

# City of Fort Lauderdale

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## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

6:00 PM

**Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Mary N. Porter Riverview  
Ballroom - 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312**

### **City Commission Regular 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 6:04 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Destiny Penrow - Gateway Christian Academy  
Morgan Penrow - Gateway Christian Academy

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Pam Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Ben Sorensen, Commissioner John C. Herbst, Vice Mayor Steven Glassman and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

**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

**AGENDA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Trantalis announced the following updates to the Agenda:

**ADDITIONS:**

WALK-ON Motion - Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Music Exemption with 1134 L.L.C. for Smitty's Super Bowl Sunday Watch Party - (Commission District 3)

**REMOVED:**

OFR-1 - Remove from the Agenda

**REVISED:**

January 7, 2025, Conference Meeting Minutes - page 9, last paragraph was revised to replace "this neighbor" with "the neighborhood"

CM-7 - Corrected to reflect District 2

CR-2 - Letter F of the CAM corrected to reflect District 4

***A copy of the Agenda revisions and Walk-On Agenda item are***

*attached to these Meeting Minutes.*

**Approval of MINUTES and Agenda**

[25-0134](#)

Minutes for January 7, 2025, Commission Conference Meeting and January 7, 2025, Commission Regular Meeting - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes and Agenda as amended and was seconded by Vice Mayor Glassman.

**APPROVED AS AMENDED - Minutes and Agenda as Amended**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**PRESENTATIONS**

**TEACHERS OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mayor Trantalis announced that prior to the commencement of this meeting, the Commission and Staff recognized the 2024 City of Fort Lauderdale Teachers of the Year and noted that this will be an annual event. Mayor Trantalis invited all those recognized as Teachers of the Year to join the Commission for a group photograph.

**PRES-** [25-0165](#)

**1**

Mayor Trantalis to present a proclamation declaring February 2025, as Black History Month in the City of Fort Lauderdale

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman presented a Proclamation declaring *February 2025, as Black History Month in the City of Fort Lauderdale*, reading the Proclamation in its entirety.

Marsha Ellison, NAACP Fort Lauderdale/Broward Branch President accepted the Proclamation and thanked the Commission for the Proclamation.

**PRESENTED**

**CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Herbst requested Agenda item CM-6 be pulled for separate discussion.

## Approval of the Consent Agenda

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Vice Mayor Glassman.

### Approve the Consent Agenda

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

## CONSENT MOTION

**CM-1**    [25-0055](#)    Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement with Dolphins Cycling Challenge, Inc. for Dolphins Cancer Challenge XV - (Commission Districts 2 and 4)

### APPROVED

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-2**    [25-0149](#)    Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Road Closure Requests with Howard Alan Events, Inc. for the North Beach Shoppes Arts & Crafts Festival (February 2025) - (Commission District 1)

### APPROVED

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-3**    [25-0146](#)    Motion Approving a Temporary Beach License, Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Extended Road Closures Beyond 10:00am on the Barrier Island with AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Inc. for the 2025 Florida AIDS Walk & Music Festival - (Commission District 2)

### APPROVED

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-4**    [25-0105](#)    Motion Approving the Commissioning of Lifeguard Tower Artwork - (Commission District 2)

### APPROVED

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-5**    [25-0099](#)    Motion Approving Grant Application - Broward County Enhanced

Marine Law Enforcement - \$155,088 - (Commission Districts 1, 2 ,3 and 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-7** [25-0103](#)

Motion Approving Change Order No. 3 to Task Order No.19 for Construction Engineering and Inspection Services for the City Hall Parking Garage Emergency Repairs - Kittelson & Associates, Inc. - \$86,888 - (Commission District 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-8** [25-0106](#)

Motion Rejecting All Bids for the South Side Cultural Arts Center - Manual Transfer Switch - Invitation to Bid (ITB) Event No. 291 - (Commission District 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-9** [25-0157](#)

Motion Approving a Triparty Lien Settlement Agreement Between Barbara Cohen, Aval Assets, LLC, and the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission District 1)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-10** [25-0090](#)

Motion Approving a Retroactive Agreement for the Design Criteria Package for the 17th Street Causeway Large Watermain Replacement - Chen Moore and Associates, Inc. - 743-Day Extension and \$39,529.75 - (Commission District 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CONSENT RESOLUTION**

**CR-1** [25-0068](#)

Resolution Approving a Landscape Maintenance Memorandum of Agreement for State Road 5 (North Federal Highway/US-1) with the Florida Department of Transportation for Landscape Improvements

within the Right-of-Way of State Road 5 and Assumption of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement with Jim Moran Foundation, Inc. - (Commission District 1)

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CR-2**    [25-0091](#)

Resolution Approving the Consolidated Budget Amendment to Fiscal Year 2025 - Appropriation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CONSENT PURCHASE**

**CP-1**    [25-0022](#)

Motion Approving Agreement for Turf Grass Maintenance NE - Juniper Landscaping of Florida, LLC - \$775,470 - (Commission Districts 1 and 2)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CP-2**    [25-0023](#)

Motion Approving Agreement for Turf Grass Maintenance NW - VisualScape, Inc. - \$489,624.30 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, and 3)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CP-3**    [25-0024](#)

Motion Approving Agreement for Turf Grass Maintenance SE - Juniper Landscaping of Florida, LLC - \$523,255 - (Commission Districts 2 and 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CP-4**    [25-0025](#)

Motion Approving Agreement for Turf Grass Maintenance SW - VisualScape, Inc. - \$464,334.70 - (Commission Districts 2, 3 and 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CM-6**    [25-0100](#)            Motion Approving a License Application and Agreement for the Sale, Service, and Consumption of Food and Alcoholic Beverages on the Public Beach for Rahn Bahia Mar, LLC d/b/a Bahia Mar Beach Resort - (Commission District 2)

Commissioner Herbst announced he would abstain from voting on this Agenda item and remarked on related details. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence remarked on the associated Code of Ethics Section 286.012.

***A copy of the Form 8B is attached to these Meeting Minutes.***

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen.

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 4 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**Abstain:** 1 - Commissioner Herbst

**MOTIONS**

**M-1**    [25-0048](#)            Motion Approving an Agreement for the Progresso Village Stormwater Improvements - Man-Con, Incorporated - \$39,579,918 - (Commission District 2)

Vice Mayor Glassman made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen.

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**M-2**    [25-0061](#)            Motion Selecting a City Manager Finalist, and Naming a City Official or Staff Member to Conduct Discussions with the Selected Finalist for the Purpose of Presenting Terms for a Proposed Employment Contract to the City Commission for Consideration - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion selecting Rickelle Williams as the Commission finalist for the City Manager position and was seconded by Vice Mayor Glassman.

**APPROVED - City Manager Finalist - Rickelle Williams**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

Commissioner Sorensen requested a list of salary and benefit benchmarks of other Broward County municipalities for use in employment contract negotiations with Rickelle Williams. Mayor Trantalis concurred.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding a starting date, Ms. Williams discussed her anticipated start date of March 31, 2025, and expounded on related information.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis said he anticipates completing employment contract negotiations by the end of February 2025 and presenting to the Commission at the March 4, 2025, Commission Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to name Mayor Trantalis as the City Official to negotiate the terms of an employment contract with Rickelle Williams and present it to the City Commission for consideration and was seconded by Vice Mayor Glassman.

**APPROVED - Mayor Dean J. Trantalis - City Official to Present Terms for a Proposed Employment Contract**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**M-3**     [25-0123](#)     Motion Approving an Agreement for Design Services for Fire Rescue Station No. 13 and Emergency Medical Substation No. 88 - H2M Architects & Engineers, Inc. - \$1,096,299.07- (Commission Districts 2 and 4)

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Vice Mayor Glassman.

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**M-4**     [25-0170](#)     Motion Approving Change Order No. 4 to Task Order No. 6 for Consultant Services for New Police Headquarters - AECOM Technical Services, Inc. - \$946,915.78 - (Commission District 2)

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Vice Mayor Glassman.

**APPROVED**



**Yea:** 4 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**Nay:** 1 - Commissioner Herbst

[25-0195](#)

WALK-ON Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Music Exemption with 1134 L.L.C. for Smitty's Super Bowl Sunday Watch Party - (Commission District 3)

Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective regarding this Agenda item. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed neighbor support for this event and remarked on related information.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen.

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

## RESOLUTIONS

**R-1**     [25-0152](#)

Appointment of Board and Committee Members - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Clerk David Soloman read the names of the Board and Committee nominees for appointment and/or reappointment at the Commission Regular Meeting on February 18, 2025.

City Clerk Soloman read the names of the Board and Committee appointments and reappointments for Agenda item R-1 into the record.

City Clerk Soloman announced additional nominations for tonight's Resolution received after Agenda publishing, which are listed on the attachment to this Resolution.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman introduced this Resolution as amended which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**R-2**     [25-0075](#)

Quasi-Judicial Resolution - Approving the Vacation of Utility Easements - Located at 2750 NW 19th Street - City of Fort Lauderdale - Case No. UDP- EV24005 - (Commission District 3)

Anyone wishing to speak must be sworn in. The Commission will announce any site visits, communications or expert opinions received and make them part of the record.

Each Commission Member disclosed verbal communications, written communications, site visits, and expert opinions received.

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak on this item, Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Vice Mayor Glassman. Roll call showed AYES: Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman, and Mayor Trantalis

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

## **ORDINANCE FIRST READING**

### **OFR-1 [25-0088](#)**

First Reading - An Ordinance of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to create a dependent special district pursuant to Section 189.02, Florida Statutes, to be known as Fort Lauderdale Emergency Medical Services District and providing for the codification of the same through the amendment of Chapter 13 - Fire Prevention and Protection of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, by specifically creating Article VI of the Code of Ordinances to be entitled the "Fort Lauderdale Emergency Medical Services (EMS) District - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Interim City Attorney Spence explained that Staff requested removal of this Agenda item to research how other counties and municipalities in Florida implement independent special districts to ensure the correct process is being followed and explained related information.

Commissioner Herbst discussed conversations with his constituents and his perspective that included recommendations for Fire-Rescue Department Emergency Medical Services. He noted the need for public outreach, education, and feedback and recommended a public referendum. Mayor Trantalis concurred.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney Spence explained the State Constitutional requirements for a Special District and the need for further research. Commissioner Herbst reiterated that the voters should make this decision via referendum.

Vice Mayor Glassman concurred with Commissioner Herbst's comments and expounded on resident feedback received. Further comment and discussion ensued. Interim City Attorney Spence expounded on Staff's efforts and noted this area of law is very specialized.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Acting City Manager Grant confirmed due to timing issues, an EMS Special Taxing District would not be an option in Fiscal Year 2026.

**REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

**OFR-2** [25-0030](#)

First Reading - Ordinance Amending Section 26-161 of the Code of Ordinances to Establish a Fee Structure for Permanent and Temporary Parking Removal for On-Street Parking - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Ordinance on the First Reading which was read by title only.

**PASSED FIRST READING**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**ORDINANCE SECOND READING**

**OSR-1** [25-0066](#)

Second Reading - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 28 - Water, Wastewater, And Stormwater, Sections 28-203, 28-223, 28-231; Creating a New Section 28-251 - Cease and Desist Order and Re-Codifying Sections 25-252 through 28-254 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Ordinance on the Second Reading which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED ON SECOND READING**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**OSR-2** [25-0154](#)

Second Reading - An Ordinance Amending the Classification Table of the Pay Plan of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as Amended, by Changing the Pay Grade of One Classification and Creating One

New Classification - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Ordinance on the Second Reading which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED ON SECOND READING**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**OSR-3** [25-0138](#)

Second Reading - Quasi-Judicial Ordinance Approving a Rezoning from Intense Manufacturing and Industrial (M-3, Broward County) District to Uptown Urban Village Southeast (UUV-SE) District - City of Fort Lauderdale - 200 W Cypress Creek Road - 200 W Cypress Creek Holdings - Case No. UDP-Z24012 - (Commission District 1)

Anyone wishing to speak must be sworn in. The Commission will announce any site visits, communications or expert opinions received and make them part of the record.

Each Commission Member disclosed verbal communications, written communications, site visits, and expert opinions received.

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak on this item, Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Herbst. Roll call showed AYES: Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman, and Mayor Trantalis

Vice Mayor Glassman introduced this Ordinance on the Second Reading which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED ON SECOND READING**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst, Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

**CITY COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

***Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.***

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed the impact and benefits of the Infinite Scholars Program Fair held at the L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell Community Center and expounded on related information.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on her perspective

regarding an incident at the NAACP Office located in District 3 and the related press conference. She requested that the City provide security measures for the building and cited examples. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his perspective and the need for security. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman noted upcoming community meetings to educate residents about a motor vehicle noise ordinance, an update on Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements for Progresso Village, and the forthcoming Joint Commission Meeting with the Broward County Board of County Commissioners to discuss a tunnel as the City's Locally Preferred Alternative for the New River Crossing (LPA).

Commissioner Sorensen discussed moving forward with an odor control project at the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Acting City Manager Grant confirmed a single bid was received, and based upon Commission direction, Staff would bring forth a related Agenda item at the February 18, 2025, Commission Regular Meeting.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on concerns regarding single bids, their price point, and related information. Commissioner Herbst commented on possible scenarios when single bids are received.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Glenn Marcos, Finance Department Assistant Director - Procurement. Mr. Marcos discussed information and concerns about AECOM, the single-bid vendor, and recommended rebidding the project. Mayor Trantalis discussed his perspective and recommended rebidding the project.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Mr. Marcos clarified why Staff is proposing a rebid and cited examples. Mr. Marcos discussed the bid timeline, said related research did not indicate the reason for the lack of participation by other vendors, and expounded on his perspective.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on concerns related to Staff informing him about bid concerns. Mr. Marcos confirmed that Staff's recommendation is to reject the single bid and rebid the project, which would be presented at the February 18, 2025, Commission Regular Meeting and explained information related to rebidding. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his viewpoint, including the need for the single bid to be within the anticipated cost range and the timeline

associated with the bid process. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed the bid amount was in the anticipated range.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions regarding additional inflationary costs and the reasons for the delays, Talal Abi-Karam, Public Works Department Assistant Director, confirmed additional inflationary costs, explained it is a design-build project and the related process, and cited an example of a similar scenario. Mr. Abi-Karam said it would be difficult to gauge the future cost and remarked on related information.

Mayor Trantalis commented on factors that could raise costs with rebidding the project, and expounded on his viewpoint. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding Staff concerns related to AECOM, Mr. Marcos confirmed and explained related information and details.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed similar concerns related to AECOM and the new Police Department Headquarters project. In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Marcos commented on Staff's viewpoint.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, Mr. Marcos explained the City issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) on December 26, 2023, and there were extensions associated with four (4) separate addendums to clarify the project's scope. The RFP closed on May 3, 2024, and the Evaluation Committee convened on June 19, 2024. Mr. Marcos remarked on the lack of detail in the specifications as a possible reason for receiving one (1) response to the RFP and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Marcos reiterated that only one (1) bid was received for the RFP. He explained the details of the RFP process and cited examples. Mr. Marcos said there are approximately six (6) current AECOM projects totaling approximately \$35,000,000. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis said that the public did not receive notice about discussions on this topic and recommended continuing this discussion at a future Commission Meeting. Commission Members could submit their questions to Staff before that discussion. Commissioner Sorensen concurred.

Commissioner Herbst agreed with the rise in project costs associated with delays, noting that issue also applies to the Lockhart Park project, and reiterated the need for the development of Lockhart Park to start.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding possible sponsorship funding for Fleet Week, Acting City Manager Grant confirmed the need for Commission direction. Mayor Trantalis discussed his perspective and recommended that the City host a Fleet Week event instead of providing sponsorship funding. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed he would work with the Navy League to coordinate related efforts and would update the Commission.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the need to coordinate September and October 2025 Commission Meeting dates with the date of the annual Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Summit in Washington, D.C. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on the upcoming meeting with the Broward County Board of County Commissioners (BCBCC) on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. Mayor Trantalis confirmed. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed the topic for discussion would be the New River Crossing. She explained why the meeting would not include a discussion on homelessness. The meeting would begin at 11:30 a.m. and last approximately two (2) hours. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Acting City Manager Grant reviewed the related agenda and summarized details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Mayor Trantalis confirmed his goal at the Joint Meeting is to reach a unanimous decision to move forward with a tunnel as the LPA. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on his discussions with BCBCC members about the County's funding limitations for the project. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis remarked on his perspective regarding the County's recommendation to fund fifty percent (50%) or \$250,000,000, the County's estimated cost for a bridge option, from the County Surtax Fund. Mayor Trantalis discussed additional cost components and considerations that would exceed that amount and cited examples.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on his viewpoint that the County Surtax Fund should provide additional funding since the project benefits the entire region, and the City contributes more to the County Surtax Fund than other County municipalities. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his support and explained his viewpoint regarding costs and the need for flexibility to reach an agreement with the County for a tunnel as the LPA.

Mayor Trantalis discussed federal funding opportunities in place for the next two (2) years and the need for an agreement with the County on the LPA before applying for federal funding. Mayor Trantalis expounded on his understanding of the County's LPA recommendation for a bridge. Mayor Trantalis cited examples of related challenges, and costs that need to be part of discussions to compare bridge costs versus a tunnel accurately. Mayor Trantalis noted discussions with the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on the need for constructing underpasses at major railway intersections and building an additional commuter rail station that would add to the cost of a bridge. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on discussions with Florida East Coast Railway (FECR) regarding its support for a tunnel and the desire for the City and the County to reach an agreement. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his understanding of FECR's viewpoint on the tunnel option and long-term plans to move freight railway traffic to the western area of the County.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on discussions with the Federal Department of Transportation about including freight railway traffic in the tunnel option. Commissioner Sorensen remarked on FECR's input regarding the need for a longer tunnel with adequate grades to accommodate freight railways. Commissioner Herbst pointed out related challenges and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question about FDOT making a financial contribution for a tunnel, Commissioner Sorensen said related discussions only focused on supporting the City's LPA. Further comment and discussion ensued.

## CITY MANAGER REPORT

### MGR-1 [25-0173](#)

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

Acting City Manager Grant announced that the Office of Management and Budget was awarded the *Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award*.

Acting City Manager Grant announced that Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) was awarded the *2024 General Aviation Airport Safety Award*.



**REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE CLOSED-DOOR SESSION**

Pursuant to Florida Statute Section 286.011(8), Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence requested scheduling an Executive Closed-Door Session during the February 18, 2025, City Commission Meeting at approximately 4:30 p.m. or soon thereafter. The City Commission will meet privately to discuss the following matter(s):

625 Fusion, LLC d/b/a Red Door Asian Bistro, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale and Robert Gonzalez Case No.: CACE 19-cv-61308-RKA

Present at the attorney-client session will be:

- Mayor Dean J. Trantalis
- Vice Mayor/Commissioner Steven Glassman
- Commissioner John C. Herbst
- Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman
- Commissioner Ben Sorensen
- Acting City Manager Susan Grant
- Interim City Attorney D'Wayne M. Spence
- Assistant City Attorney Robert M. Oldershaw
- Outside Counsel Hudson C. Gill, Esq., Johnson, Anselmo, et al., and
- Certified Court Reporter from Bailey-Entin Court Reporting

The estimated length of this session will be approximately 20 minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean J. Trantalis  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
David R. Soloman  
City Clerk