

**BROWARD COUNTY PAIN CLINIC TASK FORCE
REPORT TO THE BROWARD LEAGUE OF CITIES
BY COMMISSIONER ANNE SALLEE, OAKLAND PARK**

The Pain Clinic Task force has been meeting twice monthly to compile a report with recommendations to send to the Broward County Commission. The draft outline and a BSO presentation are available through the League Offices upon request. The final report is due September 30th.

The Pain Clinic moratoriums and ordinances from Broward (and Palm Beach County) municipalities have been gathered and reviewed, and input was sought from each city in Broward County regarding their unique situations and challenges. Fourteen (14) Broward County cities responded.

The new State Law, passed as SB 2722, which is scheduled to go into effect October 1st, has been challenged in some areas and there is a draft of changes being circulated that may be needed to be fine-tuned clear up some of the vagueries.

One of the issues that has arisen is the morphing of dispensing clinics in close proximity to pain clinics now that pain clinics will be strictly limited in the amounts they can dispense and how they can advertise. One very interesting area of concern is Business Tax Receipts (BTR). Recently a County BTR was issued, and the business owner believed or chose to believe that he did not need to obtain a city BTR since the County had issued one. Pain Clinics were not a permitted use in the location selected. The County had no way of knowing since they do not verify zoning or local ordinances when they issue BTRs.

Businesses presently must file for BTR's both in the municipality where they intend to locate and with Broward County. Broward County has no way to verify if the business complies with municipal code and requirements and has on occasion issued a BTR that should not have been given. Broward County has suggested that since the municipalities must issue a BTR anyway and are familiar with their local rules and requirements, perhaps it makes more sense for us to issue both the city and county BTR at the same time. Cities would then collect the fee for the County, take a portion for handling and forward the balance to the County.

Commissioner Lieberman, who is the County Commission Representative on the Task Force made the suggestion and asked that it be forwarded to the cities for consideration. I would ask that each city review the idea and send me their thoughts and response for submission to the County.

As always, I am available to answer any questions and will submit the final report as soon as it is completed.