

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

1:30 PM

The Parker

707 Northeast 8th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III

JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV

GREG CHAVARRIA, 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 1:38 p.m.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Warren Sturman and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[23-0698](#)

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

***Budget Advisory Board (BAB)
July 19, 2023***

Communication to the City Commission

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

Mayor Trantalis read the communication. There were no comments from Commission Members.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [23-0750](#)

Discussion on a proposed resolution urging the Florida Legislature to identify available funding sources that could be used to create a grant program or low interest loan program or both, for condominium associations and economically vulnerable specially assessed condominium unit owners who reside full-time in their condominium units, urging the Florida Legislature to collaborate with lending and financial institutions to create programs that would provide funding relief to condominium associations and economically vulnerable condominium unit owners who are specially assessed, for the costs of deferred maintenance and repairs arising out of milestone inspections and structural integrity reserve studies, and urging the

Florida Legislature to further amend the law so that associations other than those operating a multicondominium may determine to provide no reserves or less reserves than required if an alternative funding method is identified by the Florida Legislature or approved by the Florida Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation- (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Herbst discussed details associated with this Agenda item and requested Commission support to send a Resolution to the Florida State (State) Legislature and correspondence to Governor Ron DeSantis requesting financial assistance for residents residing in older condominiums and co-ops. Financial assistance would be on an as needed basis to fund building safety reserve requirements and repairs recently enacted by the State Legislature. Commissioner Herbst expounded on related details and would return to the Commission with an updated Resolution.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Herbst remarked on his understanding of similar efforts of other municipalities in the State with the same needs.

Mayor Trantalis concurred on the need to provide this financial relief and noted the multifaceted details associated with this Agenda item. He suggested Commissioner Herbst meet with the Office of the City Attorney to review and tweak the Resolution and correspondence.

City Manager Chavarria said an item related to this Agenda item is on tonight's Commission Regular Meeting Agenda. Commissioner Herbst noted it would be removed, and the Resolution would be revised with the Office of the City Attorney.

Commissioner Glassman recommended having discussions with State representatives for additional guidance and commented on recent related legislation.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fred Nesbitt, 3900 Galt Ocean Mile, Galt Mile Community Association President. Mr. Nesbitt spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Peterson, 920 SW 18th Street. Ms. Peterson spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Terry DelaRosa, 1200 SW 12th Street. Ms. DelaRosa spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Alec Bogdanoff, 901 NE 3rd Street. Mr. Bogdanoff spoke in support of this Agenda item.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Chavarria confirmed co-ops would be included in this effort.

CF-2 [23-0783](#)

Community Redevelopment Agency Report on the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights (NPF) Community Redevelopment Area Projects, Community Benefit, and Local Contracting Requirements - (Commission Districts 2 and 3)

Clarence Woods, Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Agency (NWPFH CRA) Area Manager, provided a NWPFH CRA Report that included projects that benefit the community, local contracting requirements, opportunities for minority businesses, and cited examples.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on benefits, incentives, and commercial business vacancy rates to be discussed at a future Commission meeting in an effort to address commercial business vacancy rates in the NWPFH CRA, which are needed to sustain neighborhood residential development.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [23-0794](#)

Presentation on Affordable Housing Incentives - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Chris Cooper, Development Services Department Director, discussed efforts to incentivize affordable housing projects. Mr. Cooper narrated a presentation entitled *Affordable Housing Reinvestment Program*.

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

Mayor Trantalis said he requested this presentation from Staff and inquired whether the Commission wants to proceed with Staff recommendations.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on his support of pursuing affordable housing. He commented on concerns regarding legislation known as the Live Local law and expounded on related details. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Cooper confirmed Staff is

taking related action and explained details regarding outreach to local municipalities to determine how best to address concerns associated with the Live Local legislation. Mr. Cooper cited Staff's interpretations of the legislation and cited examples of the City's ability to maintain control. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst confirmed his support of affordable housing efforts and expounded on his perspective.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ray Dettman, 1900 Miami Road. Mr. Dettman supported this Agenda item and said these efforts should also include small property owners.

BUS-2 [23-0757](#)

City Hall Next Steps - Recovery and Relocation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Chavarria provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, narrated a presentation entitled *April 2023 Flood Recovery and Relocation Update presentation*.

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

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Mr. Dodd confirmed amounts listed in the presentation that are being reimbursed to the City from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and explained details regarding FEMA funded cleanup efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Dodd confirmed the estimated costs to repair the City Hall building listed in the Damage Assessment.

City Manager Chavarria narrated the portion of the presentation entitled *Relocation Status*. In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, City Manager Chavarria explained details of Staff relocations.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Chavarria explained why City Hall currently needs to be kept intact, and expounded on details. Mayor Trantalis remarked that City Hall should be demolished. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst concurred with Mayor Trantalis' view that City Hall should be demolished and remarked on his perspective, including prior discussions over the years regarding the need to replace City Hall. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the value of the City

Hall parcel, its marketability, and costs to demolish the building. Commissioner Herbst noted his understanding that FEMA would fund demolition costs.

Commissioner Sturman discussed repair costs to bring the building up to Code and make it useable.

Mayor Trantalis recognized the City's consultant, Miguel Torres-Diaz, PE, MEM, Vice President, WSP USA. Mr. Torres-Diaz clarified that WSP's scope of work was related to the flooding event's impact on City Hall and to identify what was unusable and what needed to be replaced. The \$9,145,171 listed in the presentation would fund the repair and/or replacement of items and systems that were underwater in the basement. Bringing the entire building up to Code requires a separate analysis and outside the scope of WSP's work. Mr. Torres-Diaz explained information related to bringing the whole building up to Code.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Torres-Diaz confirmed costs related to bringing the building up to Code would significantly exceed the \$9,145,171 in the presentation. Commissioner Sturman remarked on the need to clarify this point and noted the significant cost.

Commissioner Glassman concurred on the need to move expeditiously to save on costs, demolish the building, and construct a new City Hall. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman recommended demolishing the building and constructing a new City Hall on the current parcel.

City Manager Chavarria confirmed Staff will work towards abandoning the current City Hall building by the end of August 2023.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Melissa Doyle, Public Works Department Program Manager, explained details related to downsizing the existing generator supplying power to City Hall, which will be replaced with a small unit for emergency purposes if needed. Staff will move forward with securing the site, including construction of fencing and potential on-site security.

BUS-3 [23-0815](#)

Review of the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 -
Presented by Patrick Reilly, City Auditor

City Auditor Patrick Reilly discussed the Office of the City Auditor's Report on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 and Management Responses.

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

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Reilly confirmed their satisfaction with Management's responses to the two (2) areas of concern.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Reilly confirmed that \$70,300,000 was the correct amount related to a material accounting adjustment for the Post-Retirement Pay Step Plan Trust and explained related details.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding anticipation of labor costs for Police and Fire-Rescue Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) currently being negotiated, Mr. Reilly explained details associated with alternative funding avenues for pension obligations and cited examples.

Commissioner Herbst clarified the question relates to increases to currently budgeted labor costs for Police and Fire-Rescue resulting from ongoing CBA salary negotiations. Mr. Reilly confirmed he would research.

Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, explained that budgeted amounts included in the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024) Budget were based upon proposals by Management. Staff subsequently adjusted the FY 2024 Budget by \$200,000. She explained additional funding of one-time payout adjustments for Police in Fiscal Year 2022 and Fire-Rescue in Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022, which will be funded from the Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-4 [23-0668](#)

Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget Discussion - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Chavarria explained the purpose of this presentation is to discuss and receive Commission feedback regarding budget items Staff discussed in individual meetings with Commission Members. Commission feedback will allow Staff to finalize the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and present at the September 5, 2023, and September 13, 2023, Budget Hearings.

Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, narrated a presentation entitled *City of Fort Lauderdale FY 2024 Budget*. She requested Commission Member feedback on the following aspects of the FY 2024 Budget, City Commission Member Budgets, Annual

Funding for Nonprofits, City Produced Special Events (Special Events), City Holidays, New Sidewalks, and Microtransit - Circuit Funding (Microtransit).

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

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding printing and mailing costs from District Commission offices, Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman explained that District 3 costs are due to the lack of internet access for all District 3 residents. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding enhanced printing services.

Commissioner Herbst recommended all District Commission budgets be equal, except Mayor Trantalis due to the higher level of compensation, and District Commissioners oversee their assigned budgets. Commissioner Glassman concurred.

Commissioner Glassman objected to budget allocations for paid internships and noted adequate Commission Member staffing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding allocating District budget funds to outside nonprofit organizations, Interim City Attorney Spence noted these allocations are usually approved at the Commission level and explained related details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on resident feedback associated with annual funding of the same nonprofits. He discussed the ability of District Commissioners to support small nonprofit funding requests within their District from unspent District budget dollars. Further comment and discussion ensued. Interim City Attorney Spence expounded on Broward County Code of Ethics for Elected Officials (BCE) guidelines. Commissioner Herbst discussed opportunities to adhere to BCE guidelines for District Commissioners who desire to contribute unspent District budget funds to local nonprofit organizations within their District for public use that would be approved at the Commission level. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed that is an option. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman said that no District 3 nonprofit funding was allocated in the FY 2024 Budget presentation and said she would address. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis requested additional funding in his budget to attend the US Conference of Mayors due to the high cost.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Reece confirmed the amounts listed in the slide presentation are proposed and have been included in the FY 2024 Budget. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Reece confirmed Staff would adjust the Commission District Budgets. Each District Commissioner's Budget will be \$525,000, and the Mayor's Budget will be \$542,000.

City Manager Chavarria confirmed costs associated with Commission Member attendance at conferences on behalf of the Commission will be funded from the Commission's Administrative Budget. District Budgets will finance Commission Member attendance at other conferences. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Reece noted that adjustments discussed to this point would increase the FY 2024 Budget. Commissioner Herbst remarked on additional budget adjustments for the remaining items in the presentation. Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to keep a tally of budget increases.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question regarding nonprofit funding for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Huizenga Park, Ms. Reece explained the DDA is a governmental agency in partnership with the City to support a park, and the DDA is not a nonprofit.

Commissioner Herbst discussed the correct account codes for funding inter-government funding and nonprofit organizations. Commission Members discussed their perspectives regarding nonprofit funding. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst discussed his recollection that the Commission committed to five (5) years of nonprofit funding for Stranahan House. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman requested \$25,000 in nonprofit funding for the Early Learning Coalition and emphasized the need. She questioned the City's nonprofit funding benefiting all areas of the City. Further comment and discussion ensued. Ms. Reece confirmed Staff would work

to balance and adjust the budget based on additional nonprofit funding requests.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Chavarria explained details of Commission Workshops with the BAB to develop the FY 2024 Budget and noted that the Workshop with the BAB previously scheduled before this meeting did not occur due to scheduling. Commissioner Glassman remarked on the BAB's communication to the Commission discussed earlier, and recommended addressing budget concerns earlier in the process. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the ability to add to nonprofit program funding and the additional funding would come from another budget area. Commissioner Glassman expounded on his viewpoint.

Commissioner Herbst noted this is the appropriate time to discuss budget-related Commission items and priorities for incorporation into the FY 2024 Budget and expounded on his perspective. Commissioner Glassman discussed his viewpoint regarding the timeline. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding maintaining the millage rate for the seventeenth (17th) consecutive year.

Ms. Reece continued narrating the presentation and discussed a request to add a Special Event recognizing Juneteenth with funding at the same level as the King Holiday Parade and Multicultural Festival.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's request, Ms. Reece confirmed Staff would provide a list of Special Events per District and related costs. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the need for equity and spreading Special Events throughout each District. Mayor Trantalis noted that numerous Special Events are City-wide.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on her previous request for additional funding for the 2023 Sistrunk Festival Event and requested additional funding be included in the FY 2024 Special Events Budget along with increased funding for the 2024 King Holiday Parade and Multicultural Festival and the 70th Anniversary of the David Deal Playday Special Events. She noted all are City-wide events.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding Staff efforts to obtain sponsorship funding for Special Events, City Manager Chavarria remarked on challenges and commented on Parks and Recreation Department Staff efforts. City Manager Chavarria confirmed Staff would

present an Agenda item regarding instituting a policy for sponsorships of Special Events at the September 5, 2023, Commission Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Reece discussed the budget for City paid holidays. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman confirmed her support for the City to recognize Juneteenth, a federal holiday, as a paid City holiday. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Reece confirmed \$394,000 is the approximate backfill cost per paid City holiday.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to consider the total of all budget adjustment requests. Ms. Reece remarked on anticipated enhanced state revenue and said Staff would return to the Commission with recommendations to balance the budget based on Commission input. City Manager Chavarria noted the current revised budget amounts discussed to this point is \$842,000.

Ms. Reece continued narrating the sidewalks portion of the presentation. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Reece explained funds have not been budgeted for new sidewalks, and only sidewalk repairs are funded. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding grant funding opportunities for sidewalks, Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, explained details of grant opportunities through the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) from the Transportation Surtax. Mr. Rogers noted that most MPO projects are five (5) years out and expounded on related information.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on input from District 4 residents regarding sidewalk needs that cannot wait until 2028. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Sturman recommended including \$500,000 in the FY 2024 Budget for new sidewalks.

Ms. Reece continued narrating FY 2024 Budget funding for Microtransit and requested Commission direction.

Commissioner Herbst discussed his viewpoint regarding Broward County's (County) current use of Surtax funding for transit and how Surtax funding could be used for Microtransit in dense urban areas of the City. Commissioner Herbst urged Mayor Trantalis and Commissioner Sturman, as the City's MPO representatives, to lobby the MPO for Surtax dollars to fund Microtransit. Further comment and discussion ensued

regarding the County's plans for Surtax-funded transportation projects.

Mr. Rogers explained the MPO's role and discussed City Manager Chavarria's June 2023 correspondence to the County Administrator requesting funds from the County Community Shuttle Program, which is part of Surtax funding, be apportioned for Microtransit service at current levels. Staff analyzed and evaluated Microtransit service levels, which included community and Commission input for expanding services.

In response to Mayor Trantalis and Commissioner Sturman's questions, Mr. Rogers explained that the County has a separate Microtransit program scheduled for later this year and will service the southwest portion of the City. It is different from the City's plan for expanded Microtransit services. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the importance of contacting County Commissioner, Lamar Fisher, to encourage him to support the City's Microtransit funding with Surtax funds. Commissioner Sturman also recommended communicating with County Commissioner Beam Furr who serves on the MPO.

Mr. Rogers commented on the need for Commission input regarding funding for the City's Microtransit Pilot Program for the recommended expanded Microtransit service.

Commissioner Glassman requested funding to activate the planned Police Department presence in Oceanside Park and expounded on details. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Police Department Chief Patrick Lynn explained current staffing at Oceanside Park. Further comment and discussion ensued on what would be necessary to establish a Police Substation at this location.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his viewpoint and remarked on the need for Homeless Outreach Staff to be outside, not in a police facility at Oceanside Park. Commissioner Glassman explained his perspective to take the existing facility in Oceanside Park to the next level. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Chavarria recommended defining personnel office hours at the Oceanside Park facility and requested Chief Lynn to pursue that opportunity.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Chief Lynn confirmed eleven (11) patrol officers would be assigned to road patrols throughout the City, including District 3, which amounts to one (1) police patrol officer per shift. She emphasized the District 3 priority for

increased police presence to address gun violence and noted this would be attainable with additional staffing requested for Oceanside Park.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need to hire more Police Officers. Commissioner Herbst concurred and remarked on the understaffing of the Police Department. He clarified that the areas of Police District coverage differ from the Commission District areas. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized BAB Board Member William Brown. Mr. Brown remarked on the BAB's efforts, commented on concerns regarding the underfunding of Community Investment Projects (CIPs), and said it would be prudent to await the results of an ongoing consultant analysis that would present an accurate inventory of CIP needs and costs, which is expected in approximately six (6) months.

Ms. Reece and Karen Warfel, Transportation and Mobility Department Division Manager, remarked on this year's sidewalk and pavement repair and replacement analyses, which includes a sidewalk gap analysis.

Mr. Brown discussed the City of Hollywood's efforts to fund its Microtransit through charging ridership fees and discussed the opportunity for the Beach Business Improvement District to sponsor funding.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Barbie Pearson, 2420 SE 17th Street. Ms. Pearson spoke in support of funding Microtransit along the Galt Ocean Mile up to Lauderdale-by-the-Sea.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jacquelyn Scott, 1626 SE 1st Street. Ms. Scott confirmed support to fund and address sidewalk needs.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Tony Spalding, 2554 Gulfstream Lane. Mr. Spalding discussed support of funding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks and hazardous waste disposal. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the merit of a bond issuance to fund a comprehensive approach to sidewalk needs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on past discussions about instituting paid family leave in the FY 2024 Budget.

City Manager Chavarria discussed the \$20,000,000 in gap funding needed for the planned Holiday Park Garage (Garage). Commissioner Herbst remarked on his understanding of details related to the planned Garage and options for financing. Mr. Rogers noted that the Parking Fund allocated funding for the Garage design that would include two (2) scenarios, one for a 1,000 vehicle space garage and a smaller garage that would accommodate 600 vehicle spaces, and related costs. He noted private entities have shown an interest in this parcel. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on recent Broward County capacity permitting issues at the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant. He discussed CIP needs and noted the need for Staff to be more proactive with planning and funding CIPs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the schedule for the remaining Conference Agenda items. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Interim City Attorney Spence explained the time sensitive items planned for discussion in the Executive Closed-Door Session.

Mayor Trantalis announced Agenda item BUS-5 would be discussed following the Executive Closed-Door Session. Further comment and discussion ensued.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION - 4:30 P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE

[23-0828](#)

The City Commission will meet privately pursuant to Florida Statute, Section 286.011(8) concerning the following matters:

Allan J. Mayers v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Case No.: CACE 20-013481 (09)

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Grace Community Dev. Corp. of FL, Inc.
Case No.: CACE 20-014867 (12)

Kimberly Maus, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale
Case No.: 22-cv-61889-RKA

City of Fort Lauderdale, et al. v. Terminal Ventures, LLC, et al.

Case No.: CACE 22-011787 (05)

Interim City Attorney Spence announced the commencement of the Executive Closed-Door Session to discuss the following cases:

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Grace Community Dev. Corp. of FL, Inc.
Case No.: CACE 20-014867 (12)

Kimberly Maus, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale
Case No.: 22-cv-61889-RKA

Those present at the Executive Closed Door Session will include:

Mayor Dean Trantalis, Vice Mayor Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Warren Sturman, City Manager Greg Chavarria, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Michael Spence, Assistant City Attorney Robert Oldershaw, Outside Counsel Carmen Rodriguez, and a Certified Court Reporter from Bailey Eaton Court Reporting

The estimated length of this session will be approximately 15 minutes.

BUS-5 [23-0758](#)

Presentation - Initiative; Petition for Proposed Ordinance Pursuant to Section 3.15 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale Regarding Snyder Park - (Commission District 4)

Interim City Attorney Spence discussed his legal opinion and interpretation of City Charter Section 3.15 (Section 3.15) as it applies to the petition regarding Snyder Park (Petition) submitted to the City on March 9, 2023, by John Rodstrom, III, Esq., on behalf of the Save Snyder Park Committee and Petition Chair Kevin Cochrane. Interim City Attorney Spence discussed details, requirements, and the process discussed in Section 3.15. He explained requests contained in the Petition were presented as an ordinance and noted the requests are administrative. He remarked on aspects of the Petition, including legal deficiencies and a related legal opinion provided to Mr. Rodstrom. Further comment and discussion ensued. Interim City Attorney Spence remarked on the options available and recommended that the Commission take no action on this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on Interim City Attorney Spence's comments and recommendations. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney Spence explained the Commission cannot move forward with the request of the Petition because the City is a party to a contract for this acreage in Snyder Park. Florida Constitution Article 1 Section 10 provides that no law should impair the obligation of contracts. Further

comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Interim City Attorney Spence explained this Charter provision allows residents to petition for an ordinance and expounded on related details. There is no discretion in the Charter to stop the process, even if the City considers it not to be lawful.

Mr. Rodstrom read his legal position into the record and confirmed his objection to this Agenda item being scheduled as a Conference Meeting Agenda item versus a Regular Meeting Agenda item, and commented on procedural details and notice requirements.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney Spence explained the notice provided for this Agenda item and clarified the Charter's definition of scheduled Commission Meetings, which are not delineated as Conference and Regular Meetings. Commission Meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. and continue throughout the day. Commission Meeting Agenda items, including motions, public hearings, resolutions, and ordinances all of which require a vote, are heard after 6:00 p.m. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding how the Commission Meetings are currently referenced and scheduled, as Commission Conference Meetings beginning at 1:30 p.m. and Commission Regular Meetings beginning at 6:00 p.m.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rodstrom confirmed his request for a Commission consensus to place this Agenda item on the September 19, 2023, Commission Regular Meeting Agenda. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding noticing for this Agenda item and it being heard during a Conference Meeting versus a Regular Meeting.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his agreement with a previous compromise proposed during a discussion with Mr. Cochrane and Mr. Rodstrom.

Mr. Rodstrom said that hearing this matter during the Conference Meeting would not waive his client's right to be heard at a Commission Regular Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman recommended listening to feedback from members of the public in attendance. Further comment and discussion ensued.

RECESS

Mayor Trantalis recessed the Conference Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

RECONVENED

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the Conference Meeting at 6:21 p.m.

BUS-5 [23-0758](#)
(cont.)

Presentation - Initiative; Petition for Proposed Ordinance Pursuant to Section 3.15 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale Regarding Snyder Park - (Commission District 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Kevin Cochrane, Save Snyder Park Committee Petition Chair. Mr. Cochrane discussed his support of the Commission moving forward with this Agenda item. He expounded on the goals and purpose of the Petition to maintain Snyder Park's current zoning as open space and related details. He commented on the Petition, including citizen efforts, the process, its submission to the City, and Interim City Attorney Spence's legal opinion.

Interim City Attorney Spence responded to Mr. Cochrane's mischaracterizations of his earlier comments and actions by the City Clerk. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed his objective role as Interim City Attorney and reiterated his legal opinion, including deficiencies in the Petition.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ellyn Bogdanoff, Esq., One East Broward Boulevard, on behalf of My Park Initiative, LLC (My Park Initiative). Ms. Bogdanoff discussed the position of My Park Initiative, the party to the comprehensive agreement with the City for the development of Pickleball Courts in Snyder Park. She expounded on her legal viewpoint regarding the validity of the Petition and support of the legal opinion of Interim City Attorney Spence.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on concerns related to this topic and confirmed a desire to hear feedback from residents. Commissioner Glassman agreed the Commission should listen to resident feedback.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 901 SW 19th Street. Mr. Inserra opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Peterson, 920 SW 18th Street. Ms. Peterson opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dane Tullock, 1215 SW 31st Street. Mr.

Tullock opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park. He discussed the need to address the damage in his neighborhood caused by the April 12, 2023, flood event.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Brad Tuckman, 516 Mola Avenue. Mr. Tuckman discussed his viewpoint in support of the My Park Initiative and explained related details.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Tony Spalding, 2554 Gulfstream Lane. Mr. Spalding opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ann McHorney, 1109 Orange Isle. Ms. McHorney opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Adrian Poe, 823 SW 28th Street. Ms. Poe opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Nancy Long, 2361 SW 18th Avenue, on behalf of the River Oaks Civic Association. Ms. Long opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Gloria Cashin, 2809 NE 25th Court. Ms. Cashin opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ray Dettman, 1900 Miami Road. Mr. Dettman opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ann Wiley, 1600 SW 5th Street. Ms. Wiley opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park. She submitted a document to City Clerk David Soloman.

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dick Ward, 1151 SW 32nd Court. Mr. Ward opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park and questioned the details of the planned traffic flow. City Manager Chavarria explained traffic flow is under review.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Caitlin McAuliffe Lector, 660 E. Campus Drive. Ms. Lector opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Katie O'Reilly, 1436 SW 16th Terrace. Ms. O'Reilly opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

City Manager Chavarria noted that Snyder Park was sold to the City in 1967 for \$375,000 from a corporation owned by Mr. Snyder. In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, City Manager Chavarria said the appraisal was in excess of \$375,000 when sold to the City and explained details regarding related covenants. Commissioner Herbst requested confirmation of Snyder Park's value when sold to the City in 1967.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Tom Turberville, 1224 SW 32nd Street. Mr. Turberville opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park and submitted photos to City Clerk Soloman.

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Nancy Kimble, 938 SW 17th Street. Ms. Kimble opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Commissioner Herbst clarified that the previous Commission voted to approve the comprehensive agreement with My Park Initiative to develop pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Kitty McGowan, 910 SW 30th Street. Ms. McGowan opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Stephanie Shaw Leixa. Ms. Shaw Leixa opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Manette Freas, 820 SW 17th Street. Ms. Freas opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Judith Werr, 91 NE 46th Street, Oakland Park. Ms. Werr opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball

courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jacquelyn Scott, 1626 SE 1st Street. Ms. Scott opposed My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Mayor Trantalis recognized April Young, 1820 NW 28th Avenue. Ms. Young spoke about environmental issues with Rock Pit Lake (Lake) located in District 3 and expounded on resident safety concerns.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman concurred with Ms. Young's comments regarding the contamination of the Lake in District 3 that has negatively impacted District 3 residents for decades. She remarked on the need to address concerns in all areas of the City.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Sturman confirmed his previous and ongoing opposition to My Park Initiative's development of pickleball courts in Snyder Park.

Commissioner Glassman noted that the City has entered into a contract, concurred with the Interim City Attorney Spence's position that no action should be taken, and expounded on prior input from the former City Attorney regarding this topic. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed the prior Commission's vote regarding the My Park Initiative Comprehensive Agreement took place on November 10, 2022. Commissioner Struman discussed his recollection of Commission action on the topic. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Cochrane remarked on his recollection of Commission Meeting discussions and actions. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman requested information related to Commission action.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his viewpoint in support of honoring ethical and moral obligations included in deed restrictions from anyone donating or selling something to the City below market value and expounded on his perspective. He requested Interim City Attorney Spence prepare an ordinance addressing the disposition of public lands that consider long-term licensing being equivalent to a long-term lease. Commissioner Herbst requested this subject be scheduled for discussion at an upcoming Conference Meeting.

Mayor Trantalis remarked that using a licensing agreement allows the City more authority versus a lease. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst recommended requiring unanimous Commission support for use of park land. He confirmed the inability to rescind an executed City contract. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman concurred on the inability of the City to rescind an executed contract. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman concurred.

Mayor Trantalis noted that a majority of the Commission did not wish to move forward with an ordinance.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed a meeting with the Carlton B. Moore Freedom Foundation (CBMFF) and plans for the October 7, 2023, Carlton B. Moore Friends and Family Day in recognition of Carlton B. Moore's service and contributions to the City.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Forrest Moore, 1711 NW 20th Avenue, on behalf of the CBMFF. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Moore explained details of the Carlton B. Moore Friends and Family Day event scheduled for October 7, 2023, in Osswald Park and sponsored by the City.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on Carlton B. Moore's longtime contributions to the City and District 3 and discussed the need for the Commission to formally recognize Carlton B. Moore who was also a founder of the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Agency, which has made significant contributions to the redevelopment of Sistrunk Boulevard.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman requested scheduling a discussion regarding the Lake located in District 3 at an upcoming Conference Meeting. She said Assistant City Manager Anthony Fajardo provided related information that will contribute to rectifying those concerns.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Rebecca Jones, 3001 NW 17th Street. Ms. Jones discussed the need for proper stormwater and wastewater drainage at her home and discussed the related impact of the Lake adjacent to her house.

Mayor Trantalis requested City Manager Chavarria address Ms. Jones' concerns. City Manager Chavarria confirmed.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on conversations with City Manager Chavarria regarding budgeted amounts for addressing drainage issues on NW 17th Street. She noted the small size of NW 17th Street and asked why funding would not be available until 2025. Ms. Jones said she would resend her emails.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to continue efforts toward alleviating the financial burdens of residents residing in Sailboat Bend who own historic properties, including costs for archeological testing. He requested City Manager Chavarria assist with the project located east of The Palms on the barrier island, which is a dedicated right-of-way easement. Commissioner Glassman requested James Blosser, Jeanne A. Dawson-Lalli, and Diane Smart be remembered during tonight's Commission Regular Meeting's Moment of Silence and remarked on their civic contributions.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the State of Florida (State) Live Local legislation and Staff understanding the major impacts that it might have on our neighborhoods.

Commissioner Glassman discussed community feedback and concerns regarding a reduction in occupancy rates and tourism. He recommended the Economic Development Staff move forward with efforts to communicate these concerns to Governor DeSantis and State representatives.

Commissioner Sturman requested JoAnn Smith, Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club, be included in tonight's Moment of Silence to recognize Ms. Smith's contributions to the City.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on Lofts at Palm Aire Village residents and their concerns related to the possible lead contamination in the ground from small aircraft using leaded gasoline when using the adjacent Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) runway. He requested Rufus James, FXE Director, to initiate a study.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed a meeting with Broward County (County) Chief Judge Jack Tuter and County Administrator Monica Cepero to discuss efforts to end homelessness and said that those discussions would continue.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding mobile vendors selling marijuana in the downtown and North Beach Village areas, Interim City Attorney Spence explained Staff is investigating related information and permit requirements. Assistant City Manager Anthony Fajardo explained Code requirements for stationary and mobile vendors. The Code Compliance Manager was requested to work with the Police Department and Parking Enforcement to develop a plan for Parking Enforcement to issue tickets to mobile vendors who do not have a business tax receipt. He discussed details related to the products being sold. Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective and related concerns. Mr. Fajardo confirmed he would work with the Office of the City Attorney to review the related Ordinance and return to the Commission with recommendations. He commented on the inability to target specific vendors. Mayor Trantalis commented on his viewpoint.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Chavarria said the City Attorney Search Committee (Committee) would be interviewing three (3) candidates for the position of City Attorney on September 8, 2023, and would make subsequent recommendations to the Commission. City Manager Chavarria requested scheduling information for candidate interviews with each Commission Member.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.