

Subject: September Newsletter: Free Citizenship Event, Hispanic Heritage Month, Legislation, COVID-19, Business of the Month and more...



## September Newsletter

[Para ver este boletín en español, haz clic aquí.](#)

A flyer for a "FREE CITIZENSHIP DRIVE" event. The text includes: "FREE CITIZENSHIP DRIVE", "SATURDAY, OCT 9 9:00 AM-1:00 PM", "WESTCHESTER REGIONAL LIBRARY 9445 CORAL WAY, MIAMI, FL 33165", and the phone number "1 888-600-5762". It also lists items to bring: "PLEASE BRING: Green card &amp; all passports used in the last 5 years, Home/School/Employment History for the last 5 years, Children's info (DOB, Addresses), Marital history, and If you have been arrested, cited or given a ticket, certificate of disposition for each". The flyer features a small portrait of Senator Annette Taddeo and logos for the Florida State Senate and the Florida Immigrant Coalition (FIC).

### Free Citizenship Drive

On Saturday, October 9 from 9am to 1pm we're partnering with the **Florida Immigrant Coalition** for a **FREE** Citizenship Drive at the **Westchester Regional Library**. Citizenship applicants must be 18 years or older and must have lived in the US w/ Green Card for 5 years or 3 years if married to a US Citizen. Call **1 888-600-5762** for more information.

## Legislation



**Statement by Senator Annette Taddeo Regarding Florida Republicans announcing plans for a Texas style attack on reproductive rights.** "Understand what Florida Republicans want to do: They want to give rapists the right to sue their victims to stop them from getting an abortion - and to be able to collect money from their victims who try to have an abortion. If Republicans get their way, rapists will have more power over this decision than the victim.

- [Senator Annette Taddeo on WFLA with Evan Donovan](#)
- [Senator Annette Taddeo on Telemundo 51 with Gloria Ordaz](#)
- [Senator Annette Taddeo on NBC 6](#)
- [Press Conference with Sen. Taddeo, Florida Planned Parenthood, Florida Rising, Dignity Power and countless Democratic House and Senate colleagues](#)
- [Press Conference with Planned Parenthood in Miami](#)

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## News

**Senator Taddeo's statement on Governor Ron DeSantis' attack of immigrants**

Executive Order 21-223, titled the "Biden Border Crisis"

which, putting aside the fact that Florida is NOT a border state, further shows this governor's willingness to fuel the politics of hate. As the granddaughter of Italian immigrants and daughter of a Colombian immigrant mother, Senator Taddeo knows first hand that Florida and our nation is a melting pot of rich culture and tradition and we have immigrants to thank for it.

**STATEMENT FROM SENATOR ANNETTE TADDEO ON GOVERNOR DESANTIS' ATTACK OF IMMIGRANTS**

**MIAMI** — Today Governor Ron DeSantis signed Executive Order 21-223, titled the "Biden Border Crisis" which, putting aside the fact that Florida is not a border state, further shows this governor's willingness to fuel the politics of hate to gain support for his future presidential ambitions.

As the granddaughter of Italian immigrants and daughter of a Colombian immigrant mother, I know first hand that Florida and our nation is a melting pot of rich culture and tradition and we have immigrants to thank for it. Instead of using immigrants as political pawns to score political points with an extremist base of his party, as an elected leader, the governor should instead set a tone and example for our State and our country. The governor's actions and the words used matter and his latest political posturing will negatively affect our state.

Senator Annette Taddeo

**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

**COMMITTEES:**  
Ethics and Elections, Vice Chair  
Appointments Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Tourism, and Economic Development  
Building and Insurance  
Committee on Tourism  
General Counsel

**SENATOR ANNETTE TADDEO**  
4th District

September 8, 2021

Mr. Kevin J. Thibault  
Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
605 Sunnamiway Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Thibault,

I am writing to you regarding the pollution nightmare in the Miami waters, specifically coming from the construction site of Connecting I-395/SR 8361-95 Project. Manurets were seen in Biscayne Bay swimming through silt planes and sediment runoff from the construction site of Miami's new signature bridge.

The Florida Legislature enacted the Florida Air and Water Pollution Control Act to combat pollution of Florida's water, not only a menace to public health and welfare, but as it impairs domestic, agricultural, industrial, and other uses of air and water that house our precious wildlife. Moreover, the Clean Waterways Act carries a wide range of water quality protection provisions aimed at minimizing the impact of known sources of pollution and should have realized our State's resources to enhance the protection of Florida's environment.

It is clear that Florida agriculture and waters need to be protected and it is time for more aggressive action. How can this happen and more importantly who is going to pay to remove the pollution? Will the contracted firm doing the bridge work pay for this inexcusable failure to properly dispose of their construction waste or does the Department expect taxpayers to cover the cost of their mistake? I look forward to your prompt reply. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

In Service,

Annette Taddeo  
Florida State Senator  
District 4th

REPLY TO:  
7100 South Dade County Boulevard, Suite 1000, Miami, Florida 33156 (305) 596-3023  
7124 Senate Office Building, 604 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (904) 487-6040  
Senate Website: www.floridasenate.gov

WILTON SIMPSON  
President of the Senate

AARON BEAN  
President Pro Tempore

**FDOT**  
Florida Department of Transportation  
1100 NW 117 Avenue  
Miami, FL 33172-5800

RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.  
SECRETARY

September 13, 2021

The Honorable Annette Taddeo  
Florida State Senator, District 40  
9100 South Dade County Boulevard  
Miami, FL 33156

**RE: I-395/SR 8361-95 Design-Build Project in Miami**

Dear Senator Taddeo,

Secretary Thibault requested that I respond to your concerns over the unintentional discharge of sediment into Biscayne Bay from our I-395/SR 8361-95 Design-Build Project in Miami. As you are probably aware, the area experienced heavy rainfall on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, resulting in flash flood warnings and heavy flooding in Downtown Miami, Brickell, and the surrounding communities. The flooding overwhelmed the erosion and sediment controls that were in place, causing a discharge of turbid water into the bay.

The Department has been coordinating extensively with the contractor: a comprehensive action plan is being implemented to prevent a recurrence. The contractor is expediting the deployment of additional resources to clean and desilt the existing stormwater drainage system within the project limits. Removal of this sediment will prevent it from washing out during future rain events. Installation of additional perimeter controls within the project footprint is already underway. Additional turbidity curtains have already been deployed at the outfalls leading into the bay to provide increased redundancy. These will continue to be inspected regularly to ensure they are functioning properly. Project wide, the effectiveness of the controls will be monitored daily and modified as needed to protect natural resources. Please note all costs associated with corrective measures and/or mitigation due to siltation will be borne by the contractor.

I want to take this opportunity to assure you and your constituents that the Florida Department of Transportation takes these matters seriously and will continue to monitor our activities to ensure that our waterways and environment are protected. I'm available to meet at your convenience to discuss additional questions or concerns. I can be reached by email at [stacy.miller@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:stacy.miller@dot.state.fl.us) or cell phone (954) 914-8237.

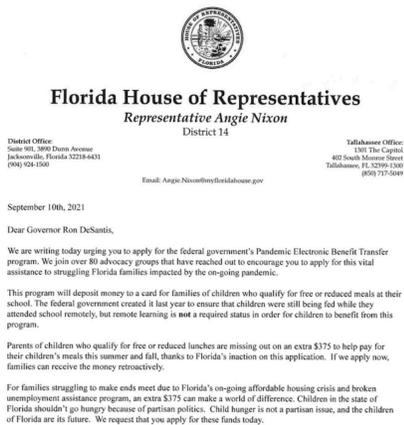
Sincerely,  
Stacy Miller, P.E.  
District Six Secretary

cc: Rudy Garcia, P.E., Florida Department of Transportation, District Six  
Mario Cabrera, P.E., Florida Department of Transportation, District Six

Improve Safety. Enhance Mobility. Inspire Innovation  
[www.flot.gov](http://www.flot.gov)

**Don't trash our treasure!**

On September 8th, Senator Taddeo sent a letter to Secretary Kevin Thibault of the Florida Department of Transportation about the state managed construction site polluting our precious Biscayne Bay. Just days later on September 13th, we received a reply assuring the community that our tax dollars would not be footing the bill for this destructive mistake.



**32 Florida lawmakers ask DeSantis to apply for federal benefits to help feed children**

On September 10, with the support of Representative Angie Nixon, Senator Taddeo joined 30 other legislators on a letter requesting that Governor RonDeSantis apply for federal funding from the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program. Florida’s hardest hit families are currently missing out on \$375 a month that would go towards feeding the children in our state.

## Events

### Hispanic Heritage Month

As a Latina, Senator Annette Taddeo is proud of her roots. The variety of culture that Florida offers has a lot to do with Hispanic Americans, as they make up 1/4 of Floridians. This year, honor the dreams, voices, stories and contributions of the Hispanic community as they break down more barriers and make history!



### The 1st annual South Dade Labor Day Cookout

As the daughter of a labor leader, the significance of this day doesn’t fall lightly on Senator Taddeo. Her



father taught her the importance of both the hard work and dedication of labor workers as well as unions. She was honored to attend the 1st annual South Dade Labor Day cookout hosted by Representative Chambliss.

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### Fire Service Awards

While in Tallahassee for the Legislative Committee Week, Senator Taddeo was able to attend the '20-'21 Fire Service Awards where Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's own Captain Omar Blanco was awarded the 2020 Florida Professional Firefighter of the Year Award. This years fire service awards honored the lives of the 98 people that perished on the June 24 collapse of the Champlain Towers South Building.



### Puerto Rico Day Parade

Celebrating the Puerto Rican community in Orlando with Congresswoman Val Demings, Congressman Darren Soto, Senator Victor Torres, Representatives Carlos G. Smith, Anna Eskamani and more!! This parade filled with fun and dance encompasses the vibrant culture of Puerto Rican's and Florida is richer for it.

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### Miami Beach Pride Parade

The energy of the LGBTQ+ community and allies

including Senator Taddeo took over the streets of Miami Beach Pride! Huge shoutout to SAVE, a non-profit which promotes, protects and defends equality for LGBTQ+ people in South Florida, for inviting us to this experience.



**Senator Taddeo joined Building Back Together and the Miami Freedom Project** on a forum to discuss the importance of President Biden's historical Build Back Better agenda. Here she highlighted that to support our workforce we must think of families. Specifically, for working moms, no paid leave and little pay leaves no room for the cost of childcare.

**Senator Annette Taddeo met with Miami-Dade Local Firefighters Union 1403 and Coral Gables Local Firefighters Union 1210** at Chef Sucre Cafe, to simultaneously support small businesses in Miami. Here they discussed the upcoming 2022 legislative session as well as Senator Taddeo's appreciation for their hard work and dedication as first responders in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.





### **Celebrating Costa Rica's Independence**

It was the Senator's great honor to share in the culture and tradition of Costa Rica and present the community with a proclamation from the Florida State Senate commemorating 200 years of independence. In addition, at this event, Senator Taddeo was presented with an award acknowledging her dedication to the Costa Rican community.

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### **Team Taddeo celebrates the 200th anniversary of Mexico's independence!**

Thank you to the Mexican Consulate in Miami and Consul General Jonathan Chait for putting together such a memorable evening at Miami-Dade College Kendall campus in Senate District 40!



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### **Senator Taddeo distinguished by her alma mater Bucaramanga Colegio Panamericano**

Senator Taddeo met with the President of her alma mater Sergio Arenas, the Vice President Consuelo Pimiento and Jorge Luis Vesga, President of the school board. Here

she was recognized for her work, leadership and the example she has set for the students of their school.

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## **Business of the Month**

Congratulations to our Senate District 40 OCTOBER Business of the Month Bolay. Join us for this recognition by placing an order and following them on social media. **Nominate** your favorite SD 40 Small Business!

The advertisement is a vertical rectangular graphic with a blue background. At the top left is the Florida State Seal. To its right, the text 'OCTOBER BUSINESS OF THE MONTH' is written in white. Below this, 'Senator Annette Taddeo' is written in white, with a small Florida map icon. To the right of the text is a portrait of Senator Annette Taddeo. Below the portrait, the word 'BOLAY' is written in large green letters, and 'Kitchen' is written in red script. To the right of the logo is a photo of a bowl of food. Below the logo, the text 'BUILD YOUR OWN "BOL"' is written in white, followed by 'FUELING BOLD LIVES WITH FRESH INGREDIENTS' and 'DINE-IN, PICK-UP, DELIVERY & CATERING'. At the bottom left, the address '8746 Mills Drive, Miami, FL 33183' is listed, along with social media icons for Facebook and Instagram, and the handle '@Bolay'. At the bottom right, the phone number '(786) 785-5580' is displayed. The hours of operation are listed as 'MON-THURS: 11AM-9PM' and 'SUNDAY: 11AM-9PM'.

**OCTOBER**  
**BUSINESS OF THE MONTH**

Senator  
Annette Taddeo Senate District 40

**BOLAY**  
FRESH BOLD | *Kitchen*

**BUILD YOUR OWN "BOL"**  
FUELING BOLD LIVES WITH  
FRESH INGREDIENTS  
DINE-IN, PICK-UP, DELIVERY & CATERING

**ADDRESS:**  
8746 Mills Drive,  
Miami, FL 33183

<https://www.bolay.com/locations/kendall/>

**HOURS:**  
MON-THURS:  
11AM-9PM  
SUNDAY:  
11AM-9PM

**(786) 785-5580**

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## **Announcements**

This month, the **University of Florida** was ranked among the **Top 5 public universities** in the



**nation!** Florida is grateful to have them and their exemplary students like our previous Team Taddeo Legislative fellow Brandy Camp who was recruited through the Bob Graham Center. We can't wait to see who joins us next!

**The Florida State University has kept their ranking as a Top 20 public university in the nation!** Every legislative session, Tallahassee welcomes us with open arms and that has a big part to do with the Noles. Senator Taddeo is pictured here with two Team Taddeo FSU Fellows, Leah and Keily during the 2020 Session.



Make a difference in the life of a child or teen in our community.  
**Become a Foster Parent.**  
For more information, contact us:  
1-855-786-KIDS (5437)  
[www.citrusfcn.com](http://www.citrusfcn.com)

Foster Hope.  
Foster Love.  
Foster Family.

**citrus**  
Family Care Network

@citrusfcn #FosterHopeAndLove

Positive relationships have the power to change lives. **Make a difference for kids and teens in Miami-Dade County by becoming a Foster Parent.** Contact **Citrus Family Care Network** to learn more at 1-855-786-KIDS (5437) or by visiting <http://citrusfcn.com>.

## Unemployment Update

**All remaining Federal Unemployment Benefit extensions in Florida have expired.** This means unemployed Floridians at no fault of their own will only receive up to \$275 per

week, much lower than the national average. If you require assistance with your unemployment claim please do not hesitate to reach out to our office via email at [Taddeo.Annette.Web@FLsenate.gov](mailto:Taddeo.Annette.Web@FLsenate.gov).

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## **COVID-19 Resources**



Every week **food distributions** are organized in Miami-Dade hosted by [Feeding South Florida](#) and [Farm Share](#). **During this Coronavirus crisis many organizations are coming together to support our community.**

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### **CORONAVIRUS TESTING**

Miami-Dade provides a list of testing sites [online here](#), including **mobile testing, walk-up and drive-thru**. Getting tested is key to receiving early treatment and preventing the spread of COVID-19.

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**COVID-19 VACCINE**: ALL individuals 12+ are eligible, [click here for details](#). Please visit [miamidade.gov/vaccine](http://miamidade.gov/vaccine) for all vaccine updates.

**VACCINE BOOSTERS**: U.S. health experts recommend COVID-19 vaccine boosters for all individuals 65+ or high risk individuals 18+ at least 6 months after the completion of their second dose.

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## **Financial Assistance**

[www.miamidade.gov/covidhelp](http://www.miamidade.gov/covidhelp)

MIAMI-DADE  
COUNTY

**The Emergency Rental Program (ERAP) is now accepting applications.** The ERAP provides rental payment assistance for up to 12 months in back rent, if you meet certain income qualifications and are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Apply here.](#)

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### **Rental and Other Assistance for the Homeless or Evicted**

The federal ban on evictions has expired. If you or a loved one are homeless or were recently evicted, support is available in [Miami-Dade County](#). This assistance includes payment of first month's rent, security deposit, mortgage and utility bills, as well as shelter and food. [Click here.](#)

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## **Contact Us**

### **Email**

**Taddeo.Annette.web@FLsenate.gov**

### **Phone**

**Miami: (305) 596-3003**

**Tallahassee: (850) 487-5040**

### **District Office**

**9100 South Dadeland Boulevard Suite 1500**

**Miami, FL 33156**



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