after signing a renewal agreement with Gov. DeSantis.

DeSantis said he was excited to see the possibilities for technology partnerships with Israel for space, agriculture, and water management.

“There are a whole host of things we can learn from each other,” DeSantis said. “I look forward to getting these agreements signed and achieving even more for the state of Florida and the state of Israel.”



The agreements also expand the partnership to meet the challenges both Florida and Israel face in agriculture, clean water and cybersecurity, said Frank DiBello, the president and CEO of Space Florida.

“It’s been highly successful, and it will bring an additional range of technologies to benefit both countries,” he said.

DiBello discussed many of the developments in private space flight technology that have supplanted a once robust, federally financed space program led by NASA.

“Next year, we will have four human rated vehicles that will fly out of Florida,” DiBello said.

He also talked about the partnership finding ways to meet the “insatiable demand for bandwidth” and the 2 billion people in the world still unserved by the Internet.

There was a tour of the Peres Center, meetings with Stemrad, Space Pharma, Nano Dimension, MOU signings with Florida and Israeli universities and a signing of an agreement between Florida and Israel emergency management officials.

Jared Moskowitz, director of Florida’s division of emergency management, toured the Gaza strip and the emergency management center there. Last week, Israeli first responders dealt with wildfires similar to the types that occur in Florida.

With the official start of hurricane season looming in days, he reflected on how one of his key takeaways centered around communication during events that threaten lives or safety.

“They blast things out to cell phones in the area,” Moskowitz said. “That’s something that’s obviously different for our culture – in emergency situations making sure people are aware, not optionally but mandatory, so that they have the information to help make decisions. That’s something obviously that we’ll continue to look at.”

The agreement Moskowitz signed also will lay the groundwork for Israeli emergency management officials to come to Florida’s aid when it has a major disaster.

Following the partnership-signing blitz, the lawyer-lobbying firm of Greenberg Traurig hosted a networking business lunch, where lawmakers, university faculty and business leaders chatted about the technology they



just heard about. Several were pleased that some of the agreements would have an immediate impact.

James Sullivan, head of Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Institute, was excited that the MOU his university signed with Haifa University Monday will have an immediate impact in the field of marine sciences.

"We can collaborate right after we get back and start working on it," he said. "That's what we want, a substantive MOU."

Florida A&M University, meanwhile, signed an agreement with Haifa to create a mutual study-abroad program for students.

"We will be able to expose our students to the world and have their students experience our culture, too," FAMU President Larry Robinson said.

A trip to Tel Aviv University for more partnership agreement signing ceremonies was next on the agenda to be followed by a roundtable discussion on water challenges facing Florida and Israel.

In the evening, there will be a meeting and reception hosted by David Friedman, U.S. Ambassador to Israel.

USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA Statehouse Reporter Jeffrey Schweers is accompanying Gov. Ron DeSantis and his 90-plus member delegation on his Israeli business development mission this week as a pool reporter for the Florida Society of News Editors. Schweers will provide regular reports and updates from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem for Florida's newspapers. Follow him on Twitter for updates @jeffschweers.

Jeffrey Schweers

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What's Nikki Fried up to in Israel? Hint: It involves crops, drones and med pot

The only Democrat to win statewide office in the 2018 midterm elections, Fried said one of the reasons she chose to blaze her own path was to show "there are great supporters of Israel on both sides of the aisle."



Ron DeSantis blames one side in Israeli-Palestinian conflict

"If you look at this whole conflict, to me, the biggest problem has been that Palestinian Arabs have not recognized Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state," he said.

Trump needs Florida in 2020. He obviously knows that.

The part-time Florida resident has spent more time in the Sunshine State than any location outside of Washington since becoming president, and not just because he likes golf.

PolitiFact Florida: Fact-checking Wayne Messam on Florida law, mayors discussing gun reform

The Democratic presidential candidate is the mayor of Miramar.



The economics (and politics) behind Florida's Israel trip

"We have a lot of things on tap, from economic development to science and academic research to tourism. We only have four days here, and it's only going to be more helpful to Florida," DeSantis said, during a few brief remarks Sunday night.

Florida's leaders land in Israel, greeted by Visit Florida sign

A group including Gov. Ron DeSantis, politicians, business leaders, lobbyists and academics land in Tel Aviv on Sunday.

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Media blocked from live coverage of Florida Cabinet meeting in Israel due to security concerns

Jeffrey Schwiers, Tallahassee Democrat Published 1:01 p.m. ET May 25, 2019

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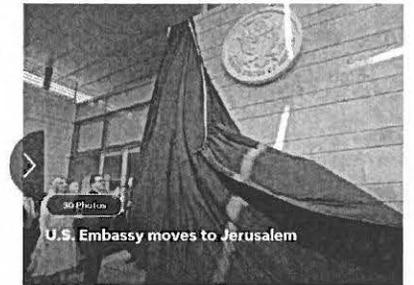


Times reporters prepare the ceremony stage outside the U.S. consulate that will act as the new U.S. embassy in May 15, 2018 in Jerusalem, Israel. (Photo: JOPH MORFITT/REUTERS)

Security at the U.S. Embassy in Israel will prevent the media from covering Wednesday's Florida Cabinet meeting live.

Hours before the delegation was to take off from Miami, a spokeswoman for Gov. Ron DeSantis said the use of cell phones and laptops to cover the meeting over 8,000 miles from Tallahassee would be prohibited.

"The U.S. Embassy has sent us new guidelines for the Wednesday visit which, unfortunately, restricts us all to a great degree," wrote Helen Ferre in an email to journalists and members of the delegation. "Neither you nor I will be able to enter with cellphone or laptop; photography and filming is allowed but not with cellphone or iPad. This applies to all attending this event, not just to journalists."



Israel bound:

- Agenda for DeSantis trip short on details, but big on promises for Florida
- See the owners of the delegation members accompanying Gov. DeSantis to Israel

The guidelines will prevent the media from livestreaming Wednesday's 55-minute "ceremonial" Cabinet meeting, which has come under criticism from First Amendment watchdog groups and Arab-American groups.

UPDATES FROM ISRAEL

USA TODAY NETWORK — FLORIDA: Statehouse Reporter Jeffrey Schwiers is accompanying Gov. Ron DeSantis and his 90-plus member delegation on his Israeli business development mission this week as a paid reporter for the Florida Society of News Editors. Schwiers will provide regular reports and updates from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem for Florida's newspapers. Follow him on Twitter for updates @jeffschwiers.



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-  **Man arrested after hours on Goddard campus**
May 24, 2019, 5:06 p.m.
-  **Arab group miffed at DeSantis over Israel trip**
May 24, 2019, 6:45 p.m.
-  **Man in custody after threatening girlfriend**
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May 24, 2019, 11:42 a.m.



The Florida Channel, which is funded by The Florida Legislature and produced and operated by WFSU-TV, will be the only outlet permitted to livestream the proceedings.

Due to bandwidth limitations, we are able to support one live feed for the Cabinet meeting - this must be done via wired internet connection. The Florida Channel has been prioritized as the organization for live stream coverage.

Fazio noted that the restrictions were necessary because "security is an enormous concern" during the trip.

"It is what it is. My sincerest apologies for the inconvenience, it is the only place and time this will occur during this trip unless there is an emergency. Petite wrote:

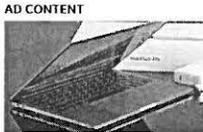


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Three article thumbnails: 'CPAP Makers Scrambling After New Snoring Fix Unveiled', 'A clam dunk for those looking for a one-card wallet', and 'Florida Will Pay Homeowners to Install Solar'.

Three article thumbnails: 'Thinking About Going Solar? Read This First', 'Play this for 1 minute and see why everyone is addicted', and 'Dress shirts are 3/\$99 at our Memorial Day Big Deal Event'.



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