

City of Fort Lauderdale

City Hall
100 N. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
www.fortlauderdale.gov



Meeting Minutes – DRAFT

Tuesday, June 3, 2014

1:30 PM

City Commission Conference Room

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER Mayor - Commissioner
ROMNEY ROGERS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV
BRUCE G. ROBERTS Commissioner - District I
DEAN J. TRANTALIS Commissioner - District II
BOBBY B. DuBOSE Commissioner - District III

LEE R. FELDMAN, City Manager
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JONDA K. JOSEPH, City Clerk
CYNTHIA A. EVERETT, City Attorney

Meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Mayor Seiler.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler, Vice-Mayor Romney Rogers, Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts, Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis and Commissioner Bobby B. DuBose

Also Present: City Manager Lee R. Feldman, City Auditor John Herbst, City Clerk Jonda K. Joseph, Assistant City Attorney Cynthia A. Everett and Sergeant At Arms Sergeant Edgar Cruz

No public comments were submitted by email for this meeting.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Events and Matters of Interest

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest.

Beach Crowd Control; Memorial Day

Commissioner Trantalis referred to the incident on the beach during the Memorial Day holiday and that it appears there are people who use Fort Lauderdale beach as a staging area for their antisocial behavior. The long-time business owner of Coconuts came to his district meeting to express concern about the type of activity that youth are bringing to the beach and the police response. There should be a continued dialogue including ideas from the community. Mayor Seiler agreed. Going forward, he felt the City needs to address programming on the beach that creates a different environment and the individuals who caused the problems should know that their behavior is unwelcome. Both Commissioner Trantalis and Mayor Seiler commented on the effectiveness of the police. Mayor Seiler appreciated the presence of the City Manager and Chief of Police and the leadership they displayed.

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Evaluation of Use of Turf Chips in Parks

Commissioner DuBose requested an update concerning the use of turf chips in parks in light of a child recently being injured at Carter Park. The City Manager advised that all facilities are being reviewed to see what material is used. He agreed to prepare a cost estimate for replacing the chips in the City park system. They are an alternative to mulch. Vice-Mayor Rogers and Mayor Seiler believed the material was selected in order to be ADA compliant.

Speeding; 4 Street, 12 Avenue North; Nearby Daycare Facility

Commissioner DuBose explained traffic calming is needed; the nearby school zone is not effective. Mayor Seiler asked about expanding the school zone. The City Manager did not believe that daycare facilities qualify under the statute.

Smart Water Program

Commissioner DuBose indicated there are people outside of the pilot geographic area that are interested in the program and need information made available.

Subordination of Mortgage: HOME Program

Commissioner DuBose advised that Fort Lauderdale Community Development Corporation (CDC) is requesting subordination. The policy is not written to address vendors; it is a residential base.

The City Manager said this came to his attention earlier today. As long as the City's position does not change in terms of priority he does not object to subordination.

Pamela Adams, representing CDC, said the closing date cannot be set until the subordination is provided. The request was submitted to staff on April 2. At that time, CDC believed staff could approve it. In response to Vice-Mayor Rogers, Adams indicated that the principal balance is being reduced. Vice-Mayor Rogers pointed out that with a lower principal balance and a lower interest rate, the City is in a better position with the subordination.

Mayor Seiler suggested adding the item to this evening's regular meeting agenda, to approve it provided the interest rate and payoff are both lower. Staff could then work out the details.

Assistant City Attorney Cole Copertino said CDC is taking about \$200,000 of additional funds against the property. Existing policy provides that 51 percent has to be reinvested in the property. Adams said an affidavit of intent was submitted, indicating that 51 percent of the net proceeds will be reinvested in properties owned by CDC in partnership with the City. Current appraisals on the four properties in question amount to \$2.5 million. Mayor Seiler was concerned that more money would be taken out against the property and moved to other properties. Copertino explained this is why staff did not have authority to approve it. Adams explained there are four properties in question: 735 NW 10 Terrace, 1215 NW 1 Street, 1221 NW 1 Street and 100 NW 14 Avenue. Those are the properties encumbered with the BB&T Bank mortgage. There was a line of credit. When Bank Atlantic was purchased by BB&T, the bank turned the line of credit into a hard note. CDC was given one year to find another lender with the 6.75 percent interest rate. They found a new lender, Florida Community Loan Fund, which allowed them to reduce the interest to 5.75 percent, but the same four properties have to be encumbered. They are looking to pay off the note to which the City is subordinated, which is now \$220,000. They have applied for a \$400,000 loan that would allow them to remove BB&T and invest 51 percent of the proceeds in 1324 NW 2 Street, which is another property that provides low-income housing. The balance would be used for other new projects.

Mayor Seiler suggested that Adams work with staff.

Hurricane Season

Mayor Seiler requested hurricane preparedness information be added to the City's television channel.

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) Site

Vice-Mayor Rogers provided information on the upcoming meeting with Broward County concerning the siting for Broward Addiction Recovery Center including a 2009 School Board resolution in opposition to this site. Vice-Mayor Rogers explained that the program at BARC is voluntary; individuals may come and

go. There are three schools and two parks in the immediate area. There are 14 substance abuse centers in Fort Lauderdale, four of which are in District IV. The argument is that half of the occupants are Fort Lauderdale residents. He believed that is due to their locations. The new facility the County wants to site in Fort Lauderdale is for patients in the first stage of recovery. Mayor Seiler asked about the School Board's position today. Vice-Mayor Rogers indicated that he was told the Superintendent has said they can work with it. He sought a corrective resolution but there was no response. Discussion ensued about the exploration of potential sites.

Beach Crowd Control; Memorial Day

Continued from Page 2.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Helene Levitz, Las Olas Beach Club at 101 South Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard, said the City-sponsored beach party on Saturday, May 24, seemed to go very well. However, she was scared to see 17 police vehicles on Cortez Street when she arrived home Monday afternoon. She was told by her building security that people driving with open windows had been punched in the face. People were scared to eat lunch or dinner at the area restaurants. H2O closed from Saturday through Tuesday to avoid what was happening. Levitz went on to say that she witnessed gang members walking north on A1A near the Sunrise Bridge. Had she been in town on Monday, she would have been afraid to leave her building. Mayor Seiler indicated that there was no urban or hip hop event; the City did not host any event on Monday or issue an open invitation to the beach. It is a public beach in the public right-of-way with public parking and public buses. There was a successful City-sponsored event on Saturday. There may need to be a City-sponsored events or programs in future years on Sunday and Monday to head off what happened this year. There are no issues when the City programs an event. Levitz felt attention needs to also be given to issues at Beach Place. Mayor Seiler advised that the City is working with the owners of Beach Place. Levitz explained that she spends a lot of money to live on the beach and does not want her property values jeopardized. Mayor Seiler agreed.

Charles King, 105 North Victoria Park Road, commented that this is a nationwide day of mischief. He suggested in the future an event be held on Monday that appeals to mainstream society. It should be promoted and regulated.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 14-0671 QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2014.

No questions.

CF-2 14-0594 CENTRAL BEACH MASTER PLAN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE - BEACH REPORT

The City Manager said staff continues to work with the consultant and hopes to have the 50 percent conceptual plans presented to the Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board (BRAB) in July. Commissioner Trantalis said he has received positive feedback from the joint workshop held with the BRAB. He would

like to continue lunch meetings in order to stay in touch with the major advisory boards.

CF-3 14-0703 SOUTH SIDE SCHOOL UPDATE

The City Manager advised that the ranking process for architects was completed this morning. Staff continues to work with the State for final approval of the sidewalk along Andrews Avenue.

Vice-Mayor Rogers said Tarpon River residents would like the County to allow access to their parking garage to alleviate on-street parking. He asked the City Attorney to ensure there is no deed restriction involving parking for the shuffleboard court area. This area is between the fence and the roadway. There is a separate deed for this property.

CF-4 14-0737 PROPOSED LIEN SETTLEMENTS (SPECIAL MAGISTRATE & CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD CASES)

No discussion.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

**BUS-1 14-0709 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015
ENTITLEMENT GRANT PROGRAMS THROUGH U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Revisions were made to Exhibit 1 of Commission Agenda Memorandum 14-0709.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Wendy Gensher, Chair of the Community Services Board (CSB), referred to Exhibit 1, which shows the City has exceeded the cap of its public service funding by \$50,000. The reason is very clear. The City Manager's Office recommended a \$50,000 expenditure which did not go through the competitive grant process. The Community Services Board does not have a position on the value of the Parks and Recreation proposal as compared to the proposals that were presented to the Board. The Board is concerned, however, about the process and its value. As it stands now, no more than 15 percent of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are allotted for community service projects. In the past, that 15 percent has been allocated to community agencies through a process that goes through the CSB. In the past several years, more and more of the 15 percent has been removed from the available pot. For example, in 2011-2012, about 11.5 percent was available for community service projects. Now it is 6.5 percent. There was a 39 percent reduction in federal funds and a 59 percent reduction in this category. The Board is concerned about the \$50,000 overage which has increased to \$100,000 because of another request made on May 20. Additionally the CSB is concerned about the process overall going forward. The process should either be changed or eliminated. The Board has made a good-faith effort to implement and improve the process and be objective. It is a disservice to the volunteers and the agencies seeking funding when they find out after the fact that money has been taken off the top.

The City Manager explained that the City is the recipient of an entitlement grant from the federal government. It is counterintuitive for the City to compete for its own grant. Staff continues to look for ways to fund City programs, particularly new programs, with alternative revenue sources. He believed that staff was up front with their proposal that \$50,000 for a parks and recreation program be recommended to the Commission. The Commission has discretion to support or oppose the recommendation. He recognized the effort that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) make in compiling an application. Recognizing

needs and diminished funding, he was willing for the parks and recreation program to take the backseat this year. He did not want to put the Commission in a position where a staff program is pitted against the NGOs. In addition to the CSB's recommendation, there also is a request from the Homeless Assistance Center to consider.

Commissioner Trantalis asked if some agencies will be denied funds through the CSB process because staff wants to use the funding for a City program. There are other funding sources for City programs. In response to Commissioner DuBose, Gensher said the Board was made aware of staff's recommendation on April 14 when they were hearing presentations. It is a major reduction. The Board is trying to allocate the funding in a way that is fair to the community. The pot has gone from \$220,000 less than four years ago to \$90,000. Commissioner DuBose felt it is unfair to start a process and be told later the funds are reduced.

Mayor Seiler agreed with Commissioners DuBose and Trantalis. He felt the \$50,000 should go back in the pot for distribution by the Board. Funds could be used for a City project in the future, but it should be announced up front. Commissioner Roberts also agreed.

Gensher confirmed for Mayor Seiler that the Board ranked requests amounting to \$143,000, which included the \$50,000. Housing and Community Development Program Manager Jonathan Brown added that since the projects were ranked, changes have been made. It is the 15 percent cap, minus activities that the City is required to do by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), such as fair housing activities. The Commission typically funds homeless prevention. The balance is given to the Board for their recommendations. This is not new, but typical policy. The City is usually notified of the funding allocation by HUD in April.

Michael Calderin, chief operating officer for Broward Partnership for the Homeless, said the last CDBG allocation was received in 2009-2010. Historically they have received Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding, but no programs are being funded this year, which has impacted the Broward Partnership to the extent of \$60,000 that was used for participant transportation, food service supplies and the facility's operating expenses. Transportation is a big issue for the homeless. The availability of a bus pass to get to a doctor's appointment or a job interview is significant. Broward Partnership is requesting \$50,000 in CDBG funds to avert a disruption in services to the 200 participants who reside at the emergency center which will soon be increased to 230.

Commissioner DuBose commented that HUD decided to provide zero funding for the ESG program. Brown explained that HUD is now using the American Communities Survey, which was used during the U.S. Census, to qualify communities for ESG. Seventeen new municipalities have been added and 12 dropped, including Fort Lauderdale. Commissioner Roberts asked about appealing the decision. Brown indicated that it could be pursued. Commissioner DuBose added that the ESG dollars have historically been leveraged with County funds for a greater impact countywide. Very few cities do this. Both Mayor Seiler and Commissioner DuBose also supported the City appealing.

Beauregard Cummings, 1710 NW 27 Avenue, said the Cradle Nursery requested \$105,000 to remodel and renovate their 64-year-old facility at 14 Avenue and 7 Street in the Northwest Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). Just 23 students are currently enrolled due to the building's condition. Once renovated, it will accommodate 100 youth. Cradle Nursery has served thousands of children, many of whom have gone on to be successful.

Roland Foulkes, 1900 West Oakland Park Boulevard, said he is a 1962 graduate of Cradle Nursery. He spoke positively about how it helped shape his education and career path. He supports Cradle Nursery's

request for \$105,000. He is working to create a black historic district north and south of Sistrunk Boulevard including about 15 buildings, one of which is Cradle Nursery, that are more than 50 years old. He provided a handout on his education, career and community involvement since graduating from Cradle Nursery that was made a part of the record.

In response to Commissioner Trantalis, Cummings confirmed the funds will be used to renovate and restore the building. They already have the furniture and equipment to house 100 students.

The City Manager explained that each year under this category, the Commission has reserved \$500,000 for Public Works Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects. In addition to that allocation, there are two competing requests: one from Cradle Nursery for \$105,000 and one from Grace Community Development Corporation for \$275,000. Unlike the parks and recreation program previously discussed, the CIP allocation has been longstanding. Commissioner Trantalis raised the issue that occurred with the Jimmy John's Restaurant Façade improvements where a renovation may trigger a requirement to make more improvements than first contemplated. Cummings was aware of that possibility but had not delved into the detail of it.

In response to Commissioner Roberts, the City Manager commented that CDBG funding is \$1,486,000. About \$223,000 is projected for community services projects and mandated items. The remaining funds are available for neighborhood revitalization strategy areas. About \$500,000 in leftover funds has traditionally been allocated to the CIP. In response to Commissioner Roberts, Brown stated that currently the requests exceed the amount of CDBG funds by about \$800,000.

Gensher confirmed for Mayor Seiler that the Cradle Nursery request was not presented to the CSB because they only consider projects up to \$50,000.

Frank Jean-Mary, 9620 Bolder Street, referenced his request before the Commission on March 4, 2014 for a Caribbean community center on behalf of Grace Community Development. They believe the Caribbean, particularly Haitian, community is underserved locally. They have been working diligently with staff to identify a property in an area that would qualify for funding. The proposal is called Grace Community Development.

Reverend Luke Harrigan, 1409 NW 6 Street, noted that many people in attendance today support the funding request for Grace Community Development.

In response to Mayor Seiler, Brown said staff has had several discussions with Grace Community Development and have seen the property they are seeking to acquire. Harrigan confirmed the contract is effective now. Brown said the property is zoned appropriately and is in a CDBG-eligible area. Harrigan noted the address is 1646 NE 12 Terrace in the Middle River Terrace neighborhood. Mayor Seiler confirmed that this request did not go before the CSB due to the dollar amount.

Dolores DeFerrari, representing Women in Distress, provided details about their program and services. Last year the City allotted \$35,000. There were 610 domestic violence offenses last year in Fort Lauderdale. With the requested funding, Women in Distress will be able to accommodate 531 emergency shelter nights, match those nights and provide funding for the remainder. About 20 percent of individuals served are Fort Lauderdale residents. Women in Distress also handled approximately 1,700 emergency hotline calls from people in Fort Lauderdale last year.

Charles King, 105 North Victoria Park Road, asked whether HUD funds could cover the bus program to return homeless to their loved ones in other areas. Mayor Seiler clarified that the program was not

removed; it was a one-year temporary program that expired. The City Manager advised that he did not believe the program would be eligible for CDBG funding.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

Mayor Seiler noted that the City is funding only about half of its CIP requests. Commissioner Roberts pointed out that Legal Aid has withdrawn its \$26,000 request. He mentioned that Legal Aid to his understanding was noncompliant. Brown explained that Broward Children's Center (BCC) and Legal Aid are noncompliant because they have not spent the CDBG-required amount of funds each quarter. Commissioner Roberts suggested removing those two agencies, which would add back about \$52,000. Brown confirmed for Commissioner DuBose that the Board was made aware of the compliance issues prior to making its recommendations. Gensher added that the Board voiced strong concerns to the BCC and were told by BCC as well as Brown that they had adjusted their program and were now spending on target. Legal Aid withdrew its request. Brown clarified that staff adjusted BCC's program so they could begin spending. Their current level of spending does not meet contractual requirements. Commissioner DuBose noted that the request is for a new allocation.

Faye Simpson, representing the Broward Children's Center, said the Center developed an action plan and addressed the spending issue with staff. They have about \$18,000 left to spend and are now on target to spend it. In response to Mayor Seiler, Brown said staff has tracking documentation based on reimbursements provided to the Center. They are currently at 43 percent and should be at 58 percent. HUD tests agencies on July 15.

Commissioner DuBose noted that HUD has been very harsh on matters such as this and it has been a detriment to the participating agencies. He did not want to do anything that would jeopardize the City's allocation. Simpson advised that she has documentation, showing projections that meet the requirements. Initially children they intended to serve were getting assistance instead from Family Central. Respite services have been added to the Center's program, so they are now able to meet their spending level. Respite services are childcare services for children with special needs. In response to Commissioner DuBose, Brown advised that staff tracks agency expenditures monthly. When staff realized the Center was behind in spending, he met with Simpson to develop an action plan. They were receiving additional funds from another source. They discussed opening the program to additional students through a respite program. Commissioner DuBose concluded that without the CDBG funds these children will still be served. If the agencies would work together and services would be leveraged, more could benefit. Simpson confirmed for Commissioner DuBose that there was no interruption of services. She went on to describe the program generally. She confirmed for Mayor Seiler that the Center will be serving 10 Fort Lauderdale youth during the course of this contract. The Center initially requested \$50,000 and was awarded \$32,000. Brown indicated the Center to date has served six children and 10 are being added. Simpson went on to say children have already been identified for the extended service. Discussion ensued about the cost per child and how that figure is calculated. Gensher said the Board was very concerned about the Center's lack of spending and that the program was changed from what originally was approved. They also were concerned about there ultimately being unspent dollars. Commissioner Roberts questioned whether it was truly noncompliant since the programming was changed after CSB approval. Brown explained that the program was modified not expanded. The original intent in terms of children to be served is the same. Respite services will serve the same type of child who qualified for the program previously. Gensher said the CSB did not approve the respite service last year but they did so this year at about three-fifths of what was requested. Brown said it is not uncommon for an agency that is having trouble spending to modify its program. Staff works with the agency to do so because it can impact the City when HUD spending requirements are not met.

Brown said currently the Center is not on track with respect to spending level but that does not mean they cannot get on track. The City Manager noted that staff reviews monthly how CDBG funds are being spent. When agencies are not spending as they need to, staff begins in April scrambling to ensure the dollars are spent. It creates difficulty when the threshold is not met, and each year, the City has come close to falling short. Every dollar counts. They depend on the sub-grantees to spend the money in an orderly fashion. If the Center does not meet its spending requirement, staff has to identify other programs that can use those funds before the deadline. Otherwise, HUD puts the City on probation and additional requirements are imposed the following year. Simpson added that the Center is seeking additional funding for respite services because they have a high volume of requests for it.

Mayor Seiler felt the Commission should support the CSB's recommendation. The only issue is that now additional funds are available due to Legal Aid's withdrawal. Gensher said they could evaluate the next agency in line to determine eligibility for the Legal Aid dollars. Each agency funded was funded with significantly less than requested, so increasing the funding levels is also an option. Vice-Mayor Rogers suggested sending this back to the Board for review. Brown drew attention to the two agencies that did not go through the CSB, those being the City Parks and Recreation Department and Broward Partnership for the Homeless. The City Manager noted that the Parks and Recreation request was withdrawn. Mayor Seiler felt that the Broward Partnership for the Homeless could be considered by the CSB.

During a generalized discussion on making allocations and referring the additional funding from Legal Aid back to the Board, Commissioner DuBose drew attention to the ESG funding allocation that was zeroed out by HUD. Gensher agreed with Mayor Seiler that Broward Partnership for the Homeless should go before the Board but was concerned about time constraints in putting together a comprehensive application that would be comparable to other agencies. Also, the Board's next meeting is slated for discussion on Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) dollars. There is very little time between now and the Board's meeting next week. Commissioner Roberts added that the process should be corrected in the future but there is not time to fix it now. In addition to Parks and Recreation and Legal Aid, he recommended that Broward Children's Center be removed because it is not in compliance. The proposal could then include \$52,000 for the Homeless Assistance Center. Discussion ensued about the application and vetting process. Vice-Mayor Rogers was concerned about the Commission making the decision when they, too, have not seen an application.

Calderin stated that the Broward Partnership for the Homeless filled out an extensive application for the ESG. They were just advised last month that it was zeroed out. Mayor Seiler noted Commissioner Roberts' recommendation is to put \$52,000 toward the ESG category that previously existed. Commissioner Roberts explained that they need funding because the ESG funds are no longer available. Brown confirmed it is not a new program. The Broward Partnership has always had exemplary audits from the City and HUD. He had reviewed their application. Gensher suggested their application be provided to Mr. Brown tomorrow so that the Board can review the request along with discussion on the Broward Children's Center concerns. Vice-Mayor Rogers was concerned because he has not seen the application. Commissioner Roberts stressed that there is no change in programming. Commissioner Trantalis felt that if staff approves it, the Commission could support it without the Board's review. Commissioner Roberts noted this would be fixed for the next year cycle.

There was consensus to grant the Broward Partnership for the Homeless' request pending Brown's determination that it is consistent with last year's ESG budget. Further, the Children's Center is being removed due to noncompliance. The City Manager noted there are more matters to be addressed by July 1.

BUS-2 14-0747 POLICE DEPARTMENT - INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

Police Chief Frank Adderley reviewed slides related to this matter. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes.

Vice-Mayor Rogers noted that residents have expressed concerns to him about a lack of enforcement of speed limits. He emphasized the importance of compliance.

Commissioner Roberts wanted to see public schools more involved in the active shooter training. Chief Adderley said the department attempted to do so but could not get permission and just recently he learned that the School Board has asked the Broward County Sheriff to provide such training.

Commissioner Roberts went on to say the department has not expanded any of its resources for some 15 years. As demands rise with the local population and tourism increases, more resources may be needed for visibility purposes.

Commissioner DuBose felt that partnerships in the community and with neighborhoods are important. He would like to see how new strategies such as community policing are working.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BD-1 14-0682 MINUTES CIRCULATED - period ending May 30, 2014

No discussion.

BD-2 14-0683 BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Please see regular meeting item R-1.

The City Commission recessed at 4:10 p.m. and reconvened at 7:55 p.m. to address Item MGR-1 in the City Commission meeting room on the first floor of City Hall.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

MGR-1 14-0743 CITY MANAGER ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND MERIT ADJUSTMENT

Commissioner Roberts believed that the City Manager has done an outstanding job. He went on to refer specifically to Mr. Feldman's work with the budget, the visioning process, accountability, staffing, technology and organization skills. In comparison to city managers in other parts of the county, he is not the highest paid, even though he has a larger workload. He empowers and motivates employees and travels to other communities to bring ideas back to Fort Lauderdale. He hears from residents on a regular basis that they are pleased with staff's service. He believed there is need for additional staffing resources going forward that will need to be discussed. He asked that Mr. Feldman be forthcoming on these issues as they come forward. He pointed out that salary was not discussed after his first year of employment. He supports a merit increase.

Commissioner DuBose indicated that Commissioner Roberts said a lot of what he would say. Mr. Feldman performs his role as city manager well. Mr. Feldman's travels to other communities highlight Fort Lauderdale in a positive and respected way. There have been challenging issues. Mr. Feldman has balanced working for five unique individuals on the Commission. Commissioner DuBose indicated his concern with diversity of the upper management staff. He would like that staff to be more reflective of the community. In response to Commissioner DuBose, the City Manager explained that he was hired in June 2011 and received a merit increase on June 13, 2013. Mayor Seiler explained the Commission decided to schedule charter officers on their anniversary dates. The City Manager advised that his anniversary is June 13. In response to Commissioner Trantalis, the City Manager advised that his employment contract provides that he is entitled to an annual merit increase at the discretion of the Commission, with no specificity as to maximum or minimum. Commissioner DuBose went on to make positive comments on Mr. Feldman's accomplishments with respect to technology. Although he does not always agree with his budget recommendations, he respects the process and the manner in which it is presented. He supports a merit increase.

Commissioner Trantalis noted that he has served for one year with Mr. Feldman that is not as long as the others. He believed Mr. Feldman has been extremely professional, always accessible and apprised of all the facts. Although there have been budget items with which he did not agree, Mr. Feldman was attempting to appeal to a consensus opinion. In the future, he hoped the City is more cognizant of economic pressures and ability of citizens to pay. There should always be a backup or contingency in terms of funding. He acknowledged that sometimes the Commission may be overwhelming in its requests. Sometimes there is just simply no answer. He believed that Mr. Feldman puts forth his best effort. There will always be some situations in which the City could do more, such as the Las Olas Marina. Overall, he is pleased with Mr. Feldman's performance.

Vice-Mayor Rogers said he took a straw poll at his district meeting and everyone who voted thought the City Manager is doing a good job and he agreed. He is pleased with Mr. Feldman's performance and believed he is deserving of a 3 percent increase.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

L. Rosenthal, 1237 NW 4 Avenue, spoke in favor of a merit increase, noting the City Manager's initiatives and problem-solving. He believed 3 percent is not enough; he suggested 5 percent. Mr. Feldman is underpaid in comparison to other managers.

Charles King, 105 North Victoria Park Road, believed there has been no initiative to have police officers reside within the city limits. There have been three beach riots within the past year. He was unhappy with Mr. Feldman's negotiating on the police union contract. He wanted to know the dollar amount of the merit increase. Such merit increases should occur timely.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

Mayor Seiler summarized comments made this evening by the Commission and expressed his agreement. Mr. Feldman builds community and helps the Commission do the same. The tone and morale in the city is that people believe the city now belongs to them. There is a positive vibe. Working for taxpayers is one of Mr. Feldman's strengths. There is a healthy reserve. The tax rate, water rates and other fees and costs are always at the low end or in the middle in comparison with other communities. Mr. Feldman has done a good job with the budget and with assembling an excellent team. He recruits and promotes talent. He has a tremendous work ethic. He hoped Mr. Feldman would continue on his path thus far in terms of budgeting and leadership. He believed Mr. Feldman's approach is truly one of

being a public servant. He would agree to a 3 percent increase without hesitation. Although he would consider more, this is the level that has been established across the board.

It was confirmed for Commissioner Trantalis that the City Manager's current salary is \$209,000. Commissioner Roberts noted that Mr. Feldman's salary is not among the highest in the county. There was unanimous consensus agreement for 3 percent.

The City Manager thanked the Commission and said this has been a great opportunity. He emphasized the benefits of having a good staff from assistant city managers to frontline employees. It is a team effort. He thanked the Commission for their support.

OB REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

The City Attorney requested an executive closed session for June 17, 2014 relating to the matter of *Allan Stoffman v. City of Fort Lauderdale*. She announced who would be present.

OB BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT COMMUNICATION TO CITY COMMISSION

Board of Adjustment

Motion made by Mr. Shallenberger, seconded by Mr. Madfis, to request that Board members and alternates be notified when the City Attorney will present her findings to the City Commission regarding whether other municipalities' staff make recommendations to their Boards of Adjustment so Board members can attend that meeting. The Board requests that this meeting take place prior to the City Commission's July recess. Motion passed 7-0.

The City Attorney provided comparison information with respect to staff recommendations.

There being no other business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.