

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

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

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

THOMAS J. ANSBRO, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Warren Sturman (arrived at 1:49 p.m.), and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Also Present: City Manager Greg Chavarria, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbro, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

AGENDA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Trantalis announced Agenda item BUS-3 would be heard after BUS-1.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [24-0084](#)

Discuss the 2024-26 Federal Legislative Program - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Daphnee Sainvil, Government Affairs & Economic Development Division Manager. Ms. Sainvil reviewed the preliminary draft of the 2024-26 Federal Legislative Program (Program). Commission Members' feedback will be discussed at the Commission Workshop with federal lobbyists to define the Federal Lobbying Program on February 20, 2024.

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

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman confirmed support for the Program and confirmed she would provide additional feedback during Ms. Sainvil's individual meetings with Commission Members.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the successful lobbying efforts of Maurice Kurland, Esq., Partner, Alcalde & Fay, and concerns regarding discontinuing that relationship. In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Ms. Sainvil commented on the termination of the Alcalde & Fay contract and would explain details individually with Commissioner Herbst. Commissioner Herbst noted lobbyists pursue Commission policy initiatives and recommended allowing the Commission to weigh in and

participate in this type of decision.

City Manager Chavarria confirmed the ability to rectify this matter, and said Ms. Sainvil would speak directly with Commission Members.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Sainvil commented on plans to workshop this Program on February 20, 2024, and plans for Commission adoption of the Program at the March 5, 2024, Commission Meeting. Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to include priorities and language in the State Legislative Program regarding education, civil rights and human rights. He noted concerns regarding recent State legislation.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Ms. Sainvil reiterated the planned process for this Program, which will include detailed Program discussions.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street. Mr. Inserra discussed realizing Program initiatives.

BUS-3 [24-0117](#)

NLC Good Jobs, Great Cities Academy Update (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Daphnee Sainvil, Government Affairs & Economic Development Division Manager. Ms. Sainvil provided an update of the National League of Cities (NLC) *Good Jobs, Great Cities Academy* (Academy) and introduced a related video.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mike Bartlett, Program Director NLC Postsecondary and Workforce Success. Mr. Bartlett narrated a presentation entitled *A Sectoral Approach to Building America's Next Generation Workforce*.

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Joseph Heavner, US Department of Labor (USDOL) Representative. Mr. Heavner discussed efforts of USDOL in partnership with the NLC and the City to build equitable pathways to good infrastructure jobs.

Mr. Bartlett continued narrating the presentation.

Mayor Trantalis commented on ongoing infrastructure efforts in the City.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed support of this initiative and commented on related information.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Sainvil discussed those contributing to this effort.

BUS-2 [24-0146](#)

Fort Lauderdale Police Department School Resource Officer
Program Presentation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Police Chief (Chief) William Schultz. Chief Schultz narrated a presentation entitled *School Resource Officer (SRO) Program Agreement - City of Fort Lauderdale & The School Board of Broward County (SBBC)*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Chief Schultz explained SBBC policy is to provide armed guardians at City elementary schools rather than School Resource Officers (SROs) due to a higher level of calls for service and more robust levels of interaction with students at middle schools and high schools.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the SBBC's consideration and decision regarding instituting its own police force at Broward County (County) schools. He remarked on input from municipal County mayors, noted the SBBC raised its millage rate to fund a police force, and expounded on related information.

Commissioner Herbst discussed the State mandate for the SBBC to provide SROs, the previous position of the City and other County municipalities to provide SROs in schools, and remarked on related information. Commissioner Herbst discussed concerns regarding the specialized nature of SRO training and the financial burden on the City subsidizing SRO costs. He noted that Miami-Dade and Palm Beach County School Boards have instituted police forces and expounded on his viewpoint.

Mayor Trantalis noted the need for the Commission to be educated on this topic and suggested Staff review related correspondence from County mayors.

Commissioner Herbst recommended the Police Department Staff address concerns raised by County mayors and evaluate data associated with Miami-Dade and Palm Beach County School Board's

Police Forces to determine adequacy and effectiveness. This will allow the Commission to make a data-driven decision.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman echoed Mayor Trantalis and Commissioner Herbst's comments regarding support of the SBBC instituting its own police force. She noted the need for Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) Officers to patrol community streets.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on his viewpoint regarding SBBC creating a police force and discussed related concerns, including a higher vacancy rate of City Police Officers choosing to become part of an SBBC police force.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on the City subsidizing SBBC SRO costs. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Chief Schultz explained details associated with the SBBC's incremental contributions to the annual salaries of City-provided SROs.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Chief Schultz said when SROs are not needed during the SBBC's summer break, SROs are reassigned to community patrol.

Commissioner Sturman confirmed the need to ensure the safety of children and the need to rely on law enforcement's expertise.

Mayor Trantalis recommended FLPD Staff return to the Commission in sixty (60) days with data-driven recommendations. City Manager Chavarria confirmed.

BUS-4 [24-0135](#)

Presentation of the City of Fort Lauderdale Grant Program Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Yvette Matthews, Office of Management and Budget Assistant Director. Ms. Matthews narrated a presentation entitled *City of Fort Lauderdale Grant Update*.

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

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's questions, Ms. Matthews explained information associated with federal grant-funded efforts related to sexual assault kit initiatives, which resulted in the reopening of sixty-two (62) criminal cases and six (6) arrests.

Ms. Matthews continued narrating the presentation.

Tamieka McGibbon, Office of Management and Budget Principal Management Analyst, narrated the next portion of the presentation.

Commissioner Glassman requested grant comparisons to other cities. In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Ms. Matthews explained information associated with sizeable federal infrastructure grants distributed to the states and then to local municipalities. Commissioner Glassman remarked on the State of Florida's position regarding acceptance of federal grant funding and his viewpoint. Ms. Matthews confirmed, cited examples, and remarked on other avenues and opportunities for federal grant funds to fund local municipal infrastructure projects. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Ms. McGibbon explained the fifteen percent (15%) grant funding for airport items included in the presentation are for items such as taxiways at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE).

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Ms. Matthews explained funding opportunities in 2024. He noted this presentation needs to reflect funding received from the Broward County Transportation Surtax (Surtax). Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-5 [24-0167](#)

Public Engagement in the Budget Process - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director. Ms. Reece narrated a presentation entitled *Public Engagement in the Budget Process*.

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

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the need to address increases in homeless sexual offenders residing in District 1. Per revised City sexual

offender guidelines, these individuals can assemble at NW 26th Street and Federal Highway and Oakland Park Boulevard at Federal Highway. Commissioner Herbst expounded on related concerns and the need to revisit the guidelines to align with other Broward County municipalities. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his recollection of City action on this topic. Commissioner Herbst noted input from the former City Attorney regarding initial guidelines being indefensible, resulting in an influx of these individuals to the City and expounding on input from District 1 residents.

Commissioner Herbst discussed neighborhood concerns regarding development projects requesting increased sizes. He recommended Commission direction to the City Manager to explore incorporating a step in the process requiring that any increase in the size of the development be presented to the impacted neighborhood. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to ensure public participation and concerns about using the term administrative. He noted that development project changes would return to the Commission for approval. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted the NW 19th Street Planning Session and her District 3 Ride-Along with the City Manager and Staff to address ongoing items of concern, including traffic calming measures and other items. She remarked on attending C.J. Cherryh's mural unveiling and meetings with District 3 non-profit organizations informing her about their services and activities, which she would share with the community. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed the Reimagining City Hall Workshop held at the L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell Community Center and remarked on the success of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Parade. She discussed her attendance at Broward Days in Tallahassee. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed meeting with Cities United and their efforts to address public safety and build relationships with law enforcement.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on providing opening remarks for the Sunrise Lane Project Meeting, attending community meetings, and his anticipation of the call for artists for the wrapping of the beach lifeguard stations.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding the recently extended boil water notice impacting residents on Bontana Avenue, Talal Abi-Karam, Public Works Department Assistant Director - Utilities, explained details regarding the water main break and efforts to

obtain an acceptable water quality reading. Commissioner Glassman acknowledged the efforts of Staff to provide bottled water. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman discussed resident feedback regarding concerns about homeless individuals sleeping at Tunnel Top Park. In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, City Manager Chavarria discussed Staff efforts to address problems moving forward. Commissioner Glassman remarked on other areas populated by homeless individuals and their activity at major intersections.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding a specific incident, Chief Schultz confirmed the individual was removed and Baker Acted. Chief Schultz confirmed work with the Office of the City Attorney to address these concerns with available programs. Commissioner Glassman remarked on additional areas of concern in the City. City Manager Chavarria commented on Staff efforts to address this. Commissioner Glassman requested the City Manager provide ongoing updates.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted an area at Sistrunk Boulevard and the Avenue of the Arts with similar concerns, requested Staff address and provide an update. Mayor Trantalis remarked on these concerns, noted that they are systemic, and asked City Manager Chavarria to continue to address homelessness.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mayor Trantalis commented on the Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg's recent visit to the City and remarked on the status of the City's Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for a tunnel at the New River Crossing and a recent *SunSentinel* newspaper article. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman commented on upcoming events, including a Commission Workshop on the Tree Ordinance and Biking with a Commissioner. The Biking with a Commissioner will inform residents about bike lane safety and personal health.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his attendance at the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce event and related discussions. He noted the need for integration of all ethnic groups. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the FXE ACE Award to Atlantic Aviation as the country's second busiest fixed base operator.

Mayor Trantalis discussed concerns raised at the River Garden Sweeting Estate Homeowner's Association that he would discuss with City Manager Chavarria.

Mayor Trantalis recognized and thanked the following individuals who will be retiring from the City: Frank Chesser - FXE Airport Electrician; Rich Gausman - Parks and Recreation Department Pool Equipment Mechanic; Tim McGovern - Parks and Recreation Department Community Program Manager; and David Carter - Fire-Rescue Department Battalion Chief.

Commissioner Herbst commented on his understanding that the City received a response from Broward County on the BDO Report. City Manager Chavarria confirmed Staff has reached out to Broward County to schedule a joint meeting to discuss the findings of the BDO Report, but a date has yet to be confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst recommended City Manager Chavarria meet with County Manager Monica Cepero to discuss the BDO Report to determine how to move forward should a meeting date between the City Commission and the Broward County Board of County Commissioners (Board of Commissioners) not be agreed to. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis remarked that he would make himself available for related discussions. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Chavarria confirmed Staff would follow up with Commission Members regarding scheduling upcoming meetings with BDO in February 2024.

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, provided an update on stakeholder meetings related to the LPA for the New River Crossing.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Chavarria provided an update on efforts with Broward Health regarding the use of Dottie Mancini Park and explained related information.

City Manager Chavarria said he and Fire-Rescue Department Chief Stephen Gollan would be attending an Emergency Management Event in Tallahassee on February 7, 2024.

City Manager Chavarria remarked on the planned ground-breaking for the film industry development in the City's Northwest area and commented on related information.

City Manager Chavarria commented on an invitation from the Fort Lauderdale Alliance to participate in the *Claim Your Future Event* on January 31, 2024, to support summer internships.

MGR-1 [24-0159](#)

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.