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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

1:30 PM

**Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Mary N. Porter Riverview
Ballroom - 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312**

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

JOHN C. HERBST Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District 1

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District 2

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District 3

BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District 4

RICKELLE WILLIAMS, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

D'WAYNE M. SPENCE, Interim 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: Vice Mayor Herbst, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Also Present: City Manager Rickelle Williams, City Clerk David R. Soloman, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne M. Spence, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

[25-0325](#)

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

***Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee (ITFAC)
Monday, April 7, 2025***

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

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his understanding of the ITFAC Communication.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Peter Partington, 1521 NE 53rd Street, Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee Chair, discussed the ITFAC's recommendation that the Commission establish the ITFAC as an Infrastructure Advisory Board for continued monitoring of consent orders, public-private partnerships, ongoing infrastructure projects and related bond financing, and plans for a new City Hall. Mr. Partington remarked on the current term limits of ITFAC members.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Clerk David Soloman confirmed the current sunset date for the ITFAC is February 18, 2026. Mr. Partington stated rather than extending the ITFAC, the Commission should establish a permanent Advisory Board.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence explained the Commission could adopt an Infrastructure Advisory Board ordinance, outlined its purpose, and

expounded on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman requested that Staff clarify how an Advisory Board would function compared to the ITFAC in a matrix or fact sheet format. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed and remarked on related details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman confirmed his support. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman concurred with Commissioner Glassman's recommendation to clarify differences between an Infrastructure Advisory Committee and Board.

NEIGHBOR PRESENTATIONS

NP-1 [25-0479](#)

Tousina Martin - Traffic, Building, Flooding and Emergency Responses

Mayor Trantalis recognized Tousina Martin, Melrose Manors Homeowner's Association (MMHOA) Board Member. Mr. Martin outlined several community concerns, including traffic issues, new development, flooding, and emergency response times.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman acknowledged her ongoing discussions with Mr. Martin and emphasized the importance of collaboration between community stakeholders and elected officials in addressing neighborhood issues and discussed her perspective.

Mayor Trantalis recommended that Mr. Martin coordinate with Commissioner Beasley-Pittman and City Staff to address the issues raised. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman requested that City Manager Rickelle Williams direct Staff to contact representatives from Florida Power & Light (FPL) and AT&T and invite them to an MMHOA meeting to discuss concerns regarding a utility easement. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Interim City Attorney Spence's question, Mr. Martin confirmed that the MMHOA would be issuing a public notice concerning the adoption of its declaration and covenants, which will include privacy policies to reduce solicitations.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman emphasized the need for the MMHOA to be part of the Fort Lauderdale Council of Civic Associations.

NP-2 [25-0487](#)

Barry Solomon - Request to change Policy regarding Adjustments to High Water Bills caused by Leaks

Mr. Solomon was not present. Mayor Trantalis provided an update on the City's efforts to resolve water billing issues, including plans to replace the current meter system with a modern, digital system.

NP-3 [25-0497](#)

Linda Patrick - Borrow Pit Reclamation Project and Rock Pit Lake Rezoning

Mayor Trantalis recognized Linda Patrick, Lake Aire Homeowner's Association President. Ms. Patrick expressed strong opposition to the Borrow Pit Reclamation Project and the Rock Pit Lake rezoning related to the Prologis development. She presented information on public health risks and played a short video.

A copy of the video is available through the Office of the City Clerk.

Mayor Trantalis requested that Ms. Patrick email the video to each Commission Member.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis noted his understanding of the project details and the concerns of neighbors.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager, discussed the ownership status of Rock Pit Lake and provided an update on the project, including regulatory oversight by Broward County and the City, and zoning and land use issues that will require Commission review.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Interim City Attorney Spence noted his understanding that the owner of the lake is independently filling it in, and that this action is not tied to the owner's contract with Prologis.

Mayor Trantalis recognized April Young, Lake Aire Homeowner's Association Vice President. Ms. Young clarified that the same entity owns both the Lake and the Prologis project. She elaborated on environmental concerns associated with filling in the Lake.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman concurred with residents' concerns, commended their advocacy, and expounded on the importance of resolving these issues.

Mayor Trantalis acknowledged residents' concerns, remarked on his recent discussions with the developer, and reiterated the need for environmental remediation. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Cooper commented on Broward County's responsibility for issuing environmental permits and said that City Staff are actively monitoring activities at the site.

Mayor Trantalis said that operations at the site should be suspended until dust control issues are adequately mitigated. He requested that Ms. Patrick and Ms. Young keep Commissioner Beasley-Pittman and City Staff updated.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Porshia Garcia, Development Services Department Acting Director. Ms. Garcia confirmed ongoing outreach efforts to Ms. Patrick and Ms. Young and confirmed there would be continued engagement by Staff.

Commissioner Sorensen encouraged residents to contact the developer regarding reimbursement for any impact to their vehicles caused by construction dust. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Garcia confirmed coordination with Broward County regarding construction hours and dust mitigation.

City Manager Rickelle Williams said that once additional information is available, Staff will provide the Commission with an update.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [25-0503](#)

City Attorney Recruitment Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Two or more members of the City Attorney Search Committee may be present and participate in the discussion of this item at this meeting.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jerome Post, Human Resources Department Director. Mr. Post shared an update on the City Attorney recruitment process. The Mayor inquired about how Commission Members would prefer to conduct interviews with candidates.

Commissioner Sorensen suggested conducting one-on-one interviews with each candidate. Vice Mayor Herbst and Commissioner Beasley-Pittman concurred.

The Commission agreed that the final selection of the new City Attorney should occur at a meeting in June 2025. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the item would be added to the June 3, 2025, Commission Conference Meeting Agenda, and encouraged each Commissioner to schedule individual interviews with the candidates beforehand.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Marc Dickerman, 1417 SW 2nd Street. Mr. Dickerman discussed his perspective on this Agenda item.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [25-0465](#)

2025 Storm Season Preparedness - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Rickelle Williams provided an overview of this Agenda item and presented a video on storm readiness.

Melissa Doyle, Public Works Department Program Manager, narrated a presentation entitled *2025 Storm Season Preparedness*.

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

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ms. Doyle explained that the City has four (4) mobile pumps, eleven (11) vacuum trucks, four (4) in-house tanker trucks; and confirmed contracts are in place for additional resources as needed.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding emergency asset deployment and flood planning, Ms. Doyle explained that the City's Flood Emergency Response Plan, which is updated annually, helps determine how and where to position equipment before major storms.

City Manager Williams confirmed this plan can be shared annually with Commission Members and adjusted based on real-time feedback. Commissioner Sorensen emphasized the value of sharing the plan with residents and adjusting resources based on community needs.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed concerns regarding flooding in Melrose Manors during the April 12, 2024, rain event, citing delays with pumps operated by the City of Lauderdale. Ms. Doyle committed to investigating and providing an update.

Mayor Trantalis highlighted ongoing drainage issues affecting the Edgewood neighborhood due to runoff from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) and I-595. Ms. Doyle explained the City's efforts to resolve those issues and would provide an update. Commissioner Sorensen said he would meet with Staff from FLL and the Florida Department of Transportation to address those concerns.

Jermaine Frazier, Fire-Rescue Department Assistant Chief, continued the presentation with an update on the emergency response strategies for storms.

Mayor Trantalis expressed concern over reductions in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster relief funding. Assistant Chief Frazier confirmed that while some conversations about State-level funding are underway, there have been no policy changes received from FEMA.

Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Department Director, discussed the Sandbag Distribution Program. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Williams confirmed each household may receive up to five (5) sandbags per visit. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed her support for this effort.

Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Acting Director, explained allowing residents to store vehicles in City garages during storms. Commissioner Glassman recommended including the Bridgeside Garage near the Oakland Park Bridge. Mr. Majstorovic confirmed.

Ashley Doussard, Strategic Communications Division Director, described how Staff keeps the public informed about storm preparations and alerts.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman inquired about updates to the City's comprehensive Emergency Response Management Plan (ERMP). Assistant Chief Frazier said the ERMP was updated in 2023 and is regularly revised based on training, event reviews, and operational needs.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman asked about the involvement of District Commissioners during emergency operations at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Interim City Attorney Spence explained that the Mayor leads the EOC under the ERMP and Sunshine Law restrictions limit the simultaneous participation of other Commissioners.

He confirmed that Commissioners are part of the Emergency Operations Taskforce and involved in ERMP planning.

City Manager Williams confirmed that training sessions for Commissioners on current FEMA policies will be scheduled. Mayor Trantalis stressed the importance of understanding any changes to FEMA policy moving forward.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed concerns regarding vehicle towing during the April 2023 rain event and asked how the City might assist residents in avoiding related cost burdens in the future. City Manager Williams said one solution could be to negotiate standard rates with towing companies licensed and operating within the City.

Fire-Rescue Department Chief Stephen Gollan discussed the towing situation during the April 2023 rain event and reviewed the Department's efforts during and after emergency events.

Mayor Trantalis emphasized the importance of storm preparedness as hurricane season approaches.

Commissioner Sorensen suggested appointing a dedicated staff liaison for each Commission District during emergency events to ensure residents receive timely, consistent information. City Manager Williams agreed, said it would be explored further, and confirmed that all Commission Members would be well informed during emergencies.

BUS-2 [25-0177](#)

Presentation on Amendments to the Board of Adjustment Process - Administrative Variance, Vote Threshold, and Appeal Process - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Two or more members of the Board of Adjustment may be present and participate in the discussion of this item at this meeting.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Karlanne Devonish, Development Services Department Principal Urban Planner. Ms. Devonish provided an overview of a proposed change to the Board of Adjustment (BOA) process. Staff recommends adding an administrative approval layer for small variance requests. Ms. Devonish narrated a presentation entitled *Board of Adjustment Approval and Appeal Processes*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Devonish explained that the

proposed administrative layer would apply to minor variance requests of one foot (1') or ten percent (10%), whichever is less. Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager, said that such variances are considered minor and shared his perspective on the benefits of streamlining the process.

Commissioner Glassman asked about the types of cases typically reviewed by the BOA. Ms. Devonish clarified examples of variance requests, including unpermitted structures that don't meet current code requirements, and said that those types of cases would not fall under the proposed administrative variance.

Commissioner Glassman commented on support for keeping BOA appeal decisions under Commission authority and shared his reasoning. Vice Mayor Herbst suggested that BOA appeals be directed to a Special Magistrate instead and said that it would be a more efficient process and would reduce the workload of the Commission. Mayor Trantalis agreed with Vice Mayor Herbst. Commissioner Glassman discussed his perspective, noting examples of when Commission-level appeals might be appropriate.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Vice Mayor Herbst reiterated his preference for appeals to be handled by a Special Magistrate.

Interim City Attorney Spence explained the responsibilities of the BOA, how the proposed administrative layer would function, and how the recommendation fits within the Code.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on allowing Staff greater flexibility, like other area municipalities that provide up to twenty-five percent (25%) relief.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed a consensus to proceed with the Staff recommendation. Commissioner Sorensen commented on his support, noting that it would give Staff more flexibility in handling routine matters.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding a denial of an administrative variance, Interim City Attorney Spence clarified that the request would go to the BOA for review.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed the advantages of introducing administrative variances and maintaining the Commission as the appeal body for decisions made by the BOA, Planning and Zoning Board, and

Historic Preservation Board.

Mr. Cooper expressed concern about allowing administrative variances up to twenty-five percent (25%), noting it could be too broad. He recommended limiting administrative variances to a maximum of three feet (3') or twenty-five percent (25%), whichever is less. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed her viewpoint and asked about the impact on pending cases. Interim City Attorney Spence explained that a new ordinance would apply the administrative variance retroactively. Mayor Trantalis said that the administrative variances should apply retroactively and have a limit of twenty-five percent (25%) or a maximum of three feet (3'). Further comment and discussion ensued regarding how appeals would be handled under the proposed changes.

Interim City Attorney Spence discussed the current ordinance, summarized the suggested updates, and said that he would return with a draft ordinance reflecting Commission direction. Mayor Trantalis clarified the legal language discussed.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed that a simple majority vote would apply to BOA decisions.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ellyn Bogdanoff, Esq., One East Broward Boulevard. Ms. Bogdanoff discussed her viewpoint regarding this Agenda item.

BUS-3 [25-0513](#)

One Stop Shop Discussion - (Commission District 2)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager. Mr. Fajardo provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a presentation entitled *One Stop Shop* (Project).

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager. Ms. Grant explained the interpretation of financial documents and verified a financial commitment from One Stop Shop FTL, LCC.

Vice Mayor Herbst noted the need for hard copies of financial commitments to verify accuracy. In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question, Ms. Grant noted that confidentiality was the explanation for not receiving a hard copy. Vice Mayor Herbst noted that this is not consistent

with the Comprehensive Agreement. Mr. Fajardo continued narrating the presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Glassman confirmed that neighborhood outreach occurred for this Project.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jeff John, 100 SW 3rd Avenue, One Stop Shop FTL, LLC (One Stop Shop FTL). Mr. John said a signed financial commitment for the One Stop Shop FTL development project (Project) is available and would be submitted to the Office of the City Attorney.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Martin Mobarak. Mr. Mobarak confirmed that BCG, a London-based financing company, committed to financing the Project. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Mobarak explained details of the financing commitment. In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question, Mr. Mobarak clarified that BCG is the financing entity.

Mayor Trantalis questioned why the financing commitment documentation was not presented to the Commission today in compliance with the Comprehensive Agreement and expounded on his concerns. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding the timeline for submitting the Project site plan to the Development Review Committee (DRC), Mr. John explained that the Project would be able to move forward within the next six (6) weeks, before the Commission Summer Break.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding neighbor outreach to the Flagler Village Civic Association, Mr. John confirmed and explained related information.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding anticipated changes to the site plan, Mr. John confirmed that the site plan has not changed since it was last presented to the Commission.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. John discussed recent conversations with Project consultants and confirmed their commitment to submitting a site plan to the DRC before the Commission Summer Break.

Commissioner Glassman addressed the need for a Project timetable with a start date and benchmarks. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. John confirmed and commented on related details.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding Flagler Village and Riverwalk feedback on the design criteria for the park portion of the site plan, Mr. John discussed their feedback and said their top criteria were included.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. John noted that the footprint of the cultural center has not changed but technological upgrades have been made. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. John confirmed that the marketplace building will be four (4) to five (5) levels high, and that previous plans for a market area and other mixed-use retail remain.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. John confirmed the accuracy of the Project square footage. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. John confirmed that two-thirds (2/3) of the site plan will be open park space.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. John confirmed that Flagler Village and Riverwalk's criteria align with the site plan and expounded on his perspective.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on concerns regarding her expectation that representatives from Flagler Village and Riverwalk would be present today to provide input. Commissioner Glassman commented on his understanding of their perspectives and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented on feedback from Flagler Village and Riverwalk Civic Associations, who indicated they are anxious to see the Project move forward. Commissioner Glassman concurred and expounded on his viewpoint.

Commissioner Glassman emphasized the need to view and verify the financing commitment discussed earlier. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the square footage of the cultural center at the YMCA in Holiday Park (Holiday Park YMCA), City Manager Williams confirmed that Staff would research and provide the information. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on her perspective regarding the Project and its ongoing

delays. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his understanding of the amenities at the Holiday Park YMCA. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Herbst discussed his extensive experience in financing and the need for clarification regarding the correct entity providing Project financing. In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question regarding whether BCG is the successor to the firm Cantor Fitzgerald and the entity providing Project financing, Mr. John said he hesitates to state the name on the record. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Herbst expounded on his reasoning and concern and cited issues raised by Ernst & Young, the third party that analyzed the Project's financial viability. He noted his thorough review and concerns related to the Project's economic viability. Vice Mayor Herbst reiterated the need for the City to be provided with a Letter of Credit or written financial commitment for the Project. He expounded on concerns about the Comprehensive Agreement not having a Project start date and other issues.

Commissioner Glassman recommended that, upon receipt of validated proof of Project financing, an amendment to the Comprehensive Agreement requiring firm dates, including commencement and milestone dates.

Mayor Trantalis noted the City's income expectations, recommended adding an amendment to the Comprehensive Agreement for a good faith cash payment to the City and base rent, and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Commissioner Glassman concurred with prior Commission Member recommendations and reiterated his viewpoint regarding the need for a Project start date, benchmarks, and proof of financing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager. Mr. Cooper explained the YMCA Holiday Park space and programming.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Doug Coolman, 1911 Bayview Drive. Mr. Coolman spoke in opposition to this Project.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Anne Hilmer, 621 Idlewyld Drive. Ms. Hilmer spoke in opposition to this Project.

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

Civic Association President. Mr. Inserra spoke in opposition to this Project.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Sister Robin Merrill, 1404 East Las Olas Boulevard. Sister Merrill spoke in opposition to this Agenda item and submitted a document to the City Clerk.

A copy of the document is attached to these Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on other possible development Projects on the site, should this Project not move forward, and confirmed his support for the Project.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Laura Sue Wilansky, 2251 NE 66th Street. Ms. Wilansky spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Cooper explained the tree preservation efforts and landscaping plan for the Project.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Marilyn Mammano, 1819 SE 17th Street. Ms. Mammano spoke in opposition to this Agenda item. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Mammano explained her viewpoint that the licensee is in default under the Comprehensive Agreement.

Mayor Trantalis recognized John Burns, 1 Las Olas Circle, on behalf of Lauderdale Tomorrow. Mr. Burns spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Marc Dickerman, 1417 SW 2nd Street. Mr. Dickerman spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on Commission Member recommendations.

Vice Mayor Herbst reconfirmed his previous comments and recommendations. He discussed his concerns regarding bypassing the Charter by framing this agreement as a license agreement rather than a lease agreement and its duration. Vice Mayor Herbst expounded on his viewpoint.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his understanding of lease and license agreements and discussed related information. Vice Mayor Herbst discussed both types of agreements, noted the usual ease of cancelling

license agreements and remarked that this license agreement is not structured in that way. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to City Manager Williams' question, Mayor Trantalis explained his recommendation regarding the City receiving a licensing fee.

Commissioner Sorensen recommended terminating the Comprehensive Agreement due to a lack of proof of financing. Mayor Trantalis said that he did not support that recommendation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney Spence explained that the City's termination rights are included in the Comprehensive Agreement.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Interim City Attorney Spence read the financial default language in Article 10 of the Comprehensive Agreement and confirmed a thirty (30) day cure timeline following the City's default Notice to the licensee.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the Commission's direction to Staff to issue a default notice to the licensee. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Interim City Attorney Spence read Article 10 language included in the Comprehensive Agreement.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Interim City Attorney Spence remarked on his viewpoint regarding the impact of a default Notice on issues discussed and reasonable efforts to move the Project forward. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Interim City Attorney Spence explained options and cited examples. Commissioner Sorensen reviewed his understanding of those options.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his viewpoint regarding his support for the Project and requested input from the Commission Members. Commissioner Sorensen reiterated his position. Commissioner Glassman requested that Mr. John provide proof of financing at tonight's meeting.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. John explained his ability to move the Project forward and its financing. Further comment

and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman reiterated his requests regarding the Project, requested that Mr. John meet with the Flagler Village Civic Association and Riverwalk, and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the Commission's direction to Staff to pursue the default notice.

BUS-4 [25-0300](#)

Discussion - Draft Ordinance Regulating Lobbyist Appointments to Boards and Committees - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis noted that Commission Members had previously met with Interim City Attorney Spence regarding this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recommended that the word "Advisory" be added to the draft ordinance and would only apply to Commission advisory bodies, not independent boards like the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale (HACFL), or the Performing Arts Center Authority (PACA). Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Herbst said that Commission policy should be applied consistently and should exclude lobbyists from serving on any entity that serves the City. Mayor Trantalis explained his rationale for excluding non-advisory bodies. Vice Mayor Herbst expounded on concerns about lobbyists serving on boards that operate independently and are funded by the City, such as the DDA and PACA. Mayor Trantalis reiterated his position.

In response to a question from Commissioner Sorensen, Laura Reece, Acting Assistant City Manager, explained City funding to the DDA and PACA. Vice Mayor Herbst noted that the Commission had approved the Fiscal Year 2025 budget for PACA. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman spoke about the origins of the discussion and asked whether the draft ordinance mirrors Broward County's policy. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed and added that the Broward County ordinance also prohibits lobbyists from serving on development authorities, redevelopment agencies, regulatory agencies, and adjustment boards.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman recommended fully mirroring Broward County's policy. Mayor Trantalis restated his position that the City's non-advisory boards should remain exempt. Commissioner Glassman

agreed. Commissioner Glassman referenced backup materials and discussed his support for preventing lobbyists from serving on advisory boards and committees. Further comment and discussion ensued about possible scenarios involving lobbyists and advisory roles, and related policies of nearby municipalities.

Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed he would revise the draft ordinance to reflect the Commission's feedback.

Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his viewpoint that Commission Members should not nominate lobbyists, appointees should not perform any lobbying activities during their term of service, and that this policy should apply to all Commission appointments without exception.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's inquiry about a similar ordinance in St. Petersburg, Florida, Interim City Attorney Spence explained that its language was too vague to be used as a model.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Barbra Stern, 1929 NE 1st Avenue. Ms. Stern discussed her viewpoint regarding this Agenda item.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on a lobbyist who is currently serving on the DDA. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed that a revised ordinance would appear on a future Conference Meeting Agenda.

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

CITY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commission Members announced recent and upcoming events and expounded on related information.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed neighbor feedback opposing plans to replace the beachside basketball courts with pickleball courts. She concurred with their concerns and suggested relocating the pickleball courts to another site.

Mayor Trantalis said the installation of pickleball courts is part of the Comprehensive Agreement tied to the Bahia Mar development. He discussed the importance of accommodating basketball and other recreational amenities and improving the area. Interim City Attorney

Spence clarified that those pickleball court improvements fall under the Interlocal Agreement with the Bahia Mar Community Development District.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman reiterated her previous understanding that the current use of this beach area would remain unchanged. She recommended enhancing existing facilities rather than replacing them, noting the option of placing pickleball courts in the sand and upgrading the existing basketball courts.

Mayor Trantalis recommended a comprehensive review of the entire recreational space on the beach with the goal of expanding and enhancing it. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman reaffirmed her support for the Bahia Mar project and relocating the pickleball courts.

Commissioner Glassman discussed resident feedback regarding the need for better traffic management on the barrier island during large events and requested Staff address the issue.

Commissioner Sorensen shared an incident involving the unmooring of a concrete dock and the new Chief Waterway Officer Marco Aguilera's response.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed efforts to improve visibility and safety at the intersection of Las Olas Boulevard and SE 17th Avenue. Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Acting Director, provided details of possible improvements. Commissioner Sorensen noted that the Colee Hammock Civic Association supports closing the southbound section of SE 17th Avenue. Commissioner Glassman recommended a broader discussion, given the potential impacts on nearby neighbors. Mayor Trantalis offered his perspective on the implication of this road closure on local access. Commissioner Glassman requested Staff to provide him with further details to facilitate outreach to District 2 residents.

Commissioner Sorensen provided a brief update on discussions related to the progress on the New River Crossing project.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Trantalis announced recent and upcoming events and expounded on related information.

Mayor Trantalis recommended establishing a Commission policy regarding individuals who confirm their attendance at events where the

City has sponsored a table. Vice Mayor Herbst requested the Office of the City Attorney improve its responsiveness to providing related ethics opinions and remarked on concerns regarding compliance and reporting requirements for Commission Members under State law. Vice Mayor Herbst requested City Manager Williams ensure that Staff consistently provides this type of information to Commissioners as part of standard practice.

Mayor Trantalis and Commissioner Glassman remarked on events and improvements at the Aquatic Center.

Mayor Trantalis discussed correspondence from the Downtown Development Authority, the Museum of Discovery and Science, and the Broward Center for the Performing Arts regarding concerns over late-night liquor sales in the Himmarshee Entertainment District (HED). Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager, confirmed that Staff had received that letter and had begun outreach to stakeholders and noted that this issue will appear on an upcoming Conference Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Glassman said that the Commission identified reimagining Himmarshee Street as a priority during the 2024 Commission Prioritization Workshop. He discussed community feedback from nearby neighborhoods and explained related information.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the origins of allowing late-night liquor sales in the HED and emphasized the need to revisit and potentially revise that policy. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

MGR-1 [25-0458](#)

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

City Manager Williams noted ongoing Staff efforts related to beach amenities, which will be presented to the Commission at a future Conference Meeting.

ADJOURN

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.