



June 24, 2014

Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 N. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners;

The Budget Advisory Board (BAB) met with departments during the months of May and June for approximately 12 hours. We reviewed each department's FY 2015 budget requests, discussed departmental successes and challenges, and reviewed operational needs as well as community investment projects. During the regularly scheduled BAB meeting on June 18, 2014, the City Manager presented the FY 2015 Proposed Budget to the Board which was discussed in detail. Following the departmental discussions and the City Manager's presentation, the Board passed five (5) motions related to the City's current or future budgets.

Recommendations

1% Infrastructure Sales Tax

The Board recommends that the City Commission support and pursue the 1% sales tax to be earmarked for infrastructure. *Motion passed 9-1.*

Infrastructure and Capital Needs

The Board envisions the City will have significant infrastructure and capital needs in the immediate future. The Board anticipates these needs will be identified in the City's studies of its infrastructure needs (including the City's bridges, public facilities, and Stormwater systems), and that the City will need to raise revenue from a variety of sources. One of these sources should include increasing the millage rate. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Financial Integrity Principles and Policy

The Board recommends that the City Commission adopt the Financial Integrity Principles and Policy as presented to the Board (Enclosure). *Motion passed 9-1.*



Fiscal Approach of a Structurally Balanced Budget

The Board reiterates its support for the City's fiscal approach of a structurally balanced budget. *Motion passed unanimously.*

City Manager's Proposed Budget

The Board is in general agreement with the City Manager's proposed budget to the City Commission. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Following the joint workshop with the City Commission in April, the BAB has continued discussions regarding the capital needs and how to fund them going forward. At this time, we are awaiting the results of the facilities condition assessment, the bridges assessment, and the citywide stormwater and sea level rise funding analysis to fully understand the magnitude of the funding that will be required to address the needs in each of these areas. We look forward to further discussions regarding alternative funding options to address the City's community investment needs.

Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve in this capacity. Please contact me directly should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



June D. Page
Chair
Budget Advisory Board

Enclosure: Financial Integrity Principles

c: Lee Feldman, City Manager
Jonda K. Joseph, City Clerk
Stanley D. Hawthorne, Assistant City Manager
Emilie Smith, Budget Manager
Budget Advisory Board