

The Boca Raton Tribune

COMMUNITY

County Commissioner Delivers Proclamation to Torah Academy of Boca Raton



By: Robert Weiroth

After so much time apart, Torah Academy of Boca Raton's 22nd Anniversary Dinner was a night that surpassed all expectations of appreciation and emotion. The event was headlined by Avraham Fried, a level of musical talent that matched the importance of the night; the occasion brought together government officials, police personnel, and of course the supporters, parents, faculty, and staff at the core of the thriving yeshiva.

"The words of encouragement and support from Vice Mayor of Palm Beach County Robert Weiroth and Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer, along with the presence of Council Members Andy Thomson and Yvette Drucker, demonstrated the central place and broader impact of Torah Academy," commented Rabbi Reuven Feinberg, dean.

He remarked that the audience relished the opportunity to publicly recognize and thank the assistant chief and multiple captains of the Boca Raton Police Department, who deserved their standing ovation and more.

In a particularly poignant moment, Rabbi Feinberg memorialized Rabbi Ephraim Goldberg a"h, one of the pivotal founders of TABR, through an inaugural award that will now be given annually. The two first recipients, Rabbi Chaim Glazer and Rabbi Avi Weal-

catch, earned this special recognition of the Torah Academy family through their approach to the challenges of in-person learning during COVID, done with the sensibility and interpersonal sensitivity Rabbi Goldberg a"h espoused.

Avraham Fried sent the room further soaring with his music, and created special memories when he sang with the Torah Academy Boys Middle School Choir, led by Rabbi Netanel Chait. Spontaneous dancing broke out to give collective expression to the emotion in the room.

The dinner "honorees" this year were as unique as the event, as Torah Academy honored its students as "COVID champions." Though the children themselves were not present at the dinner, they enjoyed Avraham Fried concerts just for them when he visited Torah Academy to perform the next day.

Rabbi Feinberg noted, "Our students' resilience and positivity, despite challenges that are difficult to fathom, will always be a personal victory they can celebrate, and will forever be a source of pride for their parents and teachers."

Torah Academy parent Dr. Jorie Lyons observed, "The way the students turned to Hashem, redoubling their efforts at davening and learning, strengthening their concern for one another – as adults, I think we hope we would have handled their position as gracefully if we had been in their shoes."

Hispanics Upbeat About Finances, But Consumer Confidence Dips

By: Paul Owers

Consumer confidence among U.S. Hispanics fell in the second quarter, though optimism about their overall finances is building as the nation continues its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Hispanic Consumer Sentiment Index decreased to 90.8 from 92 in the first quarter, but it remains high above the 82.8 during the second quarter of last year, according to the Florida Atlantic University Business and Economics Polling Initiative (FAU BEPI) in FAU's College of Business.

In the second quarter of 2021, optimism declined slightly in three out of the five questions used to generate the index.

Fifty-one percent of respondents said good business conditions will exist in the next year, compared with 54 percent who felt that way in the first quarter. In addition, 59 percent said there will be good times for the country over the next five years, compared to 61 percent who said that in the first quarter. Meanwhile, 53 percent said this is a good time to buy a big-ticket item for a home, down from 54 percent in the first quarter.

Still survey respondents were upbeat about their finances, with 63 percent believing they are better off than a

year ago, compared with 59 percent who said that in the first quarter and 47 percent who felt that way in the fourth quarter of 2020.

What's more, 74 percent said they will be better off financially a year from now, up from 73 percent in the first quarter and 62 percent in the fourth quarter of 2020.

"Hispanics were affected tremendously during the COVID-19 recession, and the hardest-hit industries, such as leisure and hospitality, are those that employ the greatest share of Latinos and other racial minorities," said Monica Escaleras, Ph.D., director of FAU BEPI. "However, the situation is turning around as these industries are hiring again and even offering higher wages. This translates to better opportunities for Hispanics to improve their personal finances."

The poll is based on a sampling of 616 Hispanics, 18 years of age and older, from April 1 to June 30. The margin of error is +/- 3.95 percentage points. The survey was administered using both landlines via IVR data collection and online data collection using Dynata. Responses for the entire sample were weighted to reflect the national distribution of the Hispanic population by region, education, gender, age and income, according to latest American Community Survey data.



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