

City of Fort Lauderdale



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

4:00 PM

City Hall is closed to the Public.

Access Meeting via:

<https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

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Cable Television - Comcast Channel 78 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II

HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III

BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager

JOHN HERBST, City Auditor

JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis announced details regarding the Commission Meeting virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic, explaining how the public can view and participate.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Charter Officers Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau, City Auditor John Herbst (participated telephonically)

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Commissioner Moraitis discussed a meeting with other government officials regarding the increase in COVID-19 cases, expounding on related details and concerns. She confirmed her support of keeping businesses open, focusing on enforcement of *Center for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines*. She asked if any additional actions could be taken in partnership with other counties. Commissioner Moraitis discussed specific enforcement concerns related to waterways and beaches, citing examples.

Mayor Trantalis explained discussions at a recent area Mayors' meeting on this topic, commenting on the recent surge in COVID-19 cases, contact tracing, and related information. The Mayor's meeting was to advise Broward County Administrator Bertha Henry regarding measures going forward to reduce the infection rate. Broward County (County) municipalities are awaiting further instruction and enforcement measures from the County. Mayor Trantalis expounded on Staff enforcement efforts and the desire to keep businesses open.

City Manager Lagerbloom provided an overview of efforts to address resident safety, confirming anticipation of the additional County direction.

City Attorney Alain Boileau commented on related discussions with the *Office of the Broward County Attorney*, confirming the County is working to provide additional instructions and direction. Further comment ensued.

Mayor Trantalis provided his perspective, including the possibility of the County providing additional *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* funding to assist with Code Enforcement efforts. Additional comments ensued.

Commission Moraitis provided an update on the success of *4th of July* events in the *Galt Ocean Mile (Galt Mile)* area and forthcoming modifications to the character of NE 32nd and NE 33rd Streets, thanking Staff for related efforts. She commented on conversations with area businesses regarding maintaining closure of NE 33rd Street. This area would continue to be closed at night. Commissioner Moraitis commented on the impact of upcoming construction.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding continued closure of a portion of Las Olas Boulevard on weekends, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed this closure would continue, barring circumstances related to public demonstrations. Commissioner Moraitis requested updates on this topic.

Commissioner Moraitis provided an update on association meetings regarding the *Galt Mile* sidewalk. She discussed District I Pre-Agenda Meeting concerns regarding registering for the new *Resident Parking Permit Program*.

Commissioner Moraitis requested an update regarding implementing special parking rates for area business employees.

Ben Rogers, Director of Department of Transportation and Mobility (TAM), provided an update on these parking items, confirming Staff is aware of concerns with registering for the Resident Parking Program. He explained related challenges due to the large number of residents registering on July 1, 2020 and application research and verification of submitted documents. Additional Staff has been assigned to address this need.

Mr. Rogers discussed employee parking rates and efforts to work with the Strategic Communications Division to disseminate information. Work is ongoing to expand the existing *Business Employee Parking Permit Program* to additional areas.

Mayor Trantalis discussed input from beach area businesses regarding the cost of business employee parking. He inquired if the Commission had an interest in implementing a moratorium on parking meters to

encourage business patronage.

Commissioner Moraitis suggested inquiring about *CARES* funding relief, concurring on the need to assist businesses.

Vice Mayor Glassman discussed other alternatives, citing examples, including a short-term solution parking fees for restaurant take-out. He expounded on his perspective regarding the *Business Employee Parking Program*. He concurred with Commissioner Moraitis to expand business employee parking in the North Beach area, Sunrise Lane area and *Las Olas Boulevard Garage*.

Commissioner Sorensen suggested consideration of temporary free business employee parking on the beach. Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective to allow all business employees throughout the City a parking permit until the COVID-19 situation has passed.

Mayor Trantalis noted his perspective, commenting on the need to limit business employee parking passes per business to reduce an impact on business patrons, citing examples.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions Mr. Rogers suggested the use of technology that would allow business employees to enter a validation code into parking software for free parking. Mr. Rogers commented on challenges related to verifying business employment and said Staff would provide options. Further comment ensued on addressing the needs of business employees.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested a moment of silence during tonight's Commission Regular Meeting to recognize the passing of Breyson Plummer, commenting on his perspective and related details. He acknowledged the passing of Alan Becker, Esq., a former State legislator who held the distinction of being the youngest member elected to the Florida State House of Representatives at the age of 26 and serving three terms. Vice Mayor Glassman noted Mr. Becker's law firm, Becker and Poliakoff, and its contributions in the area of condominium law.

Vice Mayor Glassman recommended a *Joint Commission Meeting with the Planning and Zoning Board (P&Z Board)* to discuss upcoming agenda items concerning the *Downtown Master Plan* character areas.

Vice Mayor Glassman suggested a discussion revisiting the use of

Dockless Mobility (Scooters) and sanitizing for resident use. Vice Mayor noted resident health concerns regarding ride-sharing services such as Uber. He commented on resident input regarding the need for proper sanitizing of Broward County bicycle rentals.

Vice Mayor Glassman concurred with Commissioner Moraitis' comments regarding business employee parking. He reiterated concerns *The Isles* and the *Las Olas Corridor* resident concerns regarding *Emergency Response (ER)* times and the need for an *ER Sub-Station* or *ER Satellite Station*.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested input on paid parental leave for Staff that was discussed in January 2020, expounding on details and commenting on options due to COVID-19.

Vice Mayor Glassman discussed the need to revisit participation in the *Florida Retirement System (FRS)* in the upcoming 2021 Fiscal Year, commenting on an expected *FRS* rate hike increase in the next State Legislative Session and cost concerns.

Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed input from Staff regarding the anticipated rollout of the *Business Improvement Program*. He requested an update on the *Central City Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Rezoning Project*.

Vice Mayor Glassman discussed numerous resident complaints regarding street light outages, citing examples along Las Olas Boulevard and solar lights in South Middle River.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on the shooting death of Breyson Plummer in South Middle River, expounding on related details and his perspective related to COVID-19 and gun violence across the country.

Commissioner McKinzie requested a moment of silence in recognition of Walter "Mickey" Hinton, President of Durrs Homeowners Association, who recently passed away, commenting on his numerous civic contributions. He expounded on his perspective regarding recent youth gun violence deaths across the nation.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on Mayor Trantalis' remarks concerning businesses remaining open, hiring of additional Code Enforcement Staff to address resident behavior and his support of COVID-19 related efforts to get people back to work.

Further comment and discussion ensued on COVID-19 testing turnaround time at *Lincoln Park* and *Holiday Park*, encouraging the public to take personal responsibility to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and commenting on related details.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Lagerbloom commented on the numerous sources of information regarding the amount of COVID-19 cases and the *Zip Code* analysis of COVID-19 case locations. Further comments ensued on this topic.

Commissioner McKinzie noted the high rate of COVID-19 cases in District III and details regarding *Zip Code* tracking.

Commissioner Sorensen requested additional testing data, noting the high positive testing rates in the 33316 *Zip Code*. He asked for a health expert to participate in Commission discussions and appropriately implement necessary restrictions. Further comment and discussion ensued on providing specific, accurate COVID-19 positive testing location information and contact tracing.

Mayor Trantalis said he would contact health officials in the Governor's Office to receive direction regarding City-specific information to evaluate progress levels. Commissioner Sorensen expounded on feedback received on this subject. Further comment ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on the ability to sanitize Scooters, requesting an update. City Manager Lagerbloom explained there were no further updates.

Ben Rogers, Director, Transportation and Mobility Department, provided an update of conversations with Scooter vendors, expounding on details related to vendor challenges regarding permit fees, sanitizing and reducing fleet size.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed *Broward BCycle*, the Broward County ride-sharing bicycle program, continues to operate. Mr. Rogers discussed vendor outreach, expounding on details. Should the Commission desire, these operations could cease.

Commissioner Sorensen provided his perspective, noting the need to address *Broward BCycle* rentals in the same manner as Scooters. Mr. Rogers commented on their sanitizing efforts, confirming he would follow-up and provide additional information from *Broward BCycle*.

Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his desire for a conversation surrounding the *Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD)*. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding banning *Styrofoam* cups at City Hall, City Attorney Alain Boileau provided an update, stating the City is preempted from a City-wide ban of *Styrofoam*. He said this is possible at City Hall, noting *CDC* guidelines encourage single-use disposable materials.

Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his desire to pursue this idea, commenting on the utilization of a different type of disposable single-use paper material. Mayor Trantalis concurred. City Attorney Boileau confirmed the ability to implement this policy with vendors and in City Parks.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective, noting the need to educate the public to reduce the negative impact on the environment, expounding on related details.

Commissioner McKinzie and Commissioner Moraitis commented on opposition to adopting an Ordinance on this topic, concurring on the need for a public education campaign.

Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed his support to pursue efforts that would not be preempted by the State. He commented on his agreement to adopt an Ordinance regulating and prohibiting the use of *Styrofoam* items on City property. City Attorney Boileau confirmed.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on the passing of Mary Anne Gray, Executive Director and President of Broward Navy Days, Inc., expounding on Ms. Gray's legacy.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed renaming Dixie Highway, noting it is a Federal issue and confirming his support regarding a name change discussion. Further comment ensued. Mayor Trantalis noted the need for public outreach and a discussion in the appropriate forum, expounding on details. He recommended presenting this to the *Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations (CFLCA)* for consideration and a recommendation.

Mayor Trantalis emphasized the importance and need for residents to be more proactive regarding participation in the *2020 United States Census (Census)*. He commented on possible advertising efforts in the

City and discussions with *CareerSource Broward* to have *Census Days* at various large and small businesses.

He urged each Commission Member to communicate the importance of participating in the *Census* to ensure the City receives adequate future federal funding. Commissioner Moraitis suggested a possible neighborhood competition to motivate participation in the *Census*, including possible awards and recognition.

Mayor Trantalis requested City Manager Lagerbloom deliver this information to the *Complete Count Advisory Committee* for feedback, noting the need to move quickly. Commissioner Sorensen suggested engaging the *CFLCA* in this pursuit.

Hal Barnes, Neighbor Support Manager, Division of Neighborhood Support, confirmed and expounded on the targeting of approximately 20,000 neighbors and placing of approximately 17,000 door hangers in over forty-five (45) neighborhoods and all Commission Districts. He remarked on *Census* advertising on bus benches, the active efforts of the *CFLCA* and flyer circulation at food distribution events. Further comment and discussion ensued on ways to encourage *Census* participation. Mayor Trantalis announced the *Census* website to participate, *2020census.gov*, urging residents to sign-up and complete the *Census*.

Mayor Trantalis concurred with Vice Mayor Glassman's recommendation for a *Commission Joint Workshop with the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Board (Joint Workshop)* towards the end of the Commission Summer Break. Comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Glassman recommended this *Joint Workshop* be held before the *P&Z Board* August 19, 2020 meeting, explaining his reasoning.

City Attorney Boileau explained his perspective regarding the role of the Commission and the *P&Z Board* role as an advisory board, cautioning the Commission about acting in an advisory role.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question regarding possible outside advocacy concerns related to Boards, City Attorney Boileau confirmed this had been brought to his attention, stating there should be no advocacy outside the confines of the Boards, expounding on related details and the need for impartiality.

Commissioner McKinzie expounded on his perspective regarding the

need for objectivity on Boards. Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his perspective when he was a member of the *P&Z Board*, expounding on circumstances in response to Commissioner McKinzie's concerns. Further comment ensued.

Mayor Trantalis encouraged the Commission to meet with Anthony Fajardo, Director of the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), and other DSD Staff to make recommendations regarding the submission of *Downtown Master Plan* modifications to the *P&Z Board*.

Commissioner McKinzie expounded on his earlier comments.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the *P&Z Board* had previously voted against the Downtown Master Plan and would consider modifications at their August 19, 2020 meeting. He commented on the need for additional outreach to the community on this topic.

Commissioner Sorensen made scheduling suggestions regarding placing the *Downtown Master Plan* on a Commission Regular Meeting Agenda.

Mayor Trantalis noted the *September 15, 2020 Commission Regular Meeting* would involve the *Fiscal Year 2020 Budget*, recommending placing the *Downtown Master Plan* on the *October 6, 2020 Commission Regular Meeting Agenda*.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed he would provide updates on several topics raised by Vice Mayor Glassman, including the *FLPD* during tonight's Commission Regular Meeting.

Laura Reece, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, provided an update on paid parental leave, expounding on related details and costs, including the percentage of employees on parental leave who were not paid. In 2019, the total cost for twelve (12) weeks of parental leave funding would have been approximately \$1,500,000, primarily funded from the General Fund.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed he would provide a Commission Memo outlining details discussed by Ms. Reece.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Ms. Reece said four (4) weeks of paid parental leave would amount to approximately \$550,000,

ninety percent (90%) funded by the General Fund. Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his perspective.

Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his support of a paid parental leave program. Comment ensued on ways to fund this benefit. City Manager Lagerbloom noted there would be a need to eliminate a current program budget item.

Mayor Trantalis commented on current budget shortfalls, questioning if this is the year to fund this program. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed he would provide a budget recommendation to the Commission, noting Commission action tonight is only to adopt the *FY 2020 millage rate*.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his viewpoint. City Manager Lagerbloom explained how he analyzes the impact of budget adjustments and ways to balance a structured budget. He confirmed he would return after the Commission Summer Break with a recommendation.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom said parental leave had not been discussed with the *Budget Advisory Board (BAB)*, confirming Staff would raise this topic with the *BAB*.

Susan Grant, Director of Finance, provided an update on \$700,000 listed in the *Fiscal Year 2021 Budget* and participation in the *Florida Retirement System (FRS)*. *FRS* employer contribution costs are set annually as part of the State budget process. Effective July 1, 2020, the percentage rate cost increased to ten (10%) percent from under nine (9%) percent primarily due to changes to investment assumptions. Rates have consistently risen over the past 5-7 years.

Ms. Grant explained the \$700,000 in this year's budget proposal represents delaying participation this year to allow further evaluation and research of *FRS* investments and costs over the long-term. The \$700,000 primarily represents costs to offer the *FRS* to part-time employees that currently do not have a plan impacting the General Fund. The full cost of *FRS* participation is not known until the number of employees participating is determined.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested an update on the *Central City Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Rezoning Project* and *Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Response Time in Las Olas Isles*

and areas along *Las Olas Boulevard* and establishing an *EMS Satellite Station*. Mayor Trantalis recommended lengthy discussion on these topics, suggesting City Manager Lagerbloom research and report back.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed he would provide *EMS Response Time* data. He explained the *Central City CRA Rezoning Project* bid is expected to be released tomorrow for completion. Vice Mayor Glassman commented on the *EMS Response Time* data, stating his perspective. City Manager Lagerbloom concurred with that assessment.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [20-0451](#)

Emergency Purchase for the NW 13 Street Phase I Force Main Replacement Project - (Commission District 2)

City Manager Lagerbloom said this item represents a formality regarding the Emergency Purchase for the *NW 13 Street Phase I Force Main Replacement Project (Project)*, explaining details related to the review process and the COVID-19 situation. The *Project* was competitively bid, and the lowest bidder was selected.

BUS-2 [20-0459](#)

Community Shuttle Program Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Lagerbloom said Ben Rogers, Director of Department of Transportation and Mobility (TAM), would be presenting an update of the *Community Shuttle Program (Program)*.

A copy of this slide presentation can be found in the backup of this Conference Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, a discussion ensued on the approximate \$2,000,000 *Program* cost and the number of people transported. Mr. Rogers said he could research pre-COVID-19 data and report back. Mayor Trantalis explained his perspective to determine a cost-effective community shuttle program. Mr. Rogers expounded on details included in the presentation.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, Mr. Rogers said the current *Program* shuttle operator is *First Transit, Inc.*, which has an agreement with the *Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (TMA)*. The City has an agreement with the *TMA* and an agreement with Broward County (County).

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's questions, Mr. Rogers

explained details involved with the procurement process and the *Program's* current model illustrated in the presentation.

Mr. Rogers explained the option to consolidate model levels, explaining related details. Currently, there are four (4) entities that would be consolidated. Broward County would remain the Program Administrator. The City would become the Contract Administrator and the Program Manager. A solicitation would be done to obtain a Program Shuttle Operator. Mr. Rogers explained compliance concerns and ways to address compliance concerns as illustrated in the presentation, stating Exhibits to the *Interlocal Agreement (ILA)* would be updated, explaining related details.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on details regarding the long history of *Sun Trolley* ridership and compliance. Mr. Rogers explained details regarding the current *ILA* in order to utilize *Surtax* funding from the County. Commissioner McKinzie commented on funding. Mr. Rogers expounded on existing funding sources and explained that the County is willing to fund 100 percent (100%) of the *Program*. Further comment and discussion ensued on routing, identifying *Sun Trolley* stops and funding.

Mr. Rogers explained Staff concerns should the City accept and utilize this funding that includes the need for adequate Staff resources to meet back-house requirements addressing *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)* criteria, i.e., *FTA* audits, regulatory requirements and oversight.

Broward County would lease to the City twenty-nine (29) foot cutaway buses for \$10.00 per year for this *Program* to meet its *Sun Trolley* service obligations that would reduce Staff back-house requirements.

Mr. Rogers confirmed this *Program* represents significant changes and is being presented for Commission input and feedback.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, Mr. Rogers explained the Commission is voting on items four (4) and five (5), *Wave and Ride Service* and revenue generation. Commissioner McKinzie discussed his concerns.

Mr. Rogers said Broward County would fund the entire operation. This *Program* would bring the City into compliance with the County *ILA* and *FTA* requirements by eliminating *Wave and Ride Service*.

Commissioner McKinzie requested additional time to review this item,

expounding on details and concerns. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Rogers explained the goal to address this topic before the Commission summer break, explaining funding concerns should this item not move forward. Additional comments ensued.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his understanding and concerns regarding this item, i.e., running out of general revenue for *Sun Trolley* services should this item not move forward. Mr. Rogers reiterated addressing items four (4) and five (5), explaining funding for the current Fiscal Year 2020 and additional concerns brought forward by the County and addressed in the new *ILA*. Commissioner McKinzie explained his perspective.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Barney McCoy, Assistant General Manager for Service and Strategic Planning, Broward County Transit. Mr. McCoy explained City and County discussions on this topic, confirming issues to be addressed. In a good faith effort, the County released approximately \$250,000 of its *FY 2020* funding based on the City addressing outstanding concerns. The reimbursement balance is approximately \$900,000, which cannot be reimbursed until outstanding concerns are addressed. Mr. McCoy said there are issues involved that are City and County liability concerns that jeopardize Federal funds coming into the region.

Commissioner McKinzie reiterated his concerns regarding adequate time to review details of this item. Comment and discussion ensued. Mr. McCoy explained funding details, stating funding does not roll over year-to-year. Not moving forward could result in the City forfeiting County *FY 2020* reimbursement funding.

City Manager Lagerbloom noted a Commission Memo sent to Commission Members prior to Agenda publishing on this topic. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. McCoy expounded on funding sources, confirming compliance drives funding and commenting on a related meeting in March 2020 with the Office of the City Attorney. Mayor Trantalis recapped details, explaining the necessity to address this topic.

Commissioner McKinzie requested additional time to review this topic. Mr. McCoy confirmed this item could be addressed at the August 18, 2020 Commission Meeting. He stated the County would not negotiate

on these issues or continue to fund this Program if issues are not addressed.

Commissioner Moraitis requested clarification that the City is not losing service. Mr. McCoy explained possible updates, citing examples and confirming the need for a competitive process in order to comply with Federal regulations.

Commissioner Moraitis noted an additional decision later in this process regarding continuing with *TMA* as the operator of the shuttle service, expounding on her perspective. She noted her support to move forward with the *Program* as long as there is no reduction in routing or service, expounding on details. Commissioner Moraitis confirmed her request for reinstatement of service on *The Galt Mile*.

Vice Mayor Glassman concurred with Commission Moraitis' point, commenting on his position to not delay a decision until the August 18, 2020 Commission Regular Meeting, explaining related details and commenting on neighbor outreach. He noted the low cost of this *Program* to the City, what is at stake and what is to be gained.

Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his comfort with moving forward, noting meetings with Mr. Rogers on this topic.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Robyn Chiarelli, Executive Director, TMA. Ms. Chiarelli confirmed the *TMA's* availability to provide continued support for current and future transportation issues. She noted correspondence sent to the City Commission and County Commission related to addressing the five (5) concerns referenced by Mr. Rogers.

Ms. Chiarelli commented on *Surtax* funding not covering administrative costs and related details.

Mayor Trantalis noted a majority of the Commission would like to move forward with recommendations of Staff.

Mr. McCoy addressed Commissioner Moraitis' comments, explaining the County's previous funding:

FY 2018 approximately \$250,000;
FY 2019 approximately \$1,100,000; and
FY 2020 approximately \$1,500,000.

Cities are reimbursed the cost of shuttle service based on the following

formula:

Hourly rate x Hours of Service = Operating and Maintenance Cost
Reimbursement

The average hourly rate is approximately \$55.00.

Based on the latest information regarding the *TMA* contract, the hourly rate is approximately \$73.00 - \$74.00 per hour.

The *Surtax* will not fund the administrative cost. Costs to the City would include *TMA* costs for program administration.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.