



Commissioner Sandy Murman participated in the Synapse Innovation Summit at Amalie Arena, which hosted experts and investors from Tampa Bay and beyond. Discussions included how entrepreneurs can get ahead in the ecosystem with or without venture capital. “This is the year all our hard work pays off with more jobs, more infrastructure and more investment,” she said.

Read the story here: bizjournals.com/tampabay/news

[Hillsborough Commissioners call for solution to funding child swim lessons](#)

Swim lessons are part of Head Start, a federal program that provides education, health and family support services to pre-school children. But about 700 children in the program do not get to take a potentially life-saving Hillsborough County swim safety course because there are not enough federal funds to bus the children to swimming pools. Also, citing a number of deaths at apartment pools in 2018, Commissioner Sandy Murman said more needs to be done to make those safer. "I'm pretty concerned about this," she said. "The number of drownings last year was just too high for me."

[What Tampa's modern reinvention says about future of American cities](#)

Although more than 3 million people call the Tampa–St. Petersburg–Clearwater area home (and it ranks in the top 10 of 2017 national population growth), it's not exactly top of mind when it comes to innovation and urban planning. However, much like other second-tier cities across the country, that's changing.

[Commissioners listen to input on Tampa Electric's Big Bend changes](#)

Tampa Electric announced plans last May to convert Unit 1 at the station to natural gas and shut down Unit 2 by 2021. The Thursday hearing gave the board, which has no regulatory say in the power station's modernization process, an opportunity to comment on the plans and add conditions Tampa Electric must follow in the process.

FROM THE BOARD ROOM:

Commissioners approved an additional \$400,000 in funding for The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay that will expand resources and staffing for its sexual assault treatment services and suicide prevention program to help address the increasing need for assistance in the Tampa Bay area.

Hillsborough Commissioners approved an additional \$1.2 million in funding for The Centre for Women, Inc. that will provide additional housing rehabilitation assistance to the vulnerable population of Hillsborough County.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY

Wednesday, February 6, 9:00 a.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting at County Center

Tuesday, February 12, 9:00 a.m. – BOCC Land Use Meeting at County Center

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WHAT'S ON THE BOCC AGENDA?

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