

RICK SINGH, CFA

ORANGE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

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ORANGE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER RICK SINGH DELIVERS 2018 STATE OF ORANGE COUNTY REAL ESTATE:

-Announces Historic Tax Roll Amount-

Orlando, FL – Orange County Property Appraiser, Rick Singh, addressed some 1,000 local constituents and provided an update of recent trends in property values on Thursday, August 23, at his annual “State of Orange County Real Estate” program. Singh began this signature event upon taking office in 2013. Targeted toward real estate industry professionals, the program also featured local leaders as guest panelists who shared their thoughts on recent trends and future opportunities. Moderated by Spectrum New 13 host Allison Walker-Torres, the event was produced in-house by the staff of the Orange County Property Appraiser.

“As the Orange County Property Appraiser, one of the most rewarding aspects of my job is connecting with our community,” Singh said. “As I always say, in order to serve a community – you must know a community.”

Singh opened the presentation with a video package scripted to lead the audience to believe that he was on the way to the venue using Central Florida’s transportation options. Reminiscent of Billy Crystal’s famous Oscar telecast openings, Singh burst through the back of the room in time to share highlights of the last year, including:

- Orange County achieved historic levels of market and assessed values in 2018, delivering a tax roll of \$188.8 billion to the citizens, which is its highest market value in history.
- Orange County continues to see growth in the commercial sector with new hotels, attractions, and businesses.
- More than 6,000 single family homes were built last year – driving the median price to \$280,000.
- Orange County is an attractive destination for foreign investments and tourism.
- New construction continues to be a driving force in valuation.
- Transportation, technology and education are critical components for a healthy Central Florida economy.

Speaking to the diversity of property in Orange County, Singh qualified that, “Nowhere in the world must a property appraiser value seven major theme parks, nearly 300,000 single family homes, over 16,000 timeshare units, almost 87,000 hotel rooms, and over 51,000 condos and 128,000 apartment units all in the same county.”

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Taking the time to praise his staff, Singh shared that customer service is key. In fact, he stated that if you require personal service from a member of his staff, the average wait time in the lobby is only 1½ minutes. Callers to the office typically do not have to wait on hold for more than 30 seconds ... which is rare in business and unheard of in government.

Following his presentation, Singh was joined onstage by Jeffrey M. Fagan, 2018 ORRA President Elect - Orlando Regional Realtor Association; Yolanda Londoño, Vice President of Global Social Responsibility for Tupperware Brands Corporation; Joe Nunziata, Co-CEO of FBC Mortgage, LLC; Terry Prather, Chief Operating Officer, LIFT; and Robert Utsey, Senior Vice President for Coastal Construction Group of Florida.

In a spirited discussion led by questions from Walker-Torres, the panelists discussed topics ranging from business incentives to gentrification, and from minimum wage to women's evolving roles in the workplace. And while record-breaking numbers for commercial and residential new construction were presented – including an astounding 6,035 new single-family homes last year – all panelists agreed that affordable housing in Central Florida is in crisis, even though transportation options like SunRail have enabled residents to live far from where they work.

The 2018 “State of Orange County Real Estate” event was the fifth for the twice-elected Singh. Committed to taking his message to the taxpayers, Singh has also hosted additional, more targeted signature events in Lake Nona, west Orange County, International Drive, and Downtown Orlando.

About OCPA

The Orange County Property Appraiser's office provides a fair and equitable tax roll, remarkable service and superior professionalism. Our office also assists taxpayers with applying for homestead and other exemptions as well as understanding their Truth-In-Millage (TRIM) Notices that are released each year in August. For more information, visit www.ocpaf.org.

About Rick Singh, CFA

Rick Singh, CFA, is the first state-certified appraiser ever elected to the office of Orange County Property Appraiser. He was first voted into office in 2012 and subsequently re-elected in 2016. His vision for the Agency is customer-focused: to deliver essential services faster, increase efficiency to save taxpayers money, and to electronically update maps and records. Mr. Singh values full transparency, citizen feedback and has an open-door policy.

Under Mr. Singh's leadership (2012-present), OCPA has returned more than \$945 million to the Orange County tax base by vigorously pursuing fraudulent claims through improved compliance investigation work. Mr. Singh often says, “When we all pay our fair share, we all pay less.” Through effective management over the same time period, the Agency returned an additional \$5 million in excess budget funds.

Since 2012, the Orange County tax roll has increased by 70% - the largest increase in the state of Florida – and is valued at \$188.8 billion (July 2018). Today, OCPA is recognized by industry insiders as a global leader in many areas.

A proud veteran of the U.S. Army, Mr. Singh has made Orange County his home for more than 25 years. He serves on various boards, including the American Lung Association, Boy Scouts of America Central Florida Council, Orlando Economic Partnership, and the World Affairs Council of Central Florida. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Orlando, the Orlando Regional REALTOR® Association, and the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO).

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About Allison Walker Torres

Allison Walker Torres is a three-time Emmy-award winning anchor, talk show host, and entertainment reporter. She is the host of "IN FOCUS with Allison Walker Torres," a 30-minute roundtable of newsmakers and expert analysts who tackle topical issues of importance to Floridians.

As Spectrum News 13's entertainment specialist, Allison interviews some of the biggest celebrities in music, TV and movies. She produces and reports "Attractions Insider," making sure viewers are the first to know about breaking events at our theme parks; as well as hosts "On the Town" and "Chef's Kitchen."

About Guest Panelists

Jeffrey M. Fagan

2018 ORRA President Elect - Orlando Regional Realtor Association

Jeffrey M. Fagan was elected President of Orlando Regional Realtor Association (ORRA) in 2018, and will serve in 2019. Previously, Mr. Fagan served ORRA on the Executive Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Awards Committee, and chaired the Standards Task Force since its inception in 2014. In 2016, this task force authored the Standards in Professionalism Course which provides seven hours of continuing education, and allows participants to receive the Gold Key Certification. Currently, almost 20% of the ORRA membership holds this distinction.

In addition to his ORRA leadership, Mr. Fagan has had an 18-year career in both production and sales capacities in the agriculture and aquaculture industries.

Yolanda Londoño

Vice President of Global Social Responsibility for Tupperware Brands Corporation

Yolanda Londoño is the Vice President of Global Social Responsibility for Tupperware Brands Corporation, and directs and develops local and global philanthropic initiatives, cause-related marketing and global giving strategies with emphasis on programs that educate and empower women and girls. Ms. Londoño serves on the Board of Directors for the Orlando Economic Partnership and Visit Orlando, and collaborates with other domestic and international civic and nonprofit boards. She is an active participant in the global movement for women's economic and social empowerment.

Joe Nunziata

Co-CEO of FBC Mortgage, LLC

Joe Nunziata is the co-CEO of FBC Mortgage, LLC. Prior to its founding in 2005, Mr. Nunziata was the Senior Vice President for First Horizon Home Loans, a NYSE listed company, and a shareholder and Vice President at American Heritage Mortgage Corp. He currently serves on the boards of The Florida Hospital Foundation, FBC Mortgage Charitable Foundation, and the Seminole County and Orange County Sheriff Foundations.

Named Orlando Business Journal's 2010 Outstanding Small Business Executive of the Year, Mr. Nunziata has been a contributor to CNBC, and appeared on Fox News and CF News 13.

Terry Prather

Chief Operating Officer, LIFT

Terry Prather retired from SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment in 2015, where he served as President of SeaWorld Orlando. Mr. Prather is a founding board member of LIFT Orlando, a group of business leaders partnering with residents to break the cycle of concentrated, generational poverty in the neighborhood surrounding Camping World Stadium. He joined the LIFT Staff in February 2016, and serves as Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Prather served on the Bethune-Cookman University Board of Trustees from 2013 until 2018.

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Robert Utsey

Senior Vice President for Coastal Construction Group of Florida

Robert Utsey is the Senior Vice President for Coastal Construction Group of Florida, and is responsible for business development and strategic planning for the Central and North Florida markets. Mr. Utsey has been involved in many of the region's most innovative and high profile projects, including the Florida Advanced Manufacturing and Research Center, Nemours Children's Hospital at Lake Nona, the UCF Downtown Campus Academic Commons, and multiple projects at the University of Florida, including the Reitz Union expansion, the Clinical Translational Research Building, and the UF Health Cancer and Cardio/Neuroscience Hospitals.

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