From: Peel, Jackson
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Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: State Representative Daisy Morales Writes Letter to Governor DeSantis Calling for 24-

Hour COVID-19 Vaccination Sites

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Attachments: Morales Letter to Governor.pdf

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February 23, 2021

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State Representative Daisy Morales Writes Letter to Governor DeSantis Calling for 24-Hour COVID-19 Vaccination Sites

Orlando, Fla. - Representative Daisy Morales (D- Orlando) sent **Governor Ron DeSantis** a letter on Tuesday calling for a 24-hour COVID-19 mass vaccination site and has already secured an ideal property in District 48.

Representative Morales held her first community vaccination event in District 48 on Saturday, February 20th in partnership with Jesus de Nazaret Episcopal Church, Alianza for Progress, and other elected officials and community organizations. Residents were able to schedule their appointments by filling out a form by hand at a Sedano's Supermarkets store and a Bravo Supermarket store in District 48, allowing people without access to a computer a chance to receive the vaccine.

In her letter, **Representative Morales** requested the State's support for two large properties to be made into mass vaccination sites in District 48, both located within minutes of each other on S. Semoran Boulevard. Her letter reads, in part:

"District 48 is home to many residents who work in the hospitality industry (International Drive, etc.) as well as at the attractions and at Orlando International Airport. With many residents now unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they are now also facing transportation limitations and are unable to reach the Orange County Convention Center or the Tradeport Drive vaccination site."

"Authorizing these two District 48 mass vaccination sites will not only help the state achieve its goal of vaccinating our vulnerable population and transition to Phase 2 more quickly, but it will also meet the vaccination needs and transportation limitations of our underserved communities."

One of the two properties, a Category 5 hurricane rated building with large land, interior office and storage space, is her choice for the 24-hour vaccination site. "...As Florida begins to expand its vaccination efforts, I believe this property would be ideal

for a 24-hour vaccination site. It is a Category 5 build, has a backup generator, has abundant land space to add mobile pods that can go out into the community, and has adequate storage space inside for personnel to sustain medical and vaccine supplies."

"It also has plenty of office spaces, a large conference room, and a staff break room for personnel participating in the operation. In the event the vaccinations need to be moved indoors, the property also has a large indoor open space that can allow for approximately 100 socially distanced personnel to safely administer the vaccine."

Representative Morales's second community COVID-19 vaccination event will be held Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at La Alianza Orlando church, located at 2853 S. Goldenrod Rd. in District 48 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST.

For more information, email <u>pamela.newton@myfloridahouse.gov</u> or call (407) 207-3840.

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