

City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
www.fortlauderdale.gov*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

11:30 AM

Legislative Delegation Workshop

City Commission Conference Room

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

***DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor
ROBERT L. McKINZIE Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III
HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I
STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II
BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV***

***CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk
ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney***

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the Workshop Meeting to order at 11:49 a.m.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Robert L. McKinzie, Commissioner Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Excused: Commissioner Heather Moraitis

Florida State Legislature Representatives Present: Senator Perry Thurston (District 33), Representative Patricia Williams (District 92), Representative Chip LaMarca (District 93), Representative Evan Jenne (District 99), Representative Bobby DuBose (District 94), Jay Shannon representing the Office of Senator Gary Farmer (District 34) who was unable to attend

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, Deputy City Manager Rob Hernandez, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau, City Auditor John Herbst, Senior Management Fellow Parth Patel, and Sergeant at Arms Tarek Bazzi

OLD/NEW BUSINESS**BUS-1** [19-1162](#)

Discussion with the City of Fort Lauderdale's State Legislative Delegation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis gave brief opening remarks. Meeting attendees introduced themselves and their respective staff members in attendance.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed the City's list of 2020 Legislative Priorities and Funding Requests (2020 Priorities), expounding on details.

A copy of the 2020 Priorities is attached to these minutes.

In response to Senator Perry Thurston's question regarding the status of beach renourishment, City Manager Lagerbloom explained details regarding Broward County's Beach Renourishment Project which is still in process. There is a second State-funded Beach Renourishment Project that will go north of Oakland Park Boulevard in addition to the Broward County Beach Renourishment Project.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding seeking additional funding for Beach Renourishment, City Manager Lagerbloom explained funding details and confirmed the funding of these programs. Laura Reece, Budget Director, explained additional aspects of funding.

Representative Chip LaMarca commented on the State-funded inlet project in the works, i.e., permitting. This project would bring a sand bypass on the north and south end of Cordova Road. He expounded on related details, confirming annual funding.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on climate change, inquiring what could be done collectively to address this topic. Mayor Trantalis discussed numerous meetings on climate change focused on rising sea levels and the impact of saltwater on City well fields impacting sources of drinking water. He commented on accessing the C-51 Reservoir, the high cost, possible funding assistance from the State and the need to find new freshwater sources to meet population growth. Mayor Trantalis discussed the need to rebuild the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant, expounding on its current condition and major hurricane impact potential. He confirmed the City is looking for State funding assistance for these types of infrastructure-related items.

Commissioner Sorensen requested an update on what is being done at the State legislative level to address the causes of climate change. Senator Thurston explained details regarding proposed legislation by State Senator Jeffrey P. "Jeff" Brandes addressing this topic, including new car technologies.

In response to Representative Bobby DuBose's question regarding the cost to rebuild the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant, Mayor Trantalis confirmed an estimate is expected in early December 2019. City Manager Lagerbloom said the cost is anticipated to be in the \$300,000,000 to \$350,000,000 range.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on the topic of stormwater, stating currently seven neighborhoods impacted by stormwater are being addressed with an additional seven neighborhoods to follow. He commented on funding options, the desire to moderate user rates, the impact of King Tides and rising sea levels on residents and the economy, requesting program funding assistance at the State level to augment efforts.

City Manager Lagerbloom commented on three (3) appropriation requests:

\$750,000 in stormwater improvements for the Dorsey-River Bend area

with a proposed match of approximately \$319,000;

\$136,000 funding for Community Court; and

\$400,000 for Rapid Rehousing.

Mayor Trantalis discussed efforts to address homelessness, commenting on State-funded grants and the need to continue ongoing efforts. He explained Community Court details and efforts to address homelessness. Senator Thurston concurred with Mayor Trantalis' comments, noting the many inter-related issues surrounding homelessness and commenting on the positive feedback received regarding the Community Court.

Representative LaMarca expounded on the effective efforts of Mayor Trantalis and the Commission when visiting the State legislature in support of the City's legislative priorities. Brief discussions ensued on the need to address airline transportation to Tallahassee from the South Florida region.

Representative LaMarca confirmed the South Florida delegation's unified position on science and climate change issues and the need for a comprehensive plan to address these concerns. He discussed various ways to address neighborhood flooding and climate change concerns, including seawalls, an infrastructure fund or a possible taxing district. He noted the need to address and fund these issues on both a state-wide and federal basis. Commissioner Sorensen concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued on how to pursue these goals. Representative LaMarca confirmed the American Flood Coalition is a good place to start, noting delegation members participation and the need for federal funding assistance. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sorensen commented on addressing this from a regional perspective.

Representative DuBose noted the anticipated appropriation for rapid rehousing for the homeless in the upcoming legislative session, requesting an update. Mayor Trantalis gave an update, confirming a collaborative alliance among Broward County, the City and the private business sector. Lynne Wines was hired as Senior Director, Broward Business Council on Homelessness at United Way of Broward County, to coordinate homelessness efforts.

Mayor Trantalis explained the successful efforts of the rapid rehousing program and the need for additional funding for this basic need, expounding on details and the need for State funding to augment private

sector and City funding. He noted addressing the need for financial contributions from surrounding municipalities. Mayor Trantalis discussed the need to address discharge proceedings of homeless individuals from the Broward County Jail and hospitals that directly impact the City, stating that this will also be addressed with the Broward League of Cities. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed.

Commissioner Glassman discussed seeking financial support for historic preservation and the arts to cultivate quality of life in the City, noting the State ranking at 48th and the significant funding reduction in recent years. In response to Representative LaMarca's question regarding a suggested amount for State funding, Commissioner Glassman confirmed \$50,000,000. Commissioner Glassman noted the economic opportunities from historical and cultural tourism in addition to the benefits of arts education in schools. Senator Thurston confirmed, noting his service on the related legislative committee. He acknowledged negative feedback received from communities across the State due to decreased funding and efforts to increase funding.

Mayor Trantalis discussed 2020 Priorities, commenting on three appropriation requests discussed by City Manager Lagerbloom. Senator Thurston confirmed the positive work of City Manager Lagerbloom's Staff regarding these funding requests. He acknowledged meetings held with his staff and City Staff on these funding requests.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed additional funding needs to offset the cost of municipal governments placing School Resource Officers (SRO) in schools. The City currently funds between \$800,000 - \$900,000 of SRO costs in City schools. He expounded on details related to augmenting the Broward County School Board's funding to provide an SRO or a Guardian in each City school, K-12. Commissioner Sorensen commented on feedback from parents regarding Guardians not being fully trained SROs. Further comment and discussion ensued on SRO staffing from off-duty Police Officers who are paid at an overtime rate.

Commissioner Glassman discussed the inability to make changes on State roads in the City, including State Road A1A, Sunrise Boulevard, Federal Highway and Seabreeze Boulevard, noting the response received from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). He said that the request for changes includes traffic lights, medians and crosswalks, citing examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Senator Thurston commented on his legislative staff's working relationship with FDOT staff, noting their ability to address specific concerns. Commissioner Glassman thanked Senator Thurston for

providing this option to pursue traffic concerns with FDOT, confirming the need to address the intersection of Seabreeze Boulevard and Poinsettia Street.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the topic of promoting economic stability and business development and the request to reauthorize funding for *Visit Florida* to promote tourism in Fort Lauderdale. Senator Thurston confirmed support from the Governor and the State Senate on this topic. Further comment ensued.

Representative LaMarca confirmed ongoing efforts in the State House of Representatives to reauthorize \$50,000,000 to *Visit Florida* over eight (8) years. Representative DuBose confirmed South Florida delegation support to reauthorize *Visit Florida* funding, expounding on related details and acknowledging the significance of this funding.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the City's position regarding its opposition to legislation that modifies, restricts, or eliminates the City's ability to levy and collect or spend franchise fees, communications service taxes, or local business taxes. He expounded on details related to this subject.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the City's position to enhance home rule and maintain the ability to govern locally. Representative LaMarca concurred, citing examples that lead to unintended changes. He discussed the unsuccessful efforts to have a hearing on a vacation rental bill that would allow local communities to decide the makeup of their neighborhoods.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the two areas removed from local control on the topic of vacation rentals are frequency and duration, noting the negative impact on residential neighborhoods due to tourism.

Representative LaMarca expounded on this topic, confirming equal property rights of families residing in neighborhoods. He expounded on ongoing development of individual vacation rentals in another area of the State, confirming the need for local municipal control. Commissioner Glassman confirmed neighborhood concerns regarding this issue. He confirmed the need to address all home rule issues listed in the 2020 Priorities.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's inquiry, City Attorney Alain Boileau confirmed pending State legislation regarding the banning of certain chemical sunscreens. Further comment and discussion ensued. Representative LaMarca confirmed a bill at the State legislature that would allow counties to ban smoking on the beach, expounding on details.

Mayor Trantalis discussed banning smoking on City properties and the opportunity this would provide to restrict smoking in public areas. He expounded on home rule related concerns, including maintaining zoning rules and other development-related requirements.

Senator Thurston requested input regarding the costs of communication services tax. Candice Ericks, Vice President, Ericks Consultants, explained details of a bill recently filed by Representative Jason Fischer that would reduce the tax rate to five percent (5%) or below beginning September 1, 2020. A flat rate of four percent (4%) would be charged to charter counties and municipalities beginning September 1, 2021. It replaces a myriad of fees and eliminates a discretionary surcharge by school boards. It provides that the legislature may appropriate funds to a local government that may have pledged communication services taxes for bond funding.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need to calculate the financial impact of this bill. City Manager Lagerbloom noted the importance of this current revenue stream and the negative impact of this bill.

Representative DuBose requested detailed information on the financial impact to the City regarding this item, including the fiscal impact and what amounts are pledged against that revenue stream.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.