

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

1:30 PM

NSU Art Museum - Horvitz Auditorium
1 E Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II

JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District III

WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV

SUSAN GRANT, Acting City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

THOMAS J. ANSBRO, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner John C. Herbst, Vice Mayor Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Warren Sturman, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Also Present: Acting City Manager Susan Grant, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbrosio, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

NEIGHBOR PRESENTATIONS

NP-1 [24-0539](#)

Dr. Felix E. Rivera-Marian - Independent Analysis of FXE's Soil Screening Report

To be rescheduled.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [24-0423](#)

Broward Commuter Rail South Update - (Commission District 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Milos Majstorovic, Acting Director of the Transportation and Mobility Department. Mr. Majstorovic provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Coree Cuff Lonergan, Broward County Director of Transportation. Ms. Lonergan commented on Broward County's work with Miami-Dade County to extend its commuter rail service along the Florida East Coast Railway (FECR) into southern Broward County.

Ms. Lonergan introduced Phil Schwab, P.E., Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Project Manager. Mr. Schwab narrated a presentation entitled *Broward Commuter Rail South Project (Project) Update - City of Fort Lauderdale Commission June 4, 2024*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Schwab said that the

environmental study for the Project is anticipated to be completed in the next two (2) months and remarked on related details.

Commissioner Herbst discussed his experience with train platforms of other municipalities. In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, Mr. Schwab explained information regarding platform heights and confirmed related discussions are ongoing.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Schwab discussed his understanding and information related to the Project's planned commuter rail stop at Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport (FLL) that involves obtaining easements for other airport transportation projects, which are ongoing.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Schwab explained connector services include bus routes and micro transit services. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Schwab explained aspects of platform designs at the Hollywood and FLL commuter rail stations, noting that all platform designs differ. Mayor Trantalis commented on the crucial nature of the FLL commuter rail station.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Schwab explained that four (4) double-cab railway cars plus a locomotive are planned for each commuter rail train. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the length of Brightline trains, the length of the train station platforms, and traffic light synchronization.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Ms. Lonergan confirmed policy goals to make the last mile of commuter travel as convenient as possible and noted examples of similar policies around the country. She remarked on having bike racks adjacent to train platforms.

Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on the benefits of locating transit-oriented, mixed-use development adjacent to commuter rail stations. Mr. Schwab confirmed the current effort is to provide commuter parking garages. Mr. Schwab acknowledged Vice Mayor Glassman's suggestion was worthwhile, noted its potential, and explained FDOT's efforts to simplify the process at this point when working with the under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Start Grant Program and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to ensure federal guidelines are followed and include providing adequate commuter parking. Further

comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Glassman reiterated his viewpoint to maximize the potential of areas adjacent to commuter rail stations.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on similar discussions with Broward County (County) Board of County Commissioners Mayor Nan Rich regarding affordable housing opportunities along the commuter rail route. The south Fort Lauderdale Station is an example of a prime location in which to pursue this opportunity. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Stephanie Toothaker, Esq., discussed Broward Health's work with the City to develop a master plan for the south Fort Lauderdale Station area that will include affordable workforce housing for hospital staff and expounded on related details. Commissioner Sturman noted that Vice Mayor Glassman could bring his suggestions regarding additional mixed-used development to Broward Health for incorporation into the area master plan.

Ms. Lonergan confirmed the County's commitment to providing affordable housing and explained that the current work on this Project is focused on transportation. She explained that as the development of the site moves forward, the County will do its part to identify locations for affordable housing and expound on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, Mr. Schwab confirmed the County's efforts to develop plans for commuter rail north to Jupiter in Palm Beach County. Commissioner Herbst discussed concerns regarding delaying plans for the northern route due to the City and County's conflicting recommendations for the New River Crossing. Mr. Schwab commented that Miami-Dade County and Broward County identified funds for commuter rail. Palm Beach County still needs to identify funding for its portion of commuter rail and remarked on related outreach efforts by Miami-Dade County. Commissioner Herbst remarked on the synergy of Miami-Dade County toward ensuring the Project's functionality. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the impact of a decision regarding the New River Crossing, noting that Palm Beach County still needs to identify funding for its portion of the Project. Mr. Schwab said Palm Beach County is anxious to locate project funding and remarked on related details. Commissioner Herbst discussed his viewpoint regarding Palm Beach County and its ability to fund the Project and expounded on

related information.

Commissioner Herbst discussed the planned commuter rail station at SE 17 Street and discussed the future option of utilizing existing railway lines along North Dixie Highway to develop a transit-oriented overlay District in coordination with Tri-Rail to serve the Cypress Creek and Uptown areas. In response to Commissioner Herbst's question to ensure that a commuter rail station in Cypress Creek is part of the County's commuter rail plans, Mr. Schwab discussed planning efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on land use amendments in the Uptown area and expounded on related development and density growth. Ms. Lonergan concurred with Commissioner Herbst's comments regarding the need to provide transit solutions for planned high-density development in the Uptown area, expounding on her viewpoint. She confirmed the County would include Commissioner Herbst's request for a Cypress Creek area station as plans for the commuter rail line move north. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding express and local levels of service.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Schwab commented on stations planned in Palm Beach County and northern Broward County based upon the 2014 Coastal Link, which could be reassessed. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Herbst discussed his expectation that commuter rail service would also utilize a Brightline Station in Jupiter.

Ms. Lonergan explained that Broward County met with the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Organization earlier this year to discuss replicating the Broward County Transportation Sales Tax. She expounded on related information and confirmed efforts to keep Palm Beach County involved until it can fund its portion of the regional commuter rail service, which is a Tri-County commitment. Commissioner Sturman remarked on his perspective.

BUS-2 [24-0367](#)

Medical Plan Opt-Out Compensation Analysis - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jerome Post, Human Resources Department Director. Mr. Post provided an overview of this Agenda item.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, Mr. Post discussed the reasons employees opt out of the City's healthcare plan (Plan), typically due to having other health insurance. Mr. Post explained the City pays

approximately \$17,000 per year, per employee enrolled in the Plan and pays nothing for employees not enrolled. He confirmed that Broward County pays \$100 per paycheck to each employee not enrolled in its healthcare plan (opt-out benefit) and expounded on similar policies of other area municipalities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, Mr. Post discussed various reasons other municipalities chose to pay an opt-out benefit to employees and cited examples. Acting City Manager Susan Grant explained details of the City of Coconut Creek's Cafeteria Plan that allows employees to choose their benefits and receive any remaining amount in cash.

Vice Mayor Glassman expounded on his viewpoint and noted the need to treat each employee equally. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the estimated cost. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Vice Mayor Glassman explained his viewpoint relates to a philosophy of fairness and would be a vehicle to attract the best and brightest employees. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman noted that opt-out benefit funding could be used to recognize Juneteenth as a City holiday. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked that providing an opt-out benefit would allow employees to choose what better suits their needs, remarked on examples, and expounded on related information.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Post confirmed that the Plan Fund would pay the cost of the opt-out benefit. Commissioner Sturman commented on the financial impact on employees participating in the Plan and discussed details. Commissioner Herbst noted that those participating in the Plan would subsidize the opt-out benefit. He noted that the City is self-insured, remarked on related actuarial calculations, and said that the City's Plan applies to active employees and retirees. Commissioner Herbst explained the related topic of adverse selection and the impact of employees leaving the Plan. Commissioner Herbst confirmed his opposition to funding an opt-out benefit from the Plan Fund, remarked on funding the opt-out benefit from the General Fund, and discussed employee Plan selection.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Commissioner Herbst confirmed the financial impact of healthy individuals opting out of the Plan and cited examples of cost-consumption ratios. Further comment and discussion ensued. Acting City Manager Grant explained information

related to the estimated average cost of employees participating in the Plan and noted that an opt-out benefit is not part of the budget.

Mayor Trantalis said he would not support the City funding an opt-out benefit. Vice Mayor Glassman requested that Mr. Post research and provide detailed data regarding policies of municipalities that fund an opt-out benefit. Mr. Post confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the City being self-insured versus other area municipalities being fully insured by an insurance company. Mayor Trantalis requested that Staff provide information regarding retention and vacancy rates for area municipalities and Broward County. Vice Mayor Glassman commented on the importance of being fully informed.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ryan Zauner, Treasurer, Fort Lauderdale Professional Firefighters Local 765. Mr. Zauner spoke in opposition to this Agenda item. Vice Mayor Glassman commented on the Police Union's different approach to health insurance and suggested that Firefighters and Police consider related discussions. Mr. Zauner commented on the ability to have those discussions. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman explained his viewpoint and goal for City employees to have the best possible Plan.

BUS-3 [24-0533](#)

Discussion of Florida House Bill 601 - Citizen Review Panels - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Julie Steinhardt, Esq., Assistant City Attorney/Police Legal. Ms. Steinhardt provided an overview of House Bill 601, which takes effect on July 1, 2024, narrating a presentation entitled *Overview of HB 601 - Citizen Review Panels*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis said that this legislation eviscerated existing Commission policy and expounded on his viewpoint regarding the impact on the community.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Ms. Steinhardt remarked that this legislation resulted from lobbying efforts.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Marc Dickerman, 1417 SW 2nd Street, and Vice Chair of the Citizens' Police Review Board (CPRB). Mr. Dickerman remarked on his opposition to this legislation.

Mayor Trantalis commented on aspects of this legislation, explained the genesis of the CPRB, cited examples, and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Ms. Steinhardt explained HB 601 preempts the City's previous ability to allow the CPRB to review and provide input regarding Police Department disciplinary actions involving Police Officers and expounded on the process and related details. HB 601 allows the Police Chief to make a decision regarding impaneling a group as identified in HB 601 to review existing police policy and provide recommendations.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's concerns and questions, Ms. Steinhardt explained the League of Cities' position that the City is preempted from creating any type of group outside of what is permitted by the legislation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Steinhardt confirmed that the public would be able to request investigative records of Police Officer conduct after the investigation ended.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Ms. Steinhardt explained that a homeowner's association could request Police Officer Investigation Records under Chapter 119 (POIR) for discussion at one of its meetings. The City cannot sanction a request for Police Department personnel to disclose information about the investigation of an incident involving a Police Officer at a homeowner's association meeting.

City Attorney Thomas Ansbro confirmed that this legislation is absolute preemption of a CPRB, noting it is precise and strict. He explained that any public record related to a Police Officer investigation is available to the public, and a homeowner's association could review and provide related feedback, but there would be no subsequent action.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Police Chief William Schultz explained that there would be two (2) upcoming and final CPRB Meetings before HB 601 takes effect, after which other options would be determined.

Mr. Dickerman commented on the thoroughness of the information provided to the CPRB by the Police Department. In response to Mr. Dickerman's question regarding posting POIR on the City's website

following the conclusion of an investigation, Ms. Steinhardt confirmed and explained that a specific records request would need to be made, noting that the documents would include redaction of confidential information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-4 [24-0420](#)

Inter Miami Parking Discussion - (Commission District 1)

Mayor Trantalis commented on the Commission's previous request to be updated on information related to this Agenda item and noted that the Commission received a summary of Inter Miami's parking revenue (Summary). Commissioner Herbst requested that City Auditor Patrick Reilly review the Summary. City Auditor Reilly confirmed his review of the Summary and the related contract, explained details, and noted the need for additional parking information from the various ticket vendors.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, City Auditor Reilly confirmed there is no underlying documentation to verify Summary information. City Auditor Reilly noted that the Summary did not include all games. City Auditor Reilly recommended an audit clause be part of the City's parking contract with Inter Miami, and noted the alternative of leasing the property to Inter Miami. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Stephanie Toothaker, Esq., on behalf of Inter Miami, confirmed that Inter Miami pays for all costs associated with public safety needs onsite and offsite for Inter Miami games played at Chase Stadium.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his understanding of the Summary. Commissioner Herbst recommended increasing City compensation for parking to \$20 per car, eliminating the first one hundred (100) free parking spaces from the City portion of the parking, and including an audit clause in the City's agreement with Inter Miami. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, City Auditor Reilly said the City's revenue for eight (8) games listed in the Summary was approximately \$69,900 and explained related information.

Commissioner Sturman inquired about leasing the City's parking area for a flat rate. Commissioner Herbst noted that would be a better way to manage parking and remarked on neighborhood input regarding parking rates for Inter Miami games. He expounded on various options and noted that the revenue received by the City should be proportionate with the amount Inter Miami is charging for parking. Commissioner Herbst

discussed his support to reduce rates for residents attending Inter Miami games identified in a licensing agreement.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Chris Smith, Tripp Scott, on behalf of Inter Miami, explained information and his viewpoint regarding parking fees at Inter Miami games.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, Acting Assistant City Manager Ben Rogers explained details of parking revenue received from Inter Miami in 2024 and parking revenue received in previous years. Mayor Trantalis remarked that the City is receiving additional parking revenue. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question regarding increases in parking rates, Ms. Toothaker said that is not the case. She explained the parking structures and fees for Inter Miami games. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Ms. Toothaker confirmed higher parking fees for premium parking closer to Chase Stadium. She confirmed that Inter Miami would offer the first one hundred (100) free parking spaces in the portion of Inter Miami's parking area and not the City's portion.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding parking availability, Ms. Toothaker explained there is no opportunity to purchase prime area parking when attending an Inter Miami game.

In response to Acting City Manager Grant's request for clarification, Mayor Trantalis confirmed the position of the Commission that the parking agreement with Inter Miami would be extended until the end of December 2024, the City would receive \$10 in revenue per car, Inter Miami would offer the first one hundred (100) free parking spaces from its parking inventory, and Staff would include a right-to-audit clause in the parking agreement extension.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, City Auditor Reilly confirmed that the right-to-audit clause was not included in the City's prior Inter Miami parking agreements that started in 2022. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding possible parking rate increases. Mayor Trantalis said parking rates of more than \$50 per car would be shared equally between Inter Miami and the City. Ms. Toothaker confirmed. Acting City Manager Grant cited examples of calculations related to parking increases for Inter Miami games. Mayor Trantalis confirmed.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [24-0450](#)

Overview of City's Effort to Remove Trash from the Waterways -
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dr. Nancy Gassman, Public Works Department Assistant Director - Sustainability Division. Dr. Gassman provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a presentation entitled, *City Efforts to Remove Trash from Waterways*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Dr. Gassman said that most natural canal waterways are under the jurisdiction of the State of Florida (State), and man-made canals are under the jurisdiction of the City. She explained her understanding of the covenants that say the upland property owners in Riviera Isles own an equal share of those private waterways.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Dr. Gassman said that the City's canal cleaning vendor, Aquatic Control, collects both trash and organic material from waterways.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Dr. Gassman discussed the proactive efforts to install infrastructure that will capture debris before it reaches the pump station planned in the River Oaks area. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Dr. Gassman confirmed that substantial areas of the River Oaks and Edgewater neighborhoods drain into this location and remarked on details.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Dr. Gassman explained the manual process necessary for waterway cleanup, which involves collecting trash wherever it is located, both on the water and under docks.

Commissioner Herbst commented on discussions on this topic at the District 1 Pre-Agenda Meeting, noted the positive impact of street-cleaning vehicles in keeping debris out of waterways, and recommended building costs into the capital budget for an additional street-cleaning vehicle during the budgeting process. Further comment and discussion ensued. Dr. Gassman discussed related budget requests to maintain canal cleanliness.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street, River Oaks

Civic Association President. Mr. Inserra spoke in support of increased equipment and efforts to ensure waterway cleanliness.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the importance of individuals respecting waterways and keeping them free of debris and contaminants. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding resident-sponsored events to clean up waterways.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Kevin O'Neill, 5810 Bayview Drive. Mr. O'Neill discussed his support and actions regarding waterway cleanup. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. O'Neill explained that the sea bin he installed in the canal behind his property had collected approximately 450 pounds of organic and inorganic matter over five (5) months and expounded on related efforts.

CF-2 [24-0486](#)

Discussion of Requested Cost of Living Adjustment for the General Employees Retirement System - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Linda Short, Finance Department Director. Ms. Short provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Nicholas Schiess, Pension Administrator of the General Employees Retirement System (GERS). Mr. Schiess explained details of GERS and its ad hoc cost of living adjustment (COLA).

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the many emails he received regarding this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Eve Bazer, 3020 NW 32nd Avenue. Ms. Bazer spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Hattie Williams-Brinson, 23328 SW 58th Avenue, Boca Raton. Ms. Williams-Brinson spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Commissioner Herbst disclosed that he is a member of GERS and is receiving a pension as a result of his sixteen (16) years of employment with the City. The Office of the City Attorney indicated that he does not need to recuse himself and explained related information.

Commissioner Herbst explained in his prior position as the City Auditor, he worked with former City Manager Lee Feldman to establish the GERS Pension Obligation Bond (POB). He discussed details and information

related to the POB's rate of return, which included provisions to ensure the POB would not be underfunded in the future. Commissioner Herbst said that GERS had been well managed. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Herbst confirmed his support for a GERS COLA.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding the ability to afford a GERS COLA, Mr. Schiess explained that existing GERS funds cannot be used to fund a COLA and explained the alternatives for funding a COLA. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst explained that excess returns from GERS investments reduce required annual City contribution. Mayor Trantalis remarked that there is no guarantee that those excess returns will continue and discussed his viewpoint. Mr. Schiess discussed the numerous variables associated with GERS, and said that GERS plan closed in 2008, which resulted in a funding reduction each year.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the ability of an annual reduction to fund a COLA, Mr. Schiess said that would vary and that the most recent actuarial report indicated an increase in the City's required contribution. Acting City Manager Grant noted that the City's annual GERS contribution varies yearly.

Commissioner Herbst discussed his understanding of the reason the most recent actuarial report indicated an increase, commented on the numerous components involved and expounded on his viewpoint. He said that the required COLA criteria had been consistently met during the past six (6) years. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the option for a twenty (20) year amortization period to fund a COLA and commented on related details. Mr. Schiess said that GERS would be in effect for an additional thirty (30) to forty (40) years and remarked on feedback from actuarial companies that recommended a two point seven five percent (2.75%) maximum COLA over a seven (7) year amortization period.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Acting Assistant City Manager Laura Reece explained that the amount needed to fund GERS in Fiscal Year 2025 will exceed \$1,000,000 in addition to the City's contribution to the Florida Retirement System (FRS). Funding for a GERS COLA would need to come from another budget area or would require an increase in the millage rate.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the need to consider the GERS COLA request from the perspective of reduced City contributions in the past, savings from excess GERS investment earnings, and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the excess investment earnings.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the need to offset a GERS COLA with its investment income. He expounded on his viewpoint that funding for a COLA would need to come from other budget areas. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on his support of a GERS COLA. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Mr. Schiess said that the last GERS COLA request was three percent (3%) and explained related details. Vice Mayor Glassman reiterated his support and discussed his reasoning. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on costs of recent Police and Fire-Rescue contracts and the impact on the budget in addition to a lower-than-expected rise in property values. Vice Mayor Glassman discussed his viewpoint and the required Commission vote to amortize a GERS COLA. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst commented that a GERS COLA would impact the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and explained related information.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed support for a GERS COLA increase. Commissioner Sturman commented on his viewpoint, commenting that a GERS COLA increase is long overdue and the need to determine how to fund it.

Mayor Trantalis suggested the Commission wait to decide until the City's financial obligations are determined. Commissioner Herbst noted that the Budget Advisory Board and Staff are in the final phases of establishing the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and millage rate, and the Commission needs to provide direction.

Ms. Short clarified that this GERS COLA request is for Fiscal Year 2025 and would take effect on October 1, 2024. Mayor Trantalis reiterated his opposition. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Acting City Manager Grant confirmed that Staff could bring this Agenda item back to the Commission at the June 18, 2024, Commission Meeting. Commissioner Herbst noted that four (4) Commission

Members are in support of the COLA request. Commissioner Sturman concurred.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

Commissioner Herbst commented on previous Commission discussions regarding dock waiver requests along the New River and discussed similar concerns in other recreational waterway areas. Mayor Trantalis commented on an existing Ordinance addressing dock lengths into waterways and the Marine Advisory Board review process, noting the ability of the Commission to approve or deny a dock waiver request. Mayor Trantalis confirmed his opposition to a dock waiver request moratorium. Commissioner Herbst requested City Attorney Thomas Ansbro review this topic and advise.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question regarding his understanding of an anticipated federal lawsuit, City Attorney Ansbro said the lawsuit had yet to be served and commented on related information. When the City receives service of the lawsuit, he will seek outside counsel and request an Executive Closed-Door Session with the Commission. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Attorney Ansbro reiterated that the City has yet to be served with the lawsuit and remarked on the process.

Commissioner Herbst recalled that the Commission would discuss the Charter Revision Board's (CRB) recommendations today. He expounded on his viewpoint, discussed related deadlines and concerns, and asked when the Commission would continue its discussions of CRB's recommendations. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman explained her previous understanding that there was not sufficient time to place CRB Charter change recommendations on the November 2024 ballot. City Attorney Ansbro reviewed Staff's input on this topic and explained details associated with the limited timeframe. Commissioner Herbst remarked on his understanding that the deadlines previously discussed were not statutory deadlines.

City Clerk David Soloman confirmed that the Broward Supervisor of Elections deadline for passing an ordinance or resolution with the exact wording of ballot questions with translations and other requirements is 5:00 p.m. on June 10, 2024.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his recollection, which included the

need for additional public outreach and placing Charter revisions on the 2026 ballot. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Attorney Ansbro noted the opportunity and cost to hold a Special Election. Vice Mayor Glassman expounded on his perspective.

Commissioner Herbst discussed the experience and expertise of his CRB appointee, Richard Weiss, Esq. Commissioner Herbst noted Mr. Weiss' request for Commission direction to the CRB.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the need for a Commission Workshop with the CRB earlier on in the process for a Commission consensus on Charter revision items and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis recommended a Joint Commission Workshop with the CRB prior to the Commission Summer Break. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman noted that the CRB has been productive. She confirmed that CRB recommendations presented at the May 21, 2024, Commission Joint Workshop with the CRB need to be addressed.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his perspective regarding CRB recommendations. He discussed the need for a comprehensive list of CRB Charter modifications, which should be decided by the public on one (1) ballot. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman reiterated the need for Commission consensus and public outreach for CRB recommendations and cited previous examples associated with the Police Headquarters Bond and the Parks Bond. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis reiterated the opportunity to schedule a Joint Commission Workshop with the CRB before the Commission Summer Break on a day other than a Tuesday Commission Meeting.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Acting City Manager Grant confirmed Staff had resubmitted memorandums listing Charter change recommendations for CRB review and discussion. She confirmed that Staff will coordinate a Joint Commission Workshop with the CRB before the Commission Summer Break.

City Attorney Ansbro confirmed the importance of this topic and noted the duration of needed Charter updates. He recommended that the City hold a Special Election after the November 2024 Election for Charter

Revisions.

Commissioner Sturman responded to points raised by Commissioner Herbst and discussed the opportunity to address CRB recommendations in small allotments versus placing many Charter changes on one (1) ballot. Commissioner Herbst concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Clerk Soloman explained information associated with prior ballot initiatives, detailing the process, and the Broward County Supervisor of Elections deadline for placing items on the November 2024 ballot. City Attorney Ansbro reiterated the importance of doing the process correctly. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, City Attorney Ansbro confirmed he would email the Commission an update regarding information and details associated with holding a Mail-In Ballot Special Election for needed Charter updates. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman acknowledged and congratulated the Dillard High School Graduating Class of 2024.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions regarding debris pickup, Dr. Nancy Gassman, Public Works Department Assistant Director - Sustainability Division, explained there is a specific number of debris pickup dates included in the contract with Waste Management. The Development Services Department (DSD) addresses debris pickup related to City Code violations through a separate contract. Dr. Gassman confirmed that the Parks and Recreation Department has a claw truck not typically used for residential bulk debris pickup. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on resident scenarios related to requests for bulk debris pickup and recommended utilizing existing fleet equipment. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed that Staff could review this opportunity. Dr. Gassman requested Commissioner Beasley-Pittman provide the address associated with the specific situations of concern, and Staff would follow up.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed ongoing concerns related to repeat tractor-trailer vehicle (vehicle) parking violations by the same vehicle in numerous areas of District 3. She cited a scenario, inquired about an Ordinance to address, and asked why violators are not towed. Alfred Battle, Development Services Department Deputy Director, explained the process to address this concern. City Attorney Ansbro

confirmed he would address this subject and provide an update on efforts to present a related Ordinance for Commission approval.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed concerns about illegal dumping in alleyways in the Historic Dorsey-Riverbend neighborhood and remarked on related matters, including verification that residents were made aware of their responsibility to maintain alleyways adjacent to their homes. In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Battle discussed illegal dumping in alleyways and citing adjacent alleyway homeowners for violations. Staff would notify homeowners of their responsibility for the alleyways adjacent to their property. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions regarding the secondary street naming of a portion of Northwest 16th Avenue as Ada Moore Way, Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager, commented on Staff discussions with the Moore family and discussed the process. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman explained Ada Moore's civic contributions associated with Carter Park. In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Rogers explained the two (2) ways to achieve this goal. Mayor Trantalis commented on his preference for neighborhood input and support. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on previous Commission discussions on Master Plans, citing the Davie Boulevard area. Mr. Battle discussed Staff efforts, funding, and remarked on related details. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed current efforts to procure a consultant for a Davie Boulevard Master Plan.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions regarding the School Zone Speed Cameras Program (Program), Acting City Manager Grant provided an update and explained that the Program would apply to intersections identified in the Pilot Program.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman requested an update on fees associated with utility bill payments. Linda Short, Finance Department Director, explained previous Commission direction to pass on credit card merchant fees and other electronic payment fees to residents and expounded on related information. Staff negotiated the elimination of fees associated with bank debit card fees. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Ms. Short said that

Staff would process resident requests for a refund of bank debit card fees. Residents would continue to be charged merchant fees. The City recently removed charges associated with check payments or bank drafts, and customers can pay their utility bills over the phone.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions, Ms. Short explained information about the City's utility bill processing company and its procedures. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed her perspective and concerns regarding charging residents additional fees. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions, Acting City Manager Grant explained the increase in utility fees is a composite increase of twenty-two percent (22%) for both water and sewer services and explained related information. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on resident concerns and feedback.

RECESS

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

RECONVENE

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS (continued)

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events (continued).

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on attending Career Day at North Side Elementary School and remarked on the school's historical significance as one of the City's original elementary schools.

Vice Mayor Glassman noted that the Commission had previously discussed concerns regarding resident feedback on utility billing fees.

Commissioner Sturman discussed the need for residents to take proactive measures for hurricane preparedness, discussed related information, and cited examples.

Commissioner Sturman commented on ongoing efforts to address homelessness, including his upcoming trip to San Diego, California, with Staff to understand its policy and procedures to address homelessness.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed his upcoming attendance at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Kansas City, Missouri. Mayor Trantalis noted the recent passing of Jac Venza and commented on Mr. Venza's contributions to public television.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Attorney Thomas Ansbro provided an update on meetings with Broward County staff related to addressing homeless encampments.

Acting City Manager Susan Grant addressed Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's earlier question and confirmed unlimited debris pickup for matters related to Code compliance. Ten (10) pickups are uncharged, which Staff indicated is adequate.

Acting City Manager Grant requested the Commission's direction regarding a response to the Office of Inspector General's Preliminary Report (Report). Commissioner Herbst remarked on lapses in the City's internal controls listed in the Report and cited examples related to City Manager residency requirements included in the Charter. He discussed ways to ensure compliance that should be under the purview of the City Auditor.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his perspective regarding the Charter's requirement that the City Manager resides in the City, cited examples, and noted the need for flexibility. Commissioner Herbst remarked on the necessity of a systematic structure and process for internal controls to guarantee compliance with Charter requirements. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Commissioner Herbst's question regarding the necessity to adhere to Charter requirements, City Attorney Ansbro confirmed. In response to Commissioner Herbst's question regarding a timeline for a newly hired City Manager to relocate and reside in the City, Acting City Manager Grant said that the Charter does not address a timeline.

Mayor Trantalis said there would not be a collective response to the Report. Each Commission Member can respond to the Report individually.

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City Commission Follow up Action Items - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

