

# City of Fort Lauderdale

City Hall  
100 N. Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)



## Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

Thursday, September 12, 2013

6:00 PM

City Commission Chambers

## CITY COMMISSION - SPECIAL MEETING

### **FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION**

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

**LEE R. FELDMAN**, City Manager  
**JOHN HERBST**, City Auditor  
**JEFFREY MODARELLI**, Assistant City Clerk  
**CYNTHIA A. EVERETT**, City Attorney

Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Seiler.

## ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

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

**Also Present:** City Manager, Lee R. Feldman; City Auditor, John Herbst; Assistant City Clerk, Jeffrey Modarelli; City Attorney, Cynthia A. Everett

## Vote Roll Call Order for this Meeting

Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, and Mayor Seiler

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Commissioner Trantalis

## BUDGET AGENDA

**PH-1 13-1253 PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - BEACH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT - IMPOSING RATE OF ASSESSMENT AND APPROVING ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014**

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that this assessment imposes a fee on certain portions of beach property to establish funding to support services, facilities and, or programs providing a special benefit to business properties within the district boundaries. Fiscal Year 2014 assessment rate is recommended at \$.8525 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to generate an estimated \$667,702.74 in gross revenue.

There being no individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: **AYES:** Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. **NAYS:** None.

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

**PH-2 13-1251 PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - CONSIDER IMPOSING FIRE-RESCUE ASSESSMENTS AGAINST PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY - for Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2013 and ending September 30, 2014; approving rate of assessment and assessment roll - provision of Fire-Rescue services**

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that this assessment provides funding for fire suppression services, facilities, and, or programs that will benefit the City in its entirety, such as facility improvements, equipment and costs of operations of the City's fire rescue services and facilities. The single family residential assessment rate is recommended at \$225 per year, a \$90 increase or \$7.50 per month. The total assessment will generate an estimated \$33,497,746 in gross revenue to the general fund.

Debbie Lee, 1422 NE 5 Terrace, indicated that she owns a four-unit residential property. The assessment is increasing from \$500 to \$900. She suggested a charge for each response. Some residences have more occupants and more emergencies. Her building has never called upon the fire department. The City Manager explained fire suppression is separate from fire rescue and articulated the difference.

Jim Moyer of Salvation Army, introduced Major Debbie Hudson, Director of Special Services for Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center in Fort Lauderdale. Major Hudson explained the Center is solely supported with the receipt, processing and sale of donated materials. All of the Salvation Army's adult rehabilitation centers are exempt from ad valorem taxes. They are concerned that they will be assessed a fire assessment fee for the first time. They wish to formally object to any portion of their property not being exempt from this assessment. It will have a significant impact on services. She submitted a letter, dated September 12, 2013, expressing their objection, that was made a part of the record. Mayor Seiler noted that there is a procedure to challenge the commercial designation. He believed the issue has been created with the commercial operation being intermingled with the non-commercial.

Charles King, 105 North Victoria Park Road, supported the idea of charging the assessment on commercial operations of non-profit organizations. He was concerned about the potential for other assessments to pay for the police department, for example.

There being no other individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: **AYES:** Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. **NAYS:** None.

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

Commissioner DuBose said he sees this as a tax. It will disproportionately impact the less fortunate. He was not confident that all of the contemplated capital projects will be completed within the year. He requested quarterly status reports. It is possible that the reserve percentage could exceed the Commission's policy. With some thinking that all of the projects would not be completed in the year, the assessment increase could have been decreased. Going forward, he would like options presented.

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Rogers

**Nay:** 2 - Commissioner Trantalis and Commissioner DuBose

**PH-3 13-1213 FINAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE MILLAGE RATE - FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014.**

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that the Fiscal Year 2014 budget includes maintaining the current millage rate of 4.1193 and increasing the annual fire assessment to \$225 per single-family residential unit. He added that the current millage is a 4.17 percent increase over the rollback rate.

He outlined the premises on which the budget was based and increases that are proposed to maintain the same level of service.

Charles King, 105 North Victoria Park Road, claimed there are other communities with a lower millage rate and acceptable public schools. Some decrease would have been welcomed, but there are obligations of the City that will force the millage rate to rise. The pension obligation bond will determine what will happen to the City's future.

James Chastanet, 700 NE 14 Place, advocated raising the millage rate. There have not been any improvements in his neighborhood for years. He displayed a photograph of the sidewalk in his neighborhood that is attached to these minutes. Mayor Seiler explained the property owners are responsible for adjacent sidewalks pursuant to code. The City Manager advised that this budget includes \$780,000 for sidewalks that has never been funded before.

There being no other individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

**PH-4 13-1280 FINAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014**

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that the total general fund budget for fiscal year 2014 is \$345,277,771. The total all funds budget is \$832,277,622. Increases that require maintaining the same millage rate are increasing for: landscape maintenance at \$500,000, entranceways and signage at \$220,000, police laptop computer replacement at \$700,000, security camera and public safety strategy citywide program \$1,000,000, ordinance updates to various master plans at \$400,000, downtown walkability plan implementation at \$500,000, street resurfacing at \$470,000, sidewalk program at \$780,000, bridges master plan at \$250,000 and capital maintenance plan at \$2.1 million.

Charles King, 105 North Victoria Park Road, read a prepared statement from his district commissioner, District II, in opposition to the fire assessment rate increase which is attached to these minutes. He

asked what has been budgeted for the police salary increase this coming year. Mayor Seiler advised that there is no cost of living adjustment in the budget.

There being no other individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Commissioner DuBose commented that a resident suggested the City re-think the idea of planting Coconut Palms in the medians because falling coconuts could present a problem. Commissioner Trantalis advised that he was informed that the coconuts are removed when they are a very small size.

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Rogers

**Nay:** 2 - Commissioner Trantalis and Commissioner DuBose

**PH-5 13-1250**

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - LAUDERDALE ISLES WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT - LEVYING A NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AND APPROVING A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 on behalf of Lauderdale Isles Water Management District**

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that the district assesses residents of this special district to address water quality issues. Their board voted to continue levying an assessment of \$15 per parcel for fiscal year 2014. Their total budget adopted by the board is \$89,701.12.

There being no individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

**PH-6 13-1249**

**FINAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - SUNRISE KEY NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT - MILLAGE RATE - FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014**

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that the district taxes the residents of this special district to provide security to their neighborhood. The district voted their millage at 1.0000 mill to generate revenue to provide that service.

There being no individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Commissioner Trantalis introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

**PH-7 13-1281** PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - SUNRISE KEY  
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BUDGET - FISCAL  
YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER  
30, 2014

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that the district taxes residents of this special district to provide security to their neighborhood. The district voted their millage at 1.0000 mill to generate revenue at its budget of \$75,000, including an unappropriated fund balance of \$613. Expenses are insurance, accounting, administration, vehicle rental, gate and home repairs, security, landscaping, lawn maintenance, miscellaneous charges and contingency totaling \$75,000.

There being no individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Commissioner Trantalis introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

**Aye:**5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

**R-1 13-1285** RESOLUTION - SETTING CENTRAL WASTEWATER REGION  
LARGE USER RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1,  
2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

In response to Commissioner Rogers, the City Manager explained that the large user advisory board reviewed the anticipated cost and determined that the current rate is sufficient. There is a true-up provision if expenses exceed estimations.

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers



**0-1 13-1144** SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE AMENDING SCHEDULE I OF CITY'S PAY PLAN BY CREATING TWO NEW CLASSES - Stormwater Operations Manager and Organizational Development and Training Coordinator

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the ordinance on final reading, which was read by title only.

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

**OB** SCHEDULING EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION FOR CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE V. TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

Pursuant to Florida Statute 286.011, the City Attorney requested an executive closed door session which has been scheduled for September 17, at 3 p.m. concerning City of Fort Lauderdale v. Traffic Control Devices (09068635). She also noted who would be in attendance.

There being no other matters to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.



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John P. "Jack" Seiler  
Mayor

ATTEST:



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Jonda K. Joseph  
City Clerk

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**RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013**

TO: Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler  
Vice Mayor Bruce G. Roberts  
Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis  
Commissioner Bobby B. DuBose  
Commissioner Romney Rogers


DATE: September 6, 2013

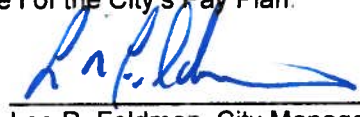
Lee R. Feldman, City Manager  
John Herbst, City Auditor  
Jonda K. Joseph, City Clerk  
Cynthia A. Everett, City Attorney


YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT by virtue of the authority vested in me/us, i.e., the Mayor, any two (2) members of the City Commission, or the City Manager, pursuant to Section 3.12 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, I/we do hereby call a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale to be held:

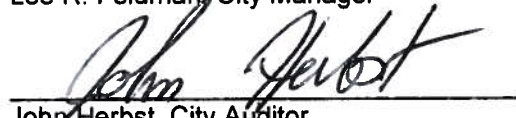
AT: 6 p.m.; City Commission Chambers, City Hall, 100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale  
ON: Thursday, September 12, 2013

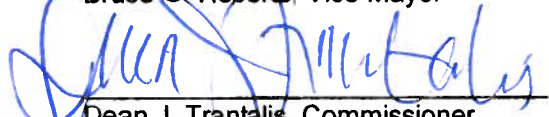
for the purpose of adopting the City of Fort Lauderdale's Millage Rate and Budget, adopting Special Districts' Millage Rates, Budgets and/or Assessments, Adopting the City of Fort Lauderdale's Five-Year Community Investment Plan and Adopting an Ordinance Amending Schedule I of the City's Pay Plan.

  
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John P. "Jack" Seiler, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee R. Feldman, City Manager

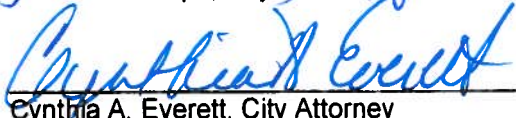
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce G. Roberts, Vice Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Herbst, City Auditor

  
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Dean J. Trantalis, Commissioner

  
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Jonda K. Joseph, City Clerk

  
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Bobby B. DuBose, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia A. Everett, City Attorney

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Romney Rogers, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Adderley, Chief of Police

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this public meeting or hearing, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. If you desire auxiliary services to assist in viewing or hearing the City Commission meetings or reading agendas and minutes for the meetings, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 954-828-5002 and arrangements will be made to provide these services for you.



9-12-13

PH-3

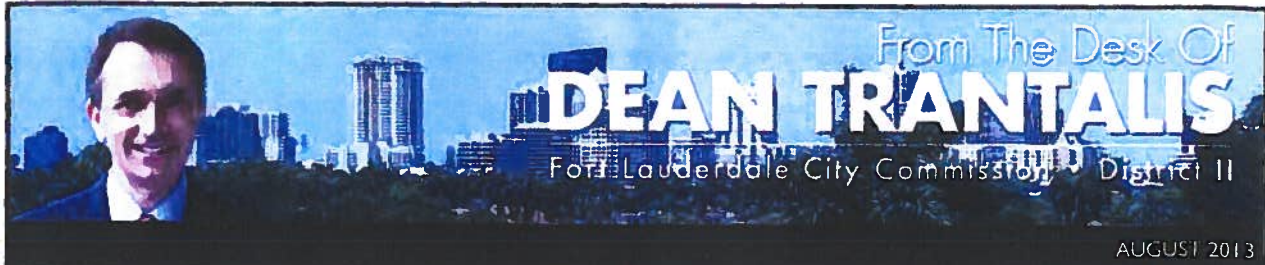
provided by

JAMES CHASTANET

JONOA  
EXTRA







AUGUST 2013

## Fort Lauderdale unveils budget plan for 2014

### Property tax rate to remain level, but increase proposed in fire assessment fee

In early July, the city manager presented his proposed budget for next fiscal year to the City Commission. I wanted to take a moment to lay out some of its highlights and to encourage all who are interested to attend the budget hearings in September.

The property tax rate for city operations would remain unchanged for the seventh consecutive year. However, during these years, this occurred only because the City Commission withdrew money from its reserve account. So, while there were staffing reductions and cost-cutting efforts, the city spent more than it took in.

It is being suggested that to avoid withdrawing money from our reserve account again this year, we raise the fee that homeowners pay for fire suppression from \$135 to \$225.

The city manager says the budget proposal addresses a number of key priorities, including downtown walkability, sidewalk repair, street resurfacing, streetscape enhancements and improvements to the wastewater collection/water distribution system. With this increase, the argument is that these efforts will now be funded.

Here are some examples of how District 2 will be impacted by these projects. The budget plan contains:

- \$3.7 million to continue improvements slated for the central beach area.
- \$764,000 to begin dredging work around the Las Olas Marina, the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center and Bahia Mar. This will coincide with regional plans to deepen the Intracoastal Waterway.
- \$424,100 to pave Northwest 14th Street and Northwest 15th Street from Powerline Road east to Andrews Avenue in South Middle River. These are the last unpaved roads in the city.
- \$295,000 to begin street enhancements to Northwest 1st Avenue and Northwest 5th Street in

the growing Flagler Arts and Technology Village.

- \$200,000 to explore drainage improvements needed in the Progresso Village neighborhood.

But let's get real.

None of these projects is funded from general revenue sources, which come from property taxes and the fire assessment fee. Rather, these projects tap redevelopment monies and enterprise funds that are collected separately.

In essence, the city wants more money to pay its way. Citizens wouldn't be happy about a millage rate increase so a higher fire assessment fee is suggested as the answer. There are several reasons why this approach is questionable.

First, it's a tax increase no matter what you want to call it.

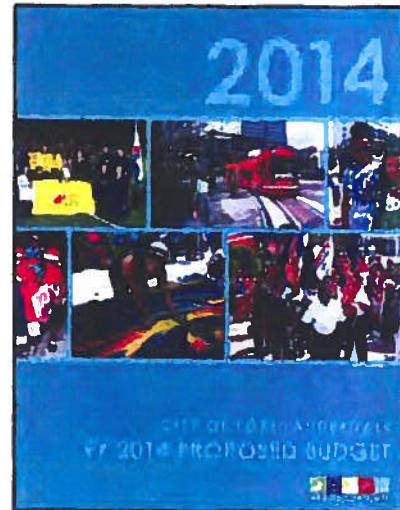
Second, a flat fee paid equally by everyone has a greater impact on lower- and middle-income homeowners than it does on those who are well-off.

Finally, as we enter critical negotiations with the police and fire unions, we would essentially be confessing that we accept things the way they are and we will raise more revenue to meet their demands. That does not bode well for progress on pension reform and city perks such as take-home police cars.

This approach is totally unacceptable because the status quo is totally unacceptable.

Do you know that we pay on average more than \$40,000 per union employee every year just to cover our pension obligations? Do you know we cover the cost of giving a take-home car to each police officer that lives anywhere in Broward County. That includes all gas, oil and repairs.

Our own consultants have stated that this level of funding is "unsustainable." If we keep going this



direction for long, the city will be broke.

So I ask this – why would we feed this machine with additional tax revenue when we should find ways to incentivize our union negotiations and create a city government that is financially sustainable?

I believe that the men and women who work for our community respect their role and want to do the right thing. We can accomplish this if we work together to make this happen.

At this point, there is no legitimate reason to increase our taxes, and we need more input from residents about the city manager's proposed increase in the fire assessment.

Public hearings on the budget are scheduled for 6 p.m. on Sept. 3 and Sept. 12 in the commission chambers at City Hall. A hearing on the fire assessment fee will be held during the Sept. 12 meeting.

Sincerely,

Dean



## Summer news updates for District 2

The City Commission will be on its summer recess until Aug. 20, but work continues at City Hall on issues important to you.

### South Middle River crime:

Following recent meetings with the neighborhood, the Police Department has increased its activity in South Middle River.

More officers are assigned to the area, drug sweeps have been conducted and undercover operations organized.

The agency also set up a checkpoint on the evening of July 19 on Northeast 13th Street.

Police report 55 arrests and 146 traffic citations as a result of their stepped-up efforts.

### Speeding on Andrews Avenue:

Broward County has agreed in principle to allow the city to test 3D designs in the pavement as a way to slow down traffic. This idea has been tried in other major

cities, but represents the first time it would be done in Broward.

### Quiet zones along the FEC railroad:

In mid-June, city leaders participated in a discussion with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization about eliminating the need for trains to blow their whistles at railroad crossings.

Each crossing would need to be renovated with extra safety features to avoid the possibility of collisions between trains and cars in the new quiet zones.

Discussions will continue in advance of the planned addition of commuter rail service.

### Flood insurance discounts:

The city has obtained a better rating from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that will allow residents to save money on their flood insurance.

This is the result of new flood mitigation measures, including higher regulatory standards, open space preservation and drainage system maintenance.

Property owners and renters who renew or purchase flood insurance policies are eligible for a 20 percent discount. This should save residents almost \$1 million annually.

### Federal Highway resurfacing:

The Florida Department of Transportation recently told the city of plans to resurface Federal Highway from Broward Boulevard to Northeast 17th Way. In addition to repaving, FDOT plans to make drainage and pedestrian improvements.

The work should begin in October 2014. We should have more precise information later this summer.



Commissioner Trantalis participates in a community peace rally held after the jury verdict in the George Zimmerman case involving Trayvon Martin's death.



Commissioner Trantalis joins other officials at a National Night Out Against Crime event on Northeast 13th Street in the Middle River Terrace community.

## District meetings restart

Commissioner Trantalis will host his first agenda review meeting after the city's summer recess on Aug. 19. It will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the 7th floor conference room of City Hall. The purpose is to receive input from residents and answer questions about the agenda for the City Commission meeting on Aug. 20.

Because of the Labor Day holiday, the following agenda review meeting for District 2 will be held on Sept. 16 at the same time and location. Typically, they are the first and third Mondays of the month.