

# City of Fort Lauderdale

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## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 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***

***STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II***

***JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I***

***PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District III***

***BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV***

***SUSAN GRANT, Acting 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 1:36 p.m.

## COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

**Commission Members Present:** Vice Mayor Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman (arrived at 1:41 p.m.), Commissioner Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

**Commission Member Not Present:** Commissioner John C. Herbst

**Also Present:** Acting City Manager Susan Grant, City Clerk David R. Soloman, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne M. Spence, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

## COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

[25-0303](#)

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

*Central City Redevelopment Advisory Board (CCRAB)  
December 4, 2024*

*Communication to the City Commission*

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

Mayor Trantalis read the CCRAB communication. Vice Mayor Glassman agreed with the CCRAB's communication.

## OLD/NEW BUSINESS

**BUS-1** [25-0156](#)

Outdoor Special Events - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Department Director. Mr. Williams provided an overview of this Agenda item focused on non-City-sponsored events and narrated a presentation entitled *Parks and Recreation Outdoor Special Events*.

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

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question regarding moving forward with stakeholder feedback included in the presentation, Mr. Williams discussed the need for Commission Member feedback for Staff to move forward with the assistance of the Office of the City Attorney. Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his perspective.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence confirmed that Staff could review proprietary mechanisms for charging fees for certain types of events on specific properties. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Mr. Williams confirmed that Staff tested several matrix scenarios related to these events. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question about an all-inclusive calendar of events in the City and their locations, Mr. Williams noted there is a calendar of events on the City website. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on his perspective and the benefit of having an all-inclusive list of events and their locations to determine an appropriate number of events. Mr. Williams confirmed.

Commissioner Sorensen recommended including a parking revenue impact analysis when an event uses City parking spaces. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sorensen noted the need to limit the number of events on the barrier island and in the downtown area. Mayor Trantalis remarked on four (4) major barrier island events and limiting the amount of small barrier island events.

Mayor Trantalis recommended that the Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Advisory Board (PRBAB) provide input regarding an appropriate number of events. Commissioner Sorensen concurred. There was a consensus for Staff to provide the PRBAB with a spreadsheet for all beach and downtown area events to include dates, locations, and whether those events require lane closures. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the differing impact fees listed in the presentation for barrier island events and Parks recreational facilities, Mayor Trantalis explained those impact fees are per day.

**BUS-2** [25-0155](#)

City Event Sponsorships - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Department Director. Mr. Williams provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a presentation entitled *City Event Sponsorship*

*Presentation.*

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Williams confirmed that Staff would utilize the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to procure consultant services for commercial sponsorship of City events. Mayor Trantalis concurred, remarked on his optimistic view, and expounded on related benefits.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Williams said Staff does not budget for the costs of hospitality areas and other amenities at City-sponsored events unless a commercial sponsor is involved. Mayor Trantalis recommended that Staff budget for hospitality areas and other amenities at all City-sponsored events, which would become part of sponsorship costs to enhance the attendee experience.

Mr. Williams discussed the three (3) major City-sponsored events listed in the presentation. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen confirmed the benefit of obtaining as many commercial sponsorships for City-sponsored events as possible. Mayor Trantalis recommended that the Commission receive related feedback from the Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Advisory Board (PRBAB).

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the need for all Special Events to include appropriate City branding and expounded on his viewpoint.

Mr. Williams reviewed the Commission's feedback. Acting City Manager Grant commented on Staff's recommendation to streamline the administrative approval process. Vice Mayor Glassman concurred and confirmed it is a necessity.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Joseph C. Carter, 1832 NW 25th Avenue. Mr. Carter inquired about funding for Carter Park, the status of Lockhart Park, and the reallocation of Lockhart Park funding for Carter Park's funding gap.

Mayor Trantalis explained that Lockhart Park is currently in the design phase and discussed District 3 Park funding. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Williams provided an update on financing related to Carter Park and necessary reductions due to inflation factors. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman recommended a full discussion on this topic at a future Conference Meeting.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager, said Staff would present an update to its December 2024 Parks Bond Projects presentation at an April 2025 Conference Meeting. The purpose of that presentation will be to discuss all Parks Bond Signature projects, including the revised scopes of work and procurement methodologies.

In response to Mr. Williams' question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed a consensus to proceed and procure sponsorship consultant services.

**BUS-3** [25-0201](#)

City Homeless Initiatives Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager. Mr. Cooper provided an overview of this Agenda item on Staff's efforts to address homelessness. Mr. Cooper narrated a presentation entitled *Homelessness Initiatives Priority*.

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

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the origin demographics of homeless individuals, Mr. Cooper explained that reunification locations vary, and more detailed information is anticipated from Broward County's Point-In-Time Survey data.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding February 2025 Community Court Statistics, Mr. Cooper said the primary inquiry of the three hundred sixty-six (366) visitors is related to housing services and expounded on related information. Mr. Cooper confirmed this process is the primary intake method to address the needs of the homeless. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding the availability of shelter beds, Mr. Cooper confirmed a deficit in shelter beds and explained related information.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions regarding Safe Parking proposals, Mr. Cooper explained that, though the City did not formally solicit proposals for a Safe Parking Program, it received two (2) Safe Parking proposals, one (1) for District 3 and another that was

not area-specific. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the Safe Parking proposal from Hope South Florida, Mr. Cooper said that the location had not been defined and remarked that it should not negatively impact adjacent property owners.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed his efforts with homeless service providers available to the public, including faith-based and private organizations, to explore ways to repurpose existing apartments and hotels for short-term, affordable workforce housing. He remarked on his perspective and expounded on related information.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding the FIX-IT FTL application and its ability to interface with the City Works application, Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager, remarked on his understanding and confirmed Staff's efforts to address. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed the benefits of the FIX-IT FTL application, which allows responses to be data-driven. Mayor Trantalis concurred.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street, River Oaks Civic Association President. Mr. Inserra discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item, remarked on related concerns, and cited examples. Mayor Trantalis confirmed efforts to address homelessness issues and remarked on the lack of cooperation from the Broward County Jail System. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item and his support of the Broward County Addiction Recovery Center and its efforts to assist individuals experiencing homelessness.

**BUS-4** [25-0359](#)

Fire Station 13 Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fire-Rescue Department Chief Stephen Gollan. Chief Gollan provided an update on the design and construction of Fire Station 13, the final fire station associated with the Fire Bond. Chief Gollan narrated a presentation entitled *Fire Station 13*.

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

There were no questions from the Commission.

**BUS-5** [25-0076](#)

New River Crossing Discussion - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis discussed his receipt of Broward County Board of

County Commission (BCBCC) Mayor Beam Furr's March 5, 2025, New River Crossing correspondence, which he forwarded to Commission Members.

***A copy of Mayor Beam Furr's correspondence is part of the backup to this Agenda item.***

Mayor Trantalis commented on his draft reply to BCBCC Mayor Furr and the need for Commission discussion to ensure a collective response.

***A copy of Mayor Trantalis' draft reply is attached to these Meeting Minutes.***

Commissioner Sorensen discussed his conversations on this topic with BCBCC Mayor Furr, BCBCC Members, and Chris Hodgkins, a member of the Port of Miami Tunnel construction team. Mr. Hodgkins indicated that based on Mayor Furr's correspondence, international tunnel-building companies are interested in submitting tunnel project proposals for the New River Crossing to the BCBCC.

Commissioner Sorensen noted stipulations in Mayor Furr's correspondence requesting Florida East Coast Railway's (FECR) support of a New River Crossing tunnel in its right-of-way. Commissioner Sorensen discussed his meeting with Robert Ledoux, FECR, which included Acting City Manager Susan Grant, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence, and Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager. Mr. Ledoux indicated that FECR is open to a tunnel and said he would work with FECR executives to provide a letter of support.

Commissioner Sorensen said the meeting with Mr. Ledoux included discussions on the City's right-of-way maintenance lease with FECR (Lease) and explained related information. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Commissioner Sorensen explained the City's maintenance responsibilities under the Lease include mowing and landscaping. Mayor Trantalis remarked on areas in need of attention and cited examples. Acting City Manager Grant noted that the Lease is no longer in effect. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the benefits associated with the Lease.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on his optimistic viewpoint and reiterated the interest of international tunnel companies in submitting proposals for the construction of a tunnel as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the New River Crossing. He remarked on estimated

timelines, timeline flexibility, and timeline extensions. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the importance of relying on written documentation versus oral representations and remarked on additional concerns not addressed in Mayor Furr's correspondence. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis discussed language in his reply to Mayor Furr that lists important considerations related to the community and residents.

Commissioner Sorensen concurred with Mayor Trantalis' remarks and commented on his viewpoint that the BCBCC is open to pursuing a tunnel as the LPA and that the momentum towards a tunnel must continue.

Mayor Trantalis reiterated concerns not addressed in Mayor Furr's correspondence, the importance of relying on a written agreement, and efforts to work jointly as partners with the County. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Acting City Manager Grant said no Joint Meeting with the BCBCC is planned.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis noted the need for replies from the County to specific items included in his letter to Mayor Furr. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding obtaining funding from the federal government. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager, updated the Commission on Staff efforts to work with the U.S. Department of Transportation's new administration for funding a tunnel. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis summarized the intent of his correspondence to Mayor Furr is to address specific concerns regarding the bridge as the LPA, which includes concerns regarding the sustainability of the marine industry and the negative impact on the downtown area.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Acting Director, provided an update on the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Viability Study for proposed railway crossing underpasses at five (5) major intersections (Study). Mayor Trantalis remarked on the



significance of the Study, which was not addressed in Mayor Furr's correspondence, and expounded on his viewpoint regarding the negative impact of bridge construction versus tunnel construction. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen reiterated his understanding that the BCBCC is open to a tunnel as the LPA.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Melinda Bowker, 511 SE 5th Avenue and Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association (DFLCA) President. Ms. Bowker discussed concerns associated with Mayor Furr's correspondence, cited examples, and expounded on her perspective. Ms. Bowker confirmed DFLCA's support of a tunnel as the only LPA for the New River Crossing.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Sorensen discussed his recommendations for Mayor Trantalis' response to Mayor Furr's correspondence. Mayor Trantalis reiterated his viewpoint regarding concerns related to negotiations and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence confirmed outreach from Broward County Staff regarding plans to submit a joint resolution to be presented to the City Commission that outlines the agreement between the City and Broward County and discussed related provisions in Mayor Furr's correspondence. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed language in his draft response to Mayor Furr. Mayor Trantalis discussed the need for a factual analysis regarding the County's support for a bridge as its LPA, similar to what the County requested from the City regarding a tunnel.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed his perspective regarding the position of the County and confirmed his opposition to a bridge as the LPA for the New River Crossing. Mayor Trantalis reviewed the points in his response to Mayor Furr's correspondence.

In response to Mr. Roger's question regarding Commission direction on Staff's response to the County via a proposed resolution, Mayor Trantalis recommended using his draft response correspondence as a guideline. Vice Mayor Glassman said that the terms proposed by the County are unacceptable.

Interim City Attorney Spence requested Commission direction regarding

a viable tunnel project as the LPA. Mayor Trantalis commented on what the County views as a viable project versus the City's viewpoint, remarked on County funding, and expounded on his perspective regarding the County's position. Interim City Attorney Spence discussed his understanding of the Commission's direction that the City and County would provide deliverables within specific timelines. Mayor Trantalis confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his viewpoint in favor of the tunnel as the LPA and the need for community support. He said that the default joint resolution language is not acceptable. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recommended that Staff move forward based on the Commission's feedback today that the bridge is not a default LPA option.

In response to Interim City Attorney Spence's questions, Mayor Trantalis discussed Commission support of specific items in a resolution and recommended language that reflects the City's commitment to pursuing a viable tunnel as the LPA. Mr. Rogers confirmed Staff's ability to bring forward a draft resolution at the April 1, 2025, Commission Meeting for feedback. Acting City Manager Grant remarked on the County's expectation for a joint resolution.

Mayor Trantalis requested Staff reach out to the U.S. Department of Transportation Staff regarding the need to clarify and identify the LPA for the New River Crossing, i.e., the general preference for commuter rail or a specific LPA project. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson provided his viewpoint on this Agenda item. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding funding and engaging with all stakeholders.

Acting City Manager Grant confirmed that a draft joint resolution would be presented to the Commission at its April 1, 2025, Commission Meeting.

## **CITY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

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

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on District 3 topics discussed at the 17th Annual State of the County, including the need to address

early education and economic development.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed her attendance at the Broward League of Cities Meeting and her appointment to the Broward County's Water Advisory Board. Mayor Trantalis requested Commissioner Beasley-Pittman address drainage capacity in the area between the Edgewood Neighborhood and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport that is in need of a pumping station funded by Broward County. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed she would raise this issue and remarked on her plans to review the Water Advisory Board's meeting minutes to address water-related concerns in the City.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on her participation at the National League of Cities Summit in Washington, D.C., remarked on topics discussed, and those in attendance.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on a recent Police Department Roll-Call Event (Event) in Lauderdale Manors and confirmed the importance and her encouragement of District 3 residents participating in those Events, which provides opportunities for neighbors to meet and develop relationships with Police Officers patrolling their neighborhoods.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his attendance at the 17th Annual State of the County and remarked on the presentation of the area's economic growth, data, and trends.

Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on his efforts with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to landscape median areas along Federal Highway at the Sunrise Boulevard intersection. After the first twelve (12) months, the Parks and Recreation Department will maintain those areas. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his efforts with Staff to ensure archeological testing is not too onerous for Sailboat Bend residents.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, City Auditor Patrick Reilly explained Commissioner Herbst's request for a memorandum comparing aspects of the comprehensive agreements for the Freedom Park project in Miami-Dade County and the Lockhart Park project and discussed related information. Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his perspective. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, City Auditor Reilly noted he spent approximately twenty-five (25) hours preparing the memorandum.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on progress made during a meeting with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Marine Industries Association of South Florida related to exploring improved efficiencies associated with the opening and closing of the 17th Street Bridge.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed a meeting with the Lauderdale Isles Water Management District and a living seawall manufacturer, which focused on the environmental benefits of living seawalls and coordinating a pilot program with the Church by the Sea. Commissioner Sorensen remarked on the possibility of replicating those living seawall efforts along Riverwalk. Commissioner Sorensen noted that the City of North Bay Village provides a forty percent (40%) rebate incentive for living seawalls permit fees and inquired about the City providing a similar incentive. Mayor Trantalis agreed to consider a similar incentive. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed that Staff would follow up. Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager. Mr. Cooper commented on funding considerations. Mayor Trantalis requested Mr. Cooper provide the Commission with a memorandum outlining that information. Mr. Cooper confirmed.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

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

Mayor Trantalis discussed the redevelopment of Pier 66 and acknowledged the support of Staff and neighbors.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the recent visits of a delegation from Sister City Duisburg, Germany, and the Counsel General of Brazil.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**MGR-1** [25-0266](#)

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

Acting City Manager Grant provided information regarding proposed state legislation impacting Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRA), explained related details, and confirmed that Staff is monitoring.

Acting City Manager Grant confirmed that Staff is pursuing ongoing efforts with Broward County Staff to renew the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights (NWPFH) CRA.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.