



LEON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.



Vincent S. Long

County Administrator
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The County Administrator is responsible for both ensuring the Board's legislative and policy directions are carried out and, as Chief Executive Officer, for ensuring the efficient and effective day-to-day operations of County government. Vince Long has worked for Leon County since 1995. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University and is a graduate of the Harvard University, JFK School of Government Institute for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. He is also a Credentialed Manager by the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) and currently serves as President of the Florida Association of County Managers.

A member of the Board of Directors for Leadership Florida and the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Big Bend, Vince is a member of the Advisory Council and regular lecturer of the Askew School and serves on the faculty of the Florida Association of Counties' County Commissioner Certification Program.

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

2015 was another year of significant progress for Leon County toward realizing an ambitious vision for our community and setting the standard for performance, fiscal stewardship and best practices for local governments everywhere. We completed major infrastructure projects, launched bold policy initiatives, and enhanced efficiencies, created innovations, and improved service delivery to our citizens. Overall, from our operations and finances, to our core practices and organizational culture, we are stronger today than we were even a year ago.

Each year the County Administrator provides an Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners which also serves as an important update to our community on our commitments to serve on behalf of and alongside our citizens. This was a year which continued to reflect the strong fiscal leadership of the Board of County Commissioners in balancing our community's needs with the resources of our citizens; as well as, the fiduciary stewardship and innovation of Leon County employees in maximizing efficiency, driving performance and delivering results for our community.

Here are just a few highlights from the Annual Report which demonstrate the dependability of the Board of County Commissioners and the dedication of the men and women of Leon County government in doing what we said we would do in 2015.

We said we would continue to be an effective leader and a reliable partner in growing and diversifying our local economy.

AND WE DID...

As we grew our tourism economy dramatically in 2015 and literally set the stage for becoming a premiere destination for entertainment, culture and sports tourism. From hosting regional running events at the Apalachee Regional Park to coordinating signature events like Word of South, we drew tens of thousands of visitors and saw a tourism economic impact of \$963 million. And we focused on developing talent right here when we celebrated the first year of Domi Station, which will create jobs and diversify our local economy for years to come.

We said we would continue to protect and enhance our unique quality of life so that people are safe, healthy and connected to their community.

AND WE DID...

As we expanded and improved our beautiful parks countywide, including the renovation of Miccosukee Community Park, where at the park dedication we recognized Trent McElroy and his heart of a warrior. Through a partnership between the County, City and United Way, we



Apalachee Regional Park Cross Country Trail



Miccosukee Community Park



The Pink Floyd Experience at the Capital City Amphitheater



The Kearney Center Grand Opening

We also brought hundreds of citizens to the table with “Food For Us”, our Sustainable Communities Summit, where we talked about local food issues and how we can grow our food economy. And at the same time, we launched our Library Seed Program and watched as thousands of library patrons checked out seed packets to start their own gardens with friends and family.

created the Kearney Center for the homeless where we realized once again the heart of our community as we brought together critical service providers to help those in need. We also said we would complete the Kinhega roundabout before school started again, and we opened the road four days early. And throughout construction we promoted area businesses, because we know that when construction starts, business does not stop.

We said we would engage citizens not only as taxpayers, but as co-creators of our community.

AND WE DID...

As our citizens shaped the future of our community through their work on the sales tax extension. And when county employees joined community members to revitalize a neighborhood to commemorate 9/11, and at Operation Thank You, when we brought together the community to honor our Korean War Veterans at their memorial in Cascades Park. And through the Club of Honest Citizens (and so many other forums) when we invite our community to engage face to face with county officials on issues that matter most to them.

Among our many commitments to our citizens, we said we would continue to be a model local government which our citizens believe in and others benchmark against.

AND WE DID IN 2015...

By continuing to be good fiscal stewards during a slowly recovering economy. We refinanced the County’s debt service, which will save \$585,000 over the next two years; we added funds for sidewalks and right-of-way maintenance; increased funding for social service agencies to address critical needs in our community; and reduced three positions funded by general revenue due to improved processes and consolidation of duties. And we realized these and other savings while keeping the millage rate unchanged.

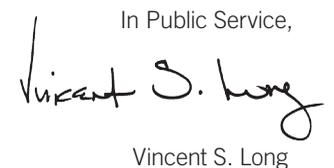
Leon County was also recognized with eleven national awards for best practices for the efficient and innovative provision of services to our community. Awards highlighted online technology, program delivery, and most of all, our commitment to serving our citizens.

In all the ways we touch the lives of our citizens each day, whether it’s helping a veteran, teaching a child to read, building parks and greenways, or responding to the scene of an accident, we at Leon County not only do what we say we are going to do, but we do it putting people first and striving every day to set the standard in public service.

While we will continue to face the same challenges of communities and governments everywhere else, Leon County has proven to be a government that listens to the citizens we serve, solves our problems, and ensures that our community continues to be a place like nowhere else, as demonstrated through the pages of the 2015 Annual Report.



Operation Thank You: Honoring Our Korean War Veterans

In Public Service,

 Vincent S. Long