

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 7, 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

GREG CHAVARRIA, 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 1:39 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: City Manager Greg Chavarria, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbrosio, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[24-0419](#)

Communications to the City Commission - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

***Fire Rescue Advisory Committee (FRAC)
March 18, 2024***

Communication to the City Commission

A copy of the FRAC Communication to the Commission is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

FRAC Chair William Brown reviewed FRAC's recommendations for future growth and strategic planning over the next five (5) to seven (7) years for the Fire-Rescue Department. He remarked on related information, including increases and types of calls for service.

Commissioner Herbst discussed his perspective regarding FRAC's recommendation for additional Fire Stations. He concurred on the need to plan for future expansion of fire stations but only supports the construction of additional Fire Stations once those included in the current Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond are completed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the need for up-to-date, accurate data regarding the types of increased emergency response calls that need to be factored into plans for future Fire Stations. Chair Brown submitted documentation regarding the forecast for increased fire-rescue call volume over the next five (5) years.

A copy of the document has been made part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Fire-Rescue Chief Stephen Gollan confirmed equal growth for both structural fires and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls and expounded on related information. Commissioner Herbst remarked on structural fires in older buildings versus new construction built under the updated Code and cited examples. He requested current and forecasted fire response data be integrated into the analysis and recommendations for new Fire Stations and EMS service needs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question regarding establishing a Fire-Rescue Taxing District (FTD), Chair Brown explained an FTD could assist with funding Fire-Rescue Department Staff salaries, equipment, and stations. Chair Brown noted that the current Fire Assessment Fee (FAF) cannot be used for those purposes. Chair Brown noted that the City is significantly behind in staffing model goals and recommended a collaborative effort to decide whether to move forward with an FTD. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question regarding how an FTD would be implemented, City Attorney Thomas Ansbro confirmed that his Staff would provide a detailed memorandum to the Commission regarding establishing an FTD. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on the opportunity to explore all options. Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed he concurred with the FRAC's five (5) recommendations.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on the community standard for three (3) Fire-Rescue personnel for each EMS call. The City has historically had two (2) Fire-Rescue personnel for EMS response calls, requiring a Fire-Rescue truck to also respond to EMS calls. Commissioner Sturman noted prior budget discussions to allow three (3) individuals to staff each EMS unit. City Manager Chavarria provided an update on that recommendation and related efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's comment regarding the City establishing its own Emergency Response Dispatch Center, City Manager Chavarria noted that in addition to the City funding those costs, the City would also be required to continue funding its portion of costs for the Broward County Sheriff's Office Emergency Dispatch Center. Further

comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Chief Gollan said District 4's two (2) EMS Stations are currently in the procurement process, are designed for future growth, and are anticipated to be online in the next two (2) years. He expounded on future staffing of those EMS Stations and remarked on related efforts to address challenges to EMS response times in the Las Olas Isles area.

Mayor Trantalis commented on projected population increases included in the backup information and the need to make future decisions based on up-to-date, accurate data. He acknowledged recent hiring and commented on the need to improve EMS response times and increase Fire-Rescue Department and Police Department personnel.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the importance of contrasting EMS and fire suppression calls as it relates to future planning and expounded on his viewpoint regarding being judicious with related funding decisions. He remarked on the option to create a FTD and areas paying a proportional rate based on calls for service. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis noted that prior consideration of the City having its own Emergency Response Call Center was cost-prohibitive. Chair Brown commented on improvements to the Broward County Sheriff's Office Emergency Dispatch Service as a result of increased funding from Broward County.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on her concern about a proportional FTD assessment and explained her viewpoint. She noted that the City still owns former Fire-Rescue Station 46, located in District 3, which should remain under the ownership of the City. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding strategic planning for EMS stations.

***Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)
March 25, 2024***

Communication to the City Commission

A copy of the SAB Communication to the Commission is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Glen Hadwen, Public Works Department Sustainability Manager. Mr. Hadwen confirmed the support of the

Sustainability Advisory Board to establish a Chief Waterway Officer position to facilitate addressing comprehensive water issues throughout the City.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding Budget Advisory Board meetings with department heads to determine funding for this position in the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) Budget, Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, explained the Budget Advisory Board will begin its department head meetings tomorrow to be followed by weekly meetings during May. Further comment and discussion ensued.

***Central City Redevelopment Advisory Board (CCRAB)
April 3, 2024***

A copy of the CCRAB Communication to the Commission is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Vice Mayor Glassman said he would provide related commentary during today's Community Redevelopment Agency Board Meeting. Mayor Trantalis noted there is a related Agenda item on tonight's Regular Meeting Agenda.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [24-0447](#)

2024 State Legislative Session Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Manager. Ms. Sainvil introduced the City's State representatives and lobbyists and who provided a review of their legislative efforts.

Chip LaMarca, Florida House Representative (District 100), discussed his funding efforts for the Breakers Avenue Project, the Galt Ocean Mile area, and the *My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program (Program)* legislation that will be available on July 1, 2024. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Representative LaMarca said the Program would not apply to past home improvements. Representative LaMarca encouraged Commission Members and other stakeholders to lobby against proposed modifications to the Vacation Rental legislation.

Lisa Dunkley, Florida House Representative (District 97), remarked on her work with State Senator Rosalind Osgood to obtain \$100,000 in ongoing funding for the *Community Court Homelessness Initiative* and

commented on ongoing efforts to address homeowner insurance costs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Daryl Campbell, Florida House Representative (District 99), discussed his efforts with State Senator Osgood and Representative LaMarca to fund \$1,500,000 for sidewalk infrastructure improvements in the City. Representative Campbell remarked on alternative funding available for Carter Park through State grant opportunities that Staff can apply for. He commented on legislation exempting formerly homeless individuals from Department of Children and Families (DCF) level two (2) background checks, allowing them to act as peer support specialists in support of homeless individuals.

Rosalind Osgood, Florida Senate Representative (District 32), discussed successful efforts to obtain \$250,000 in continued funding for the School Board of Broward County (School Board) to fund mental health services for athletes. Additional educational legislation included funding for a Construction Apprenticeship Program for sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) year-old male and female high school students. She remarked on her support for banning children under thirteen (13) from social media platforms and requested the Commission's support for concerns related to the Juvenile Justice Facility. Senator Osgood confirmed opposition to HB 1365 - Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping (Statute) and discussed her perspective.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the Statute's perplexing nature, expounded on his interpretation, discussed its potential negative financial impact on the City, and cited an example of the ability of a private citizen to take related legal action. Further comment and discussion ensued. Senator Osgood remarked on nonprofit efforts to handle the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and discussed the role that the League of Cities can play in addressing City concerns.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jason W.B. Pizzo Florida State Representative (District 37), legal counsel for the City's legislative delegation. Senator Pizzo acknowledged concerns raised by Mayor Trantalis. He encouraged the Commission to listen to the legislative Community Affairs Committee's discussion of this subject. Senator Pizzo remarked on workarounds that the City could use to address homeless gatherings and cited an example. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his viewpoint and expounded on his concerns.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on a workaround to the Statute

discussed by Senator Pizzo. Commissioner Herbst said that the Statute places the burden on Broward County (County) and requires the City's agreement to establish a homelessness encampment at a City location. Senator Pizzo noted the legislation's requirements necessary for a homelessness encampment and his understanding that those would be the responsibility of the municipalities where the encampment is located. Commissioner Herbst noted that the County has declined to establish homeless encampments and commented on the alternatives. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Senator Osgood discussed specific concerns regarding housing individuals experiencing homelessness in an encampment and cited examples. She recommended a collective discussion with the County and its municipalities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his perspective, noting the unique aspects contributing to homelessness in the City as a result of both the County Jail and Broward Health being located in the City and said that the City is not receiving support from the County or other County municipalities. Senator Pizzo remarked on funding sources from court costs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on positive discussions with Broward Health on this topic and confirmed he would elaborate further during Agenda item BUS-5, Public Camping and Public Sleeping Florida Statute.

Representative Campbell remarked on his viewpoint and the need to coordinate homelessness efforts with community organizations. Mayor Trantalis concurred and noted that those community organizations are overwhelmed. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need to address this issue, focus on the source, and work with County municipalities to collectively determine solutions. He noted that Commissioner Beasley-Pittman is the Commission's representative at the Broward County League of Cities.

The following lobbyists provided a legislative update and overview of their efforts on behalf of the City of their efforts planned for the next legislative session.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Bill Rubin, Esq., Rubin, Turnbull, and Associates. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rubin confirmed that \$700,000 in stormwater funding was requested, and \$175,000 was received.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jared Rosenstein, Capital City Consulting. Mr. Rosenstein commented on the Breakers Avenue infrastructure project and said that project funding will consist of a blend of local, State and federal funds. He confirmed the importance of tying infrastructure funding requests to mitigation efforts and ensuring that the League of Cities lobbies on issues of importance to the City.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Rana Brown, Ronald L. Book, P.A. Ms. Brown emphasized the League of Cities' critical role in advocating for the City. She confirmed that State funding was approved for Osswald Park and Carter Park improvements.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Lauren Jackson, Ericks Consultants. Ms. Jackson discussed advocating on behalf of the City that includes working with the League of Cities on important issues.

Ms. Sainvil presented a detailed summary of the legislation passed during the recent State Legislative Session, highlighting the outcomes. She discussed other legislation that did not move forward and included term limits on County and municipal elected officials.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Ms. Sainvil clarified that the Vacation Rental legislation is expected to be presented to Governor DeSantis by July 1, 2024. Once received by Governor DeSantis, he will have fifteen (15) days to sign the legislation. Commissioner Sturman reiterated the Commission's stance that the Vacation Rental Legislation should be vetoed.

Ms. Sainvil reviewed legislative efforts related to the Florida Retirement System (FRS), which did not move forward. The City is requesting an amendment to the FRS to allow re-employed retirees to participate in the FRS Investment Plan or to waive the related required contribution. An attempt will be made to file a related standalone bill in the next session. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on his support of that effort and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Sainvil confirmed State Budget appropriation totals for City projects and noted each project and corresponding funding. The budget is awaiting Governor DeSantis' signature.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [24-0428](#)

YMCA Holiday Park Update - (Commission District 2)

City Manager Chavarria provided an overview of this Agenda item and

the two (2) primary stakeholders that will be part of the presentation.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Sheryl A. Woods, YMCA of South Florida, President and CEO. Ms. Woods presented an update on the YMCA Holiday Park Project (Project) scope, funding, timeline, and narrated a slide presentation entitled *Building Community YMCA of Broward County and Broward Health*.

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Shane Strum, Broward Health, President and CEO. Mr. Strum discussed aspects of Broward Health and its involvement with the Project to provide health care services for the community.

Mayor Trantalis recognized David Clark, Broward Health, Senior Vice President of Operations, continued narrating the presentation outlining the health care offerings that Broward Health will provide at the Project.

Ms. Woods resumed narrating the presentation discussing Project timelines.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, it was confirmed that this Agenda item does not include a sublease for Broward Health. It provides the ability of the Commission to direct Staff to move forward with the next steps in the process for the Project that will include preparation of a sublease for Broward Health. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Chavarria discussed the Project's funding gap and related information.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Angela Salmon, Office of City Manager. Ms. Salmon discussed funding options for the funding gap and options for Commission consideration listed in the presentation.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his prior efforts with Mr. Strum to select a District 1 location for a Broward Health free-standing emergency room service to serve the City's growing population. He discussed subsequent efforts to have Broward Health included in the Project and said that his efforts include negotiations for the Dottie Mancini Park located in District 1. Commissioner Herbst confirmed his support of the Project and expounded on ways to address the Project's funding gap. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Herbst

requested Broward Health reopen Dottie Mancini Park on an interim basis until Project negotiations are finalized. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Attorney Ansbro confirmed a link between the allocation of the City funding for the Project and the long-term lease for Dottie Mancini Park.

Commissioner Sturman commented on the importance of preventing drownings and confirmed his support of the YMCA's efforts to teach children to swim. He remarked on the importance of the Project's emergency medical service (EMS) facility staffed with Board-Certified Emergency Room Physicians covering all types of medical needs and care around the clock in the downtown area.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Mr. Strum confirmed the difference in other urgent care facilities and the Project's ability to address medical needs, including the ability to provide related lab and diagnostic services. Mr. Strum explained information regarding the separate point of access to the Project's EMS facility. Commissioner Sturman expounded on his support of the Project and its EMS facility.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on her support for efforts associated with the Project. She commented on neighbor feedback questioning the need for two (2) YMCA facilities located close to each other. She confirmed her response to that feedback, pointing out the benefits that the Project's EMS facility will provide to area residents.

Vice Mayor Glassman remarked that the two (2) YMCA facilities complement each other and discussed their ability to work together for the benefit of the City. He remarked on Commissioner Herbst's comment regarding contributing to the Project funding gap and requested clarification. Commissioner Herbst confirmed he would be contributing \$1,000,000 from the District 1 Parks Bond Land Acquisition Fund. Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed that District 2 would also contribute \$1,000,000 from its Parks Bond Land Acquisition Fund. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman noted the excitement and positive feedback from District 2 residents regarding the Project and expounded on related resident input. He confirmed concerns regarding density and discussions with the development team at the former Searstown site to provide connectivity to Holiday Park on Federal Highway that would provide safe and easy access to pedestrians. He requested Project representatives begin related conversations with that development team and expounded on related details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Troy Liggett, 707 NE 17th Court. Mr. Liggett discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Ms. Reece commented on the availability and use of developer funded Park Impact Fees (PIF) to fund the Project's funding gap. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mr. Liggett's comments, Commissioner Herbst explained that Broward Health is not a for-profit corporation. He noted that it is a governmental entity, and expounded on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Glassman reiterated that neighborhoods would benefit from the Project and its EMS facility.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested a detailed analysis regarding developer contributions to the PIF Fund. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the need for the Office of the City Attorney to provide direction regarding the ability to spend PIF funds.

BUS-2 [24-0417](#)

Inter Miami Parking Discussion - (Commission District 1)

Removed from the Agenda.

BUS-3 [24-0432](#)

Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights CRA - Financial Impact of Sunsetting - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director. Ms. Reece discussed the genesis of this Agenda item and related background information. She remarked on details associated with transitioning should the Commission choose to allow the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights (NWPFH) Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) to sunset.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed his perspective that the NWPFH CRA should not be allowed to sunset and expounded on his viewpoint, which includes the need for continued investment in the Northwest area. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman concurred and commented on the need for a continuation of plans and opportunities. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding related benefits and development.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, City Manager Chavarria confirmed that this Agenda item is intended to begin related discussions. Vice Mayor Glassman explained that he is in the process of gathering

information to make an informed, holistic decision. He expounded on related details and remarked on other needs to be addressed. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Mayor Trantalis said the sunset date for the NWPFH CRA is November 2025. Mayor Trantalis suggested the Commission decide before the 2024 Commission Summer Break. Further comment and discussion ensued. Ms. Reece remarked on the related process with Broward County (County) based on the Commission's decision. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on the need for complete information, including the impact on the General Fund, prior to deciding.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Clarence Woods, NWPFH CRA Manager, provided an update on the history and intent of the NWPFH CRA. Commissioner Herbst remarked on his understanding of the history regarding the creation of the Central City CRA. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Reece narrated a presentation entitled *Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights (NWPFH) Community Redevelopment Area Financial Impact of Sunsetting*.

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

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the financial benefit to the County's General Fund when the NWPFH CRA sunsets. He suggested pointing this out to the County and urging the County to utilize those funds for affordable housing.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on being mindful that when the City funds affordable housing developments through the CRA, it allows developers to apply for matching State and federal funds for affordable housing needs. Mayor Trantalis agreed.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Ms. Reece confirmed all CRA funding from tax revenue flows through the City's General Fund. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Woods expounded on information related to Invest Fort Lauderdale, Inc. (IFL), an economic development entity, and cited examples, including the Internal Revenue Service requiring that it not be tethered to the City. Commissioner Herbst noted his concern. Mr. Woods explained the Staff recommendation is for the IFL Board to be comprised of two (2) Commission Members and representatives from three (3) homeowners associations. Commissioner Herbst commented on concerns regarding this topic and cited examples

of similar situations of other such entities in the past.

Commissioner Herbst noted the key difference between IFL and its ability to operate City-wide versus the CRA, which has boundaries. Mr. Woods expounded on the viewpoint of Staff. Commissioner Herbst remarked on neighborhoods outside the CRA that would benefit from economic development activities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst noted that the original concept of IFL is evolving and recommended a Commission Workshop for an in-depth review how the economic development corporation will function on a granular level. He commented on related information and cited examples.

Mayor Trantalis commented on how the IFL would function, the Commission's limited role, it augmenting the NWPFH CRA, and cited examples.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Reece said that the CRA model indicates that extending it for ten (10) years would require approximately \$153,000,000 to be taken from the General Fund. She noted this is a conservative value and expounded on related details.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Ms. Reece said that the City had contributed \$43,000,000 to the NWPFH CRA over the past seven (7) years and explained information related to increased amounts going forward. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman noted that the commitment to the NWPFH CRA has not been fulfilled and confirmed the City's ability to continue to fund the CRA to complete its original mission.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Troy Liggett, 707 NE 17th Court. Mr. Liggett discussed his viewpoint, commented on areas in need of attention, and recommended including regions of the Central City CRA should the NWPFH CRA be extended.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Brian Donaldson, 3321 NE 16th Street. Mr. Donaldson discussed his perspective and commented on the importance and need to fund public safety services in the City from tax revenue from recently developed residential units in the Flagler Village area of the NWPFH CRA, noting that area has seen a significant growth in density. He cited examples and remarked on the need to partner with the County and Hospital District to fund and augment public safety services. Mr. Donaldson recommended creating a committee to work with the County to address this opportunity. Further comment and

discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Donaldson explained his recommendation to extend the NWPFH CRA and create a new funding mechanism focused on public safety funding needs in areas that have grown exponentially. Mr. Donaldson expounded on related information and details.

Commissioner Herbst noted the ability of the current NWPFH CRA to fund additional costs for public safety over amounts in the City's operating budget. He expounded on history related to discussions about locating affordable housing in the Northwest area. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the prior approach to the CRA. Mr. Donaldson recommended a modified and more innovative approach to manage an extended NWPFH CRA and explained related information. Further comment and discussion ensued about the County using CRA funds for affordable housing west of Interstate 95 after the NWPFH CRA sunsets.

Ms. Reece confirmed that \$125,000 was provided for enhanced police and public safety initiatives in the NWPFH CRA.

BUS-4 [24-0481](#)

Potential Acquisition of Property Located at 828 SE 4th Street and 2900 N Atlantic Boulevard - (Commission Districts 2 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis commented on two (2) property locations. City Manager Chavarria noted that 2900 North Atlantic Boulevard (North Atlantic Boulevard) is adjacent to an existing park that would allow the expansion of green space.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions regarding the 828 SE 4th Street (SE 4th Street) property, City Manager Chavarria said it is owned by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which will be putting it out for public bid. City Manager Chavarria commented on the mortgage on the SE 4th Street property. The North Atlantic Boulevard property has no mortgage, but has City liens.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed his support of acquiring these two (2) properties. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, City Manager Chavarria remarked on possible uses of the SE 4th Street property. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman commented on his perspective and discussed possible noise concerns from area neighbors. City Manager Chavarria noted the City's ability to place related noise restrictions.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Angela Salmon, Office of City Manager. Ms. Salmon said a Broker Opinion of Value for the SE 4th Street property is approximately \$6,900,000. Commissioner Sturman noted his earlier understanding that the price would be significantly less. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding finding funding to purchase this property.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question about use of the SE 4th Street property, Mayor Trantalis discussed prior purchases of government buildings for a public purpose, expounded on his viewpoint, and cited the South Side School as an example.

Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on the historic nature of the SE 4th Street property, formerly known as the Needham Estate, built in 1925 by architect Francis Abreu. He expounded on its potential and related information. Further discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed his support of Staff pursuing the purchase of both properties. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Ms. Salmon confirmed she would provide the sales history of the SE 4th Street property. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Ms. Salmon confirmed the size of the SE 4th Street lot is approximately 16,000 square feet. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michaela Conca, 625 SW 15th Avenue, and Broward Trust for Historic Preservation President. Ms. Conca read from a prepared statement in support of this Agenda item to save the historic home located at SE 4th Street.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Ms. Conca reviewed information regarding previous SE 4th Street property owners. Further comment and discussion ensued, including previous owner Sheriff Walter Clark.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Maggie Hunt, 1307 SW 4th Court. Ms. Hunt read from a prepared statement in support of this Agenda item and saving the home as a part of cultural tourism.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Ms. Hunt noted that when these types of properties are allowed to deteriorate, they eventually can be torn down, and a developer can build condominiums. Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed that the historic designation of properties does not

prevent demolition and expounded on the related process. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst confirmed his support for acquiring the SE 4th Street property and expounded on his perspective. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman said she had no interest in purchasing this property. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the process moving forward before the commencement of auctions. Commissioner Herbst expounded on his support of purchasing these two (2) properties but confirmed the need for additional information before making an offer.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed her perspective regarding the need to prioritize funding for residents' needs over this type of opportunity and expounded on her viewpoint.

BUS-5 [24-0491](#)

Public Camping and Public Sleeping Florida Statute - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized City Attorney Thomas Ansbro. City Attorney Ansbro provided an overview of this Agenda item and discussed Broward County's position included in the backup.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Attorney Ansbro reiterated the County's position. He noted that the City could establish its own encampment for individuals experiencing homelessness provided there is a three-fifth (3/5) majority of the City Commission in support. City Attorney Ansbro expounded on related requirements and services that must be part of an encampment. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst noted that the City's recourse is to arrest individuals experiencing homelessness should citizens or businesses take legal action related to homelessness. Mayor Trantalis concurred and remarked on the need for collaboration with the County to address this issue. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on the history of homelessness and noted the previous Commission's consideration of repurposing the Broward County Stockade as a homeless assistance center. He discussed his outreach to Broward Health, which has a significant interest in partnering with the City, County, and the community to address homelessness concerns and arrive at solutions. Commissioner Sturman expounded on details and needs of patients discharged from Broward Health and related discussions with Broward County Board of County Commissioner Lamar Fisher.

Commissioner Sturman suggested City Attorney Ansbro discuss this topic with the County Administration, noted related conversations with other County Commissioners, and the need to build a consensus.

Commissioner Sturman expounded on his viewpoint and said that the County refers to the Stockade facility as a low-barrier shelter. He discussed additional points of concern, including the number of individuals experiencing homelessness, the limited number of available beds to house them, the ability of shelters to accommodate those experiencing drug or alcohol abuse or those with previous criminal records, and the impact on community safety and tourism.

Commissioner Sturman discussed the need to approach this issue as a community with its numerous stakeholders, including representatives from Broward Health, social services, the business community, County Commissioner Lamar Fisher, the Broward Workshop, members of the marine community, the Office of the Broward County Sheriff, and the School Board of Broward County (School Board). He outlined the needs of those experiencing homelessness. Commissioner Sturman concurred with an earlier comment on the role of non-profit organizations to assist and remarked on the infrastructure available at the Stockade to meet a portion of the needs. He will update the Commission following the Stockade tour with Broward Health and Commissioner Lamar Fisher. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis noted his support of Commissioner Sturman's efforts. Mayor Trantalis recommended tabling this issue until the U.S. Supreme Court weighs in on a court decision that originated in the State of Oregon and expounded on his perspective. Commissioner Herbst commented on his viewpoint regarding using one (1) location in District 1 for a homeless encampment and expounded on related input from District 1 residents and businesses. He recommended housing individuals experiencing homelessness in numerous areas of the City and the County. Mayor Trantalis agreed and explained that the goal is to transition people from homelessness. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Herbst remarked on concerns related to the chronically homeless and cited examples.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested City Attorney Ansbro do additional research about how other counties in the State address this issue and cited examples. Mayor Trantalis remarked on discussions with large city mayors on this subject, who indicated they do not have a related policy and are in the same position as the City. He reiterated the need to wait

for a decision from the Supreme Court noted earlier. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sturman confirmed he would represent Commissioner Herbst's concerns.

Vice Mayor Glassman recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson discussed his viewpoint on this Agenda item.

BUS-6 [24-0444](#)

Appointment of an Acting City Manager - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his perspective and support of Susan Grant as Acting City Manager, expounding on his reasoning.

Commissioner Sturman concurred with Commissioner Herbst's recommendation and expounded on his perspective.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on discussions with Chris Cooper, Development Services Department Director, Assistant City Manager Anthony Fajardo, and Assistant City Manager Susan Grant regarding the appointment of an Acting City Manager. She confirmed her support for appointing Susan Grant as Acting City Manager.

Vice Mayor Glassman noted the importance of the Commission's support for the appointment of Susan Grant as Acting City Manager. Mayor Trantalis commented on the Commission's support of this appointment.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Chavarria requested Commissioner Sturman reconsider his prior viewpoint and input regarding his performance review, noting that Commissioner Sturman's concerns and comments did not pertain to his evaluation period from July 22, 2022, to July 22, 2023.

Commissioner Sturman concurred and cited examples of items and concerns addressed by City Manager Chavarria. Commissioner Sturman recommended a retroactive three percent (3%) merit increase. City Attorney Ansbro noted that this action must occur at the Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Herbst reiterated his previous suggestion that City Manager Chavarria use his sick leave and vacation prior to his departure from the City to allow him the flexibility to consult with the new Acting City Manager. Vice Mayor Glassman discussed his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Chavarria confirmed his commitment to assist with Ms. Grant's transition. He announced that his last day of employment with the City would be on June 1, 2024. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman to present a Proclamation recognizing May 14, 2024, as the 76th Anniversary of Israel's Independence in the City of Fort Lauderdale

Vice Mayor Glassman presented a Proclamation recognizing *May 14, 2024, as the 76th Anniversary of Israel's Independence in the City of Fort Lauderdale* to Deputy Consul General of Israel Mike Driquez, Jewish Federation of Broward County Members Denise Lettau, Saul Chapnick, Elissa Mogilefsky, and Len Weiselberg, reading the Proclamation in its entirety.

Deputy Consul General of Israel Mike Driquez, and the members of the Jewish Federation of Broward County accepted the proclamation and thanked the Commission.

RECESSED

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

RECONVENED

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 12:48 a.m.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events

Commissioner Sturman discussed concerns about the School Board of Broward County's (School Board) plans that involve redistricting, redefining, and reimagining schools, which could impact approximately one-third (1/3) of City schools. He urged the Commission to act and request the School Board open up the process and allow input from key stakeholders, the Education Advisory Board and Innovation Zones. Commissioner Sturman recommended a Walk-On Resolution.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the School Board holding public hearings, Susan Grant, Acting City Manager, provided an update and commented on information she gathered at a recent meeting on this topic. The EAB will be meeting to discuss the School Board's

plans at its upcoming meeting. The Chief Education Officer will provide an update to the Commission at the May 21, 2024, Conference Meeting. School Board Member Dr. Allen Zeman has requested Staff assistance in coordinating a Town Hall Meeting on this topic.

Commissioner Sturman urged the Commission to request the School Board wait until the EAB has provided its input, allowing the Commission to present its position before the School Board's decision on June 18, 2024. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Ms. Grant discussed the School Board's plans for several Town Halls on this subject.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman requested District 3 residents be part of discussions to ensure they are fully informed about the impacted District 3 schools. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on ongoing negative feedback from residents about homelessness in the South Middle River Civic Association neighborhood and in the Gateway Plaza area. He acknowledged Staff's efforts to successfully address a homeless encampment on the beach along State Road A1A.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his attendance at the annual U.S. Conference of Mayors Event (Event) and inquired about the Commission's interest in hosting the Event in 2027 or 2028. The application deadline is May 21, 2024. Mayor Trantalis said that hosting the Event would require sponsorships and remarked on sponsorship interest. There was a consensus to move forward.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 12:59 a.m.