

**Tom Phillips** serves as the Executive Director of both the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District d/b/a The Citrus Connection and the Polk Transit. Tom came to Citrus Connection from Michigan City, Indiana in August of 2011. He was employed at PACE Suburban Bus in Chicago. He managed the largest US Paratransit site. At Citrus Connection, Tom oversees 150 employees. He administers an annual budget of \$10 million dollars and in just one short year, he has introduced a day pass based system, increased ridership 27%, reduced operating costs by 8.6%, and refunded the County over \$100,000. He has secured funding agreements with Polk State College, PACE Center for Girls, Learning Resource Center, Legoland, Southeastern University, Explorations V Children's Museum, Everest University, University of South Florida the Lakeland Campus and the COLTS program. His most recent accolade was being chosen by Mass Transit Magazine as 2012's Top 40 Under Forty – The Best and Brightest. Tom has been married to his wife Michelle since 2001. They have two boys, Marshall, age 10 and William, age 4.



**Keith Merritt, City Commissioner (2012 - 2015)**

District:

Northeast

**[keith.merritt@lakelandgov.net](mailto:keith.merritt@lakelandgov.net)**

Keith has been a practicing lawyer for 10 years and is the owner of Merritt Law, P.A. He earned his law degree with Honors and a Masters in Business Administration in 1998 from the University of Florida. Before that, Mr. Merritt was a Nuclear Electrician in the U.S. Navy for six years and attended Florida State University where he graduated in 1991 earning a dual degree in Biology and History with a minor in Chemistry. Keith currently serves on the Community Development, and Real Estate & Transportation Committees. He is also on the Board of the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District, Polk Transit Authority, and the Transportation Planning Organization.

## George Lindsey – County Commissioner District 1

- Third generation Floridian
- Moved to Polk County in 1979
- Graduate of University of Florida
- Harley enthusiast
  
- Served on Board of Directors of numerous community organizations
- Rotarian
- Former Boy Scout Leader
- Member of Polk County Charter Review Commission in 2001 and 2009
  
- President and owner of Lindsey Realty
  
- Elected to the Board of County Commissioners in November 2012
- As a Commissioner he also serves on the boards of:
  - Lakeland Area Mass Transit
  - Polk Transit Authority
  - Polk Transportation Planning Organization
  - Central Florida Water Co-operative
  - Serves as a Legislative Liaison for the BoCC