



## **Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council In-coming Chair, Commissioner Victor Crist Announces Aggressive and Innovative Agenda for 2015**

*“My goal as the 2015 Chair is to elevate the Council’s presence, to further strengthen our relevance, and to put the TBRPC out front as the leader of regional thinking and collaboration.”*  
Commissioner Victor Crist, TBRPC Chair

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

**Wren Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information**

**Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council**

**(727) 570-5151 ext. 22 or [wren@tbrpc.org](mailto:wren@tbrpc.org)**

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) recently held its 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting and the 2015 Oath of Office Ceremony for the incoming Slate of Officers. At the helm for 2015 is Hillsborough County Commissioner Victor Crist. In his acceptance remarks, Commissioner Crist put forth bold initiatives and innovative ideas for the regional entity. *“My goal as the 2015 Chair is to elevate the Council’s presence, to further strengthen our relevance, and to put the TBRPC out front as the leader of regional thinking and collaboration,”* stated Commissioner Victor Crist.

Top on his list for 2015 is to develop a “road map to grow a *viable medical tourism industry* here in Tampa Bay.” Beginning in February, the Council will develop and foster discussion and collaboration among the region’s medical institutions, tourism boards and various other stakeholders. Crist went on to explain that the region is a perfect fit for the medical tourism industry due to a multitude of top-notch medical facilities, the world class Tampa International Airport, an abundance of hotels and resorts, and the bay area’s beaches.

In March of the coming year, the new Chair and the Council will address *the emerging ride-sharing industry* which is gaining more and more attention in the Tampa Bay area and throughout the

nation. The Council will focus on ways to collaborate between local governments to create a baseline regional standard or template for addressing issues such as permitting. And, in the Fall the Council will host a discussion on the idea of A Regional Public Transportation Commission.

In June the focus will be on *innovative ideas and solutions* that can assist local governments in being more productive and responsive to their employees, constituents and the people they serve. Various corporations and companies will be invited to present before the Council.

The TBRPC has been leading the way on the local and state level in regard to energy resiliency. The TBRPC's award winning *Florida Energy Resiliency Strategy Report* is serving as a catalyst for a 2 day *Energy Summit* which will include a government policy track as well as an educational track on a myriad of energy options and solutions available to the citizens of Tampa Bay.

In closing, the Commissioner invited members to bring forward any issues and ideas for open discussion and/or debate. *"It is my hope that we can facilitate consensus for our local governments on many of these issues by creating regional baseline policies that would uniformly serve our local governments and in turn boost their local economies,"* said Commissioner Crist.

### [2015 TBRPC Slate of Officers](#)

Commissioner Victor Crist, Chair (Hillsborough County)

Mayor Woody Brown, Vice-Chair (City of Largo, FL)

Councilman Patrick Roff, Secretary/Treasurer, (City of Bradenton, FL)