

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 17, 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

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 1:51 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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 THE CITY COMMISSION

[24-1113](#)

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

***Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee (ITFAC)
Monday, December 2, 2024***

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Marilyn Mammano, 1819 SE 17th Street, Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee Chairperson (ITFAC). Ms. Mammano explained the ITFAC communication, reading from a prepared statement.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested clarification regarding the ITFAC's parliamentary procedures and cited an example in the December 2, 2024, ITFAC Meeting Minutes. Further comment and discussion ensued. Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence remarked on the Better Meeting Guide used by Boards and Committees provided by the Office of the City Clerk.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commission Members provided feedback regarding extending the term of the ITFAC for an additional year.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Ms. Mammano provided an update on the ITFAC's current focus and expounded on related information. Acting City Manager Susan Grant confirmed the ITFAC's instrumental role in significant projects and cited the example of the new water plant. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his support of extending the ITFAC's termination date.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Mammano confirmed full engagement from all ITFAC members. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed her support of continuing the ITFAC and remarked on the benefits of input from the ITFAC.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, City Clerk David Soloman explained information associated with ITFAC's enabling legislation, term limits of current members, and related information. The ITFAC has been in existence since 2017. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recommended extending the ITFAC for one (1) year.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [24-1146](#)

Discussion of the 2025 State Legislative Program for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Division Manager. Ms. Sainvil provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a presentation entitled *2025 State Legislative Program*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Sainvil explained the presentation is a synthesized version of the 2024 Legislative Program that coincides with the City's 2025 Draft Legislative Program.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Sainvil confirmed plans to expand wireless broadband services throughout the City.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager, explained information and use of the \$2,250,000 appropriation request for Neighbor Support Services for a Homeless Transitional Housing Program, which includes land acquisition and the purchase of pallet homes. Mr. Cooper explained additional aspects of this appropriation request and expounded on what will be necessary going forward.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Cooper explained the opportunity to use the allocated funding for numerous capital opportunities to meet the needs of individuals experiencing

homelessness and cited examples.

Ms. Sainvil continued narrating the presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the adequacy of Carter Park funding listed in the presentation, Ms. Sainvil confirmed it was insufficient. She remarked on the need to pare down funding requests due to the Speaker of the State Senate indicating future reductions in the State Budget. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Enrique Sanchez, Parks, and Recreation Department Deputy Director, said the current amount budgeted for the new Carter Park Community Center is approximately \$25,000,000. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Sanchez explained the \$5,000,000 appropriation request for Carter Park included in the presentation represents a portion of the \$25,000,000.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Ms. Sainvil reiterated appropriation requests need to be reduced. In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Ms. Sainvil said that the \$5,000,000 appropriation for Carter Park needs to be reduced to \$1,000,000 in order to be palatable.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Sainvil discussed the strategy of reducing appropriation requests to ensure funding consideration. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Sainvil continued narrating the presentation.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Ms. Sainvil confirmed a one (1) year deadline (July 2025) to complete the Breakers Avenue project funded in 2024.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, Acting Assistant City Manager Ben Rogers gave an update on the Breakers Avenue project. Mr. Rogers noted that the \$3,000,000 may not be expended by July 2025 but would be encumbered by that date. Mr. Rogers explained related information, including the redesign of the project and the related Interlocal Agreement (ILA). In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question regarding the status of the ILA, Mr. Rogers said the ILA is expected from Broward County in early 2025 and explained related information. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Glassman expounded on his viewpoint and noted the need to illustrate movement on this project.

Ms. Sainvil continued narrating the presentation.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ms. Sainvil explained how Commission Members could support the City's proposed Housing and Community Development policy, and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on the benefits of a targeted approach by Commission Members to attend specific State Legislative hearings to support items of importance to the City and requested Staff keep the Commission apprised of the related hearing dates. Ms. Sainvil confirmed and discussed related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on the impact of the State's legislation on the structural integrity of condominium buildings. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Acting City Manager Grant remarked on a Miami-Dade County Program allowing individual condominium owners to apply for loans to meet special assessment costs imposed by their condominium association. Vice Mayor Glassman recommended incorporating a similar policy into the City's Legislative Program, expounded on his viewpoint, and remarked on the property insurance issue. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst recommended instituting a private sector program similar to the PACE Program to assist low-income seniors with obtaining financing for condominium assessments. He expounded on his viewpoint regarding the need for a financing alternative and commented on discussions with legislative members. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Herbst explained the mechanisms involved with a PACE-like program that would include the private sector, approval by Broward County, and cited examples. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his perspective regarding the ability to use private lenders and expounded on his viewpoint regarding the need for a solution. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Sainvil continued narrating the presentation.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jared Rosenstein, Capital City Consulting. Mr. Rosenstein provided his viewpoint and recommendations for the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Rosenstein explained that appropriation requests must illustrate how they will benefit multiple

jurisdictions and the State of Florida.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Rosenstein discussed numerous factors associated with appropriation requests. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his viewpoint regarding reduced appropriation requests, their ability to significantly reduce the costs of multi-jurisdictional projects such as the new water treatment plant and benefiting the State of Florida. Mr. Rosenstein expounded on examples of appropriation requests with multi-jurisdictional and State-wide benefits. Mayor Trantalis discussed his perspective regarding unfunded mandates, including homelessness and affordable housing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman expounded on his viewpoint regarding the inadequacy of State appropriations for infrastructure projects such as sidewalks. Mr. Rosenstein explained the appropriation paradigm shift to fund infrastructure needs through State grant programs. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Acting City Manager Grant confirmed that Staff is actively pursuing related State grant program opportunities.

Commissioner Sorensen requested that Staff provide the Commission with a list of all State grant programs currently being pursued. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Candice Ericks, Ericks Consultants. Ms. Ericks provided an overview of Ericks Consultants' efforts planned for the upcoming legislative session.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Lauren Jackson, Ericks Consultants. Ms. Jackson discussed the information associated with lobbying for appropriations on behalf of the City and the reasoning behind the legislative process, citing examples.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the significant sales tax revenue generated by the City for the State. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ms. Jackson explained feedback from the State related to vacation rentals and discussed the possibility of a State registration portal for vacation rentals. Commissioner Sorensen discussed his support for proposing vacation rental legislation with the Florida League of Cities that would assist the City. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Rana Brown, Ronald L. Book, P.A. Ms.

Brown discussed the funding aspects of appropriation requests and cited examples. Ms. Brown explained the benefits associated with grants, and the related ranking process.

Mayor Trantalis recognized William Rubin, Rubin, Turnbull and Associates. Mr. Rubin noted that although there is a larger budget this year, annual COVID-19 funding implemented in 2020 is ending.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Sharonda Wright-Placide, Rubin, Turnbull and Associates. Ms. Wright-Placide confirmed efforts to maintain a targeted approach to appropriation requests, the State Legislature's budget process, and remarked on related information.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Interim City Attorney Spence explained Sunshine Law requirements when more than one Commission Member plans to appear before a State Legislative Committee and expounded on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sorensen requested related guidance. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. King discussed his viewpoint regarding the number of lobbyists the City employs. Ms. Sainvil remarked on costs and related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-2 [24-1104](#)

Presentation of Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") Special District Study - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Yvette Matthews, Office of Management and Budget Acting Director. Ms. Matthews provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Peter Napoli, Stantec Consulting. Mr. Napoli narrated a presentation entitled *EMS Special Taxing District*.

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

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's request, Acting City Manager Susan Grant expounded on information related to the General Fund's ten (10) year forecast. Commissioner Sorensen remarked on revenue and cost projections. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Acting City Manager Grant explained details related to projected budget deficits in the upcoming years and cited examples of expenditures. Laura Reece, Acting Assistant City Manager, explained that future expenditures

include increases to staffing levels estimated at approximately \$1,600,000 per year, including public safety staff. Ms. Reece cited examples and remarked on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Reece confirmed that the \$300,000,000 in cash-funded project expenditures would be over ten (10) ten years, targeted at \$30,000,000 per year, and cited examples of capital projects. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Ms. Reece confirmed that this funding includes bonded debt service, discussed related information, and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Acting City Manager Grant confirmed these expenditures do not include debt service on future infrastructure bonded capital projects. Commissioner Sorensen remarked on concerns related to the General Fund forecast. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked that this presentation aims to determine additional funding sources, expounded on his perspective regarding efforts to address future funding gaps.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Acting City Manager Grant confirmed opportunities for the Commission to discuss reducing costs during the Commission Goal Setting Session.

Mr. Napoli continued narrating the presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Napoli explained that the proposed taxing district could be implemented to begin in Fiscal Year 2026. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his understanding of future funding and the EMS Special Taxing District.

Acting City Manager Susan Grant remarked on the ability to set up the framework for the EMS Special Taxing District, which the Commission could decide to implement in June/July 2025. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the Commission's consideration of the EMS Special Taxing District.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, Acting City Manager Grant explained the timeline related to setting up a framework for an EMS Special Taxing District. Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed his support. Commissioner Herbst concurred and expounded on his

viewpoint.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on ways to raise revenue. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Acting City Manager Grant discussed her perspective regarding the pros and cons associated with raising revenues via an EMS Special Taxing District versus an increase in the ad valorem rate, expounded on related information, and cited examples.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, Acting City Manager Grant explained the entities that would pay into an EMS Special Taxing District as opposed to a Special Assessment and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman remarked that no entity should be exempt from an EMS Special Taxing District. Further comment and discussion ensued. Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence discussed related options and details. Vice Mayor Glassman expounded on his viewpoint and the need to maximize EMS Special Taxing District revenue.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Laura Reece, Acting Assistant City Manager, noted that few municipalities have an EMS Special Taxing District and explained related information. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the need for Commission Members to receive feedback from the Community.

Commissioner Herbst recommended discussing this topic at the Commission Goal Setting Session to determine a consensus. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-3 [24-1207](#)

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

Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager, provided an overview of Staff's ongoing efforts to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. He narrated a presentation entitled *Homeless Initiatives Update - December 17, 2024*.

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

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Mr. Cooper explained his understanding of increases in FIXITFTL Service Requests in District 2 during the latter part of November 2024.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on the inability of District 3 residents to register homelessness concerns on FIXITFTL due to the lack of broadband service in District 3 and remarked on her experience. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst discussed feedback from District 1 constituents, including a recommendation for additional workshops and creating a reasonable standard and expectation regarding FIXITFTL Service Requests. He expounded his perspective and cited examples of recurring issues. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Cooper explained Staff efforts to address registered FIXITFTL Service Requests effectively and discussed related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Cooper continued narrating the presentation.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Mr. Cooper explained funding details regarding rapid rehousing and confirmed he would provide specific funding amounts. Mr. Cooper provided an update on partnerships with several non-profit organizations to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. Mr. Cooper cited examples of a pilot program to provide safe parking areas. Commissioner Sorensen remarked on his understanding of related efforts of faith-based non-profit organizations. Mr. Cooper discussed related information and evaluation efforts.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, which include both short-term and long-term approaches. He cited examples and requested Commission feedback.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed ongoing efforts of both short-term and long-term approaches, cited examples, commented on current efforts to address transitional housing, and remarked on the need for assistance from Broward County. Further comment and discussion ensued. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed this would be a topic of discussion at her upcoming meeting with the Broward County (County) Administrator.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis commented on the County's anticipated contributions to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, cited examples, and remarked on efforts of the United Way. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sorensen said the City should continue its efforts and partner with the County and other stakeholders. Mayor Trantalis concurred.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the need for a decision regarding the City purchasing transitional housing and finding a suitable location. He cited examples and commented on costs.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Cooper explained the efforts associated with partnering and developing an agreement with the United Way to address homelessness and the anticipated timeline. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding a specific timeline for commencing pallet home construction and homeless individuals moving in, Mr. Cooper said it depends on the site selected, expounded on related information, and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the timeline associated with working with faith-based organizations to provide a safe parking area for people experiencing homelessness, Mr. Cooper said there is not a long lead time, provided an update of related efforts, and confirmed Staff would bring its recommendation to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked that this effort will offer a significantly shorter timeline and a safe location for individuals residing in their vehicles. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented that this meets the needs of families experiencing homelessness and remarked on rapid rehousing efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on his viewpoint regarding using pallet homes, discussed the need to partner with affordable workforce housing developers in conjunction with the United Way to acquire land, and expounded on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the need for financial assistance from the County or the State to allow the City to acquire vacant hotel space. He discussed pallet homes moving from a temporary to a permanent solution, remarked on his perspective that a permanent village of tiny houses is an unacceptable long-term solution, and questioned numerous aspects related to zoning, proximity to children, and State Statute. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Acting City Manager Grant remarked that pallet homes would be a temporary solution until permanent affordable housing is built.

Commissioner Herbst expounded on his understanding and perspective.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on related information and the need to find a suitable location. Commissioner Herbst remarked on similar concerns in the past, such as homelessness feedings, and commented on location challenges.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his viewpoint regarding location challenges and discussions with developers regarding their willingness to build transitional housing if the City funds the rents for the market-rate units. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the lack of City-owned property, possible options going forward, and related information.

Commissioner Herbst commented on bringing the Broward County Housing Authority and the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale (HACFL) to the table to discuss low-income housing tax credit projects, providing subsidized housing for individuals experiencing homelessness, and cited related examples. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his perspective and positive aspects of recent affordable housing development. Vice Mayor Glassman concurred and remarked on examples in Flagler Village. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on the HACFL's affordable housing development in the Broadview area and noted the ability to move forward with similar opportunities in partnership with non-profit organizations.

Commissioner Sorensen said that the most immediate and effective way to house individuals experiencing homelessness is through the Landlord Referral Program (LRP) and explained related information. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Mr. Cooper explained funding for the Rapid Rehousing Program and remarked on related efforts. Mayor Trantalis commented on his understanding regarding available rental units. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen recommended further discussion and Commission feedback regarding the best use of funding for pallet homes or the Landlord Referral Program and discussed related information.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question regarding the rental costs associated with the LRP, Commissioner Sorensen said he would research and update the Commission. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his support of continuing to work with faith-based community leaders and organizations.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Paula Yukna, 2701 N. Ocean Boulevard, Homeless Advisory Committee (HAC) Chair. Ms. Yukna confirmed that the HAC agreed with Staff's recommendations and discussed related information. Ms. Yukna requested a one (1) year extension of the HAC. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Yukna confirmed that the current sunset date of the HAC is June 2025.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. King discussed his viewpoint on this Agenda item and cited concerns regarding unnecessary bus benches along Federal Highway contributing to loitering. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Acting City Manager Grant confirmed that Staff will provide an update regarding bus benches along Federal Highway to reduce advertising pollution and loitering.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed concerns regarding panhandling at major intersections and commented on previous efforts to inform the public that the best way to assist individuals experiencing homelessness is to contribute to non-profit organizations that provide wraparound services. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Herbst remarked on previous similar unsuccessful efforts and expounded on his viewpoint.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence explained available options to address panhandling, expounded on challenges and legal considerations from varying perspectives, and said his office would pursue additional ways to ensure compliance. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked that the standard related to panhandling is that individuals cannot obstruct traffic in an intersection. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed.

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

BUS-4 [24-1129](#)

New River Crossing 2024 Summary - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager, provided an overview of this Agenda item, including a summary of efforts to pursue a tunnel as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the New River Crossing. Mr.

Rogers said that there has been no new information or movement on this topic during the past twelve (12) months.

Mr. Rogers narrated a presentation entitled *NEW RIVER CROSSING - 2024 SUMMARY*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Rogers explained information associated with the City's Second Amendment to the Agreement with BDO that included grant-funded research to allow a clearer understanding of the impact of a bridge versus a tunnel for the New River Crossing. Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Acting Director, explained the grant-funded reports are expected in the next twelve (12) months.

Mr. Rogers continued narrating the presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rogers discussed Staff's work with Broward County (County) to explain details associated with an underground station should the tunnel be selected as the LPA.

Mayor Trantalis noted that BDO will provide a follow-up report to the Ty Lin Report referenced in the presentation regarding the feasibility of a bridge alternative. Mayor Trantalis expounded on his viewpoint that the bridge alternative was not feasible.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Mayor Trantalis discussed examples of bridge alternatives, explained related concerns, and cited examples. Mayor Trantalis commented on efforts to move the tunnel alternative forward and develop new relationships with the incoming administration's U.S. Department of Transportation personnel. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis said that BDO would present a detailed analysis of a tunnel as the LPA to the Commission.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on funding challenges, commented on Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant opportunities, and expounded on his perspective.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rogers provided an update on Staff efforts related to FRA grant opportunities and explained related information, including the need for a local match and efforts to coordinate

with the County. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen expressed support for continuing efforts to pursue grant opportunities, explained his recommendations for the next steps, and discussed related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the County's differing approach to a bridge versus the City's preference for a tunnel. He commented on discussions with Broward County Board of County Commissioners (BCBOCC) Members. Mayor Trantalis recommended that a Commission Member propose a resolution reaffirming the City's support of a tunnel as the LPA.

Commissioner Herbst noted different feedback he received from BCBOCC Members and expounded on his perspective regarding the willingness of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to assist in grant match funding for a tunnel as the LPA (LPA tunnel option) for commuter rail service. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed his support for pursuing the LPA tunnel option, expounded on his viewpoint, and discussed recommendations to inform the County about funding sources.

Commissioner Herbst recalled previous efforts to work with the County to attain the LPA tunnel option and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Commissioner Sorensen confirmed the need to be proactive and adopt a resolution reaffirming the preferred option of a tunnel along with Staff developing related costs and funding.

Interim City Attorney Spence explained the language in adopted Resolutions from 2022 and 2023 and remarked on related details. Mayor Trantalis requested Staff present a resolution reverting to the language in the 2022 Resolution, reaffirming support for the tunnel option. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Mayor Trantalis remarked on informal discussions with BCBOCC Members and plans for further discussion when the updated BDO report is received. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the timeframe for receiving the BDO Report and Staff presenting it to the Commission.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Mr. Rogers explained his understanding of the BCBOCC's efforts to move forward. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed her support of the 2023 Resolution, noted she would not vote in favor of the proposed resolution, and remarked on her perspective.

Commissioner Herbst recommended a joint meeting with the entire BCBOCC versus Commission Members meeting individually with BCBOCC Members.

Vice Mayor Glassman recommended including a request for a joint meeting when transmitting the Commission's Resolution to the BCBOCC reaffirming its support for a tunnel as the LPA for the New River Crossing. Mayor Trantalis concurred and remarked on related information.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Rogers confirmed that Staff could work towards mitigating and identifying unknown factors associated with a tunnel. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rogers explained details of the \$974,000 Regional Infrastructure Accelerators Program (RIA) grant and commented on future funding factors. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the need to obtain related cost estimates prior to moving forward. Mr. Rogers recommended requesting BDO to clarify the unknowns and include proposed next steps to strengthen the City's position regarding future grant funding. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [24-1052](#)

Quarterly Investment Report for Period Ending September 30, 2024 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Linda Short, Finance Department Director. Ms. Short reviewed the positive earnings of the City's portfolio of funds all of which performed above the seven percent (7%) benchmark and discussed the increased revenue received from each fund included in the backup information.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Richard Pengelly, CFA, CIMA, CTP, PFM Asset Management, LLC Director. Mr. Pengelly provided his perspective regarding this Agenda item, remarked on future investment strategies,

anticipated actions by the Federal Reserve, and the impact of the new incoming administration.

CF-2 [24-1174](#)

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jerome Post, Human Resources Department Director. Mr. Post provided an update on City Manager recruitment efforts. Mr. Post requested Commission feedback regarding the structure for Commission interviews of proposed candidates.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, Acting City Manager Susan Grant explained information associated with the timeline for the Commission interviews. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the formats available for interviews. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding the number of candidates, Mr. Post explained four (4) to six (6) candidates are anticipated but it would depend on the number of candidates recommended by the City Manager Search Committee. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed his preference for interviewing candidates. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis said the entire Commission would interview each candidate individually during a Conference Meeting, and the other candidates would be in a separate nearby area during the interview. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Post explained why there are no internal candidates for the City Manager position. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Post discussed the next steps in the process.

Acting City Manager Grant remarked on the opportunity for candidates to meet with residents the evening before the Conference Meeting interviews. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his support of that opportunity and expounded on his perspective.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

MGR-1 [24-1083](#)

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

Acting City Manager Susan Grant provided an update regarding the parking agreement with Inter Miami and explained related information.

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on concerns regarding trucks and boats being stored at the Elks Lodge and inquired about Staff addressing. Al Battle, Development Services Department Acting Director, confirmed Code violations at that location and expounded on efforts to address.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on his viewpoint and confirmed the need for more aggressive enforcement of Code violations. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Battle confirmed the property owners are not a non-profit organization.

Commissioner Herbst acknowledged the efforts of all stakeholders who contributed towards the recent reopening of Dottie Mancini Park. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the need to ensure that Broward Health permitting moves forward efficiently.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on the Ombelle development at 315 NE Third Avenue in Flagler Village and said it should be considered a template for new development in areas in need of rehabilitation. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman reiterated the need for improved coordination to inform residents and provide advance notice of upcoming City events, and cited examples.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested an update on efforts to address ongoing issues with the Las Olas Boulevard Garage (Garage). Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence provided an update received from outside counsel representing the City in the Florida Statute Chapter 558 construction defect claims process (558 process) and discussed related information.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his viewpoint and recommended moving forward with rectifying or replacing Garage lighting concurrently with pursuing cost reimbursement. Mayor Trantalis recognized Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager. Mr. Rogers provided an update regarding Staff efforts, and noted that replacement or rectification of Garage lighting needs to align with the 558 process.

Commissioner Sorensen inquired about annexing unincorporated areas of Broward County neighborhoods, including Boulevard Gardens and Franklin Park. Acting City Manager Grant said a related Staff presentation could be shown to the Commission. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman concurred on the need to revisit this topic, remarked on her viewpoint, and commented on feedback from residents in those areas who support becoming part of the City. Mayor Trantalis remarked on related incentives from Broward County.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed the Commission moving forward and adopting formal parliamentary procedures. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed he would present recommendations to the Commission.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Acting City Manager Grant explained information associated with the Public Art Ordinance (Ordinance). Vice Mayor Glassman noted he previously requested the Ordinance be revisited. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed, remarked on information included in the related State Statute, and discussed outreach to other municipalities. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the Ordinance allowing a carve-out for public bond-funded projects.

Acting City Manager Grant remarked on bond covenants that prohibit mandating public art in bond-funded projects. Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his understanding of using bond funding for public art. Acting City Manager Grant discussed bond counsel guidance and confirmed she would revisit this topic.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis provided an update on mediation with Inter Miami and confirmed the mediation date of January 15, 2025.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager, provided an update on permits issued for the Natiivo project. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on the project's unique

nature and commented on related details.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the General Services Administration's (GSA) outreach regarding the City's interest in the Federal Courthouse located at Broward Boulevard and NE Third Avenue and expounded on related details. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed this topic would be included as part of the Commission Goal Setting Session. Vice Mayor Glassman requested Acting City Manager Grant contact the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society to pursue historical designation of the Federal Courthouse and include previous historical research. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on concerns with building permit approvals and inspections at Pier 66. Further comment and discussion ensued. Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager, commented on how the State Statute addresses this topic and expounded on related information. Mr. Cooper explained that private providers act as a building department for private developments. Commissioner Herbst discussed concerns related to potential conflicts of interest between private developers and private providers. Mayor Trantalis noted the State Statute preempts local government action. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Mayor Trantalis reviewed options discussed with the GSA regarding the Federal Courthouse and remarked on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis said he would continue conversations with the GSA following a Commission consensus at the Commission Goal Setting Session. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding future possible options for the Federal Courthouse. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on his efforts related to the property and expounded on its potential adaptable use.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.