

# City of Fort Lauderdale

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## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

1:30 PM

**Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Abdo New River Room -  
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 1:39 p.m.

## COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

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

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### CF-1 [25-0118](#)

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jerome Post, Human Resources Department Director. Mr. Post provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Melinda Bowker, 511 SE 5th Avenue, Chair of the City Manager Search Committee (CMSC). Ms. Bowker read from a prepared statement that provided the context, information, and details regarding the CMSC's efforts to select three (3) City Manager candidates for presentation to the Commission.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his preference that the CMSC provide five (5) candidates to the Commission and the Commission narrows the candidate pool to three (3).

Vice Mayor Glassman said he followed the CMSC's work and is satisfied with the three (3) candidates the CMSC submitted for Commission consideration.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed the CMSC's work, confirmed his satisfaction with the process, and expounded on his perspective in support of the three (3) recommended candidates.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Bowker and Acting City Manager Susan Grant reviewed the upcoming schedule for the three (3) candidates, Commission interviews, and selection of a new City Manager. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst explained that in addition to the Commission interviewing the candidates, he would independently interview each of the three (3) candidates separately and make his selection. Mayor Trantalis concurred and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the Commission interview process and format previously used for City Manager and City Attorney positions.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence confirmed that the Commission could make additional candidate recommendations for Commission interviews. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Acting City Manager Grant explained options for Commission selection of a qualified City Manager candidate and subsequent contract negotiation with the selected candidate. Mayor Trantalis said the Commission would choose a new City Manager after interviews.

Commissioner Herbst expounded on his viewpoint to include an additional candidate, David Cooke, who was interviewed by the CMSC and tied for third in the CMSC's ranking.

Mayor Trantalis noted that most of the Commission did not support adding an additional candidate. He confirmed that the Commission would interview the three (3) candidates recommended by the CMSC.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

**BUS-1** [25-0014](#)

Connecting Our Neighborhoods - Draft Sidewalks Master Plan  
Discussion - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Karen Warfel, Transportation and Mobility Department Division Manager. Ms. Warfel introduced Robert Modys, Benesch, Project Manager and the consultant assisting Staff with the Sidewalk Master Plan. Ms. Warfel narrated the presentation entitled *"Connecting Our Neighborhoods-Draft Sidewalks Master Plan Discussion."*

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

Mr. Modys narrated the portion of the presentation focused on the technical process of the Sidewalk Master Plan.

Mayor Trantalis noted the Commission's discussion of sidewalks at the Commission Prioritization Workshop. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst discussed the need to prioritize child safety and elevate the installation of sidewalks around public and private schools and parks in District 1 and expounded on his perspective.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the School Board of Broward County's (School Board) responsibility for sidewalks around schools. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence discussed details of jurisdictional responsibility for sidewalks.

Commissioner Herbst clarified that the City does not require existing property owners to install sidewalks. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on installing neighborhood sidewalks to ensure student safety when walking to school. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis noted the need for the School Board to participate in funding sidewalks in school right-of-ways and cited a related example in the presentation.

Commissioner Herbst confirmed the preeminent issue of student safety and expounded on his viewpoint. Mayor Trantalis clarified his comments and confirmed student safety should not be compromised. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed the need to build the sidewalks and have subsequent discussions with the School Board regarding sharing costs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on the fruitful relationship he has had with community stakeholders and the School Board in constructing sidewalks around Stranahan High School.

Vice Mayor Glassman concurred with Commissioner Sorensen's efforts and recommended that Commission Members reach out to their School Board representatives to share information and efforts on this topic and direct related correspondence to the School Board. Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed his support for moving forward with sidewalk needs and remarked on related community feedback. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street, River Oaks Civic Association President. Mr. Inserra discussed the need to consider the impact of additional sidewalks on flooding concerns. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Paul Struzziero, 1507 SE 15th Street. Mr. Struzziero remarked on sidewalk needs on SE 15th Street. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the challenging design of SE 15th Street. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Struzziero explained his recommended solution to enforce a no-parking zone: providing a four foot (4') walkway easement along SE 15th Street from Cordova Road to Federal Highway to accommodate a pedestrian walkway. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Acting Director, discussed background information, community feedback, and Staff's work with Broward County Traffic Engineering to address area safety concerns. Mr. Majstorovic noted that an elevated path would impact apartment parking, discussed the feasibility of moving forward with a pedestrian pathway, and recommended engaging a consultant. Commissioner Sorensen expounded on his understanding. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Majstorovic explained information about street parking in the area on the edge of the travel lane. Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager, said the area apartments are nonconforming and explained related information. Mayor Trantalis recommended further research to gain a granular understanding of circumstances along this area of SE 15th Street. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his support for that direction to Staff.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ms. Warfel explained her understanding of the Commission's direction regarding the Sidewalk Master Plan, discussed examples, and remarked on related information.

Commissioner Sorensen requested that Staff provide a list of schools factored into the tiers of the Sidewalk Master Plan and expounded on related details. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed and discussed funding. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented on sidewalk infrastructure and funding needs and his preference for sidewalk installation on both sides of the identified streets.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Acting Assistant City Manager Ben Rogers. Mr. Rogers provided a brief historical review of efforts to address parking needs at Holiday Park and narrated a presentation entitled *HOLIDAY PARK PARKING*. Mr. Rogers noted that the presentation included three (3) proposed options and requested Commission feedback to Staff.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding office space for a proposed garage at Holiday Park (Garage), Mr. Rogers explained the reason for including office space for Transportation and Mobility (TAM) Staff in one of the proposed Garage options and expounded on related information.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rogers explained the available funding sources. Mayor Trantalis commented on discussions with The Parker about adding a parking fee to ticket prices. Mr. Rogers said he is aware of those discussions, which would fund the operational costs of the Garage versus capital costs, confirmed significant funding gaps, and commented on immediate parking needs. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding funding challenges. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his opposition to Option 3 for two (2) surface parking lots.

Vice Mayor Glassman discussed his viewpoint and confirmed his involvement in discussions related to pursuing a public-private partnership (P3) to move forward with Garage options on the site.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question regarding continuing with the current parking area, Mr. Rogers remarked on related liabilities and cited examples. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Mr. Rogers discussed the approximate cost of the proposed two (2) surface parking lots and the eighteen (18) month construction timeline. Mr. Rogers explained related funding information and confirmed that adequate funds are available in the Parking Fund for the surface parking lots.

Vice Mayor Glassman expounded on his viewpoint and the need for additional parking and suggested having two (2) surface parking lots as a short-term solution. He remarked on optimistic discussions toward realizing a P3 partnership for a Garage in the long term.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, Mr. Rogers

recommended moving forward with a thirty percent (30%) design for the surface parking lots. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on the anticipated timeline for considering a P3 proposal.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on her experience related to liability concerns due to the current condition of the parking area. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis recommended moving forward with the asphalt resurfacing of the south parking lot while awaiting a P3 proposal. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the three hundred (300) parking spaces this would provide. Commissioner Sorensen remarked on pedestrian challenges in this area of Holiday Park.

Commissioner Sorensen inquired about possibly working with Broward Health and the YMCA to incorporate a Garage to their facility. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on related conversations with the YMCA, commented on related circumstances at that time, and noted that he did not have similar conversations with Broward Health.

Commissioner Herbst concurred with incorporating a Garage at the Broward Health and YMCA facility, remarked on his recollection of discussions related to the use of Parks Bond funding for facilities mandating full public access. Acting City Manager Susan Grant said she would research and clarify related details with the bond counsel and provide an update to the Commission. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen reiterated his support of working with Broward Health and the YMCA to incorporate and increase parking for Holiday Park activities. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed. He confirmed his support for moving forward with the resurfacing of the south parking lot discussed earlier.

Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on Commission discussions at the Commission Prioritization Workshop regarding incorporating a new Fire Station into the facility.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on concerns about the distance and lack of sidewalks that The Parker patrons would need to traverse when parking at the future facility. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding funding and related information.

Mr. Rogers clarified his understanding of the Commission's direction to move forward with the thirty percent (30%) design of the north and south

surface parking areas, which is included in the existing contract. Mayor Trantalis said that Staff should prioritize the south surface parking lot. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Gary Olsen, 1114 NE 4th Street. Mr. Olsen discussed his opposition to private commercial development in Holiday Park that replaces park greenspace. He expounded on his viewpoint and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the City's ownership of buildings on public land.

Commissioner Herbst noted that the City has a contractual obligation with The Parker to provide a specific amount of parking. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

**BUS-3** [25-0108](#)

Presentation of the City of Fort Lauderdale Grant Program Update - (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 and narrated a presentation entitled *CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE - GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE*.

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

Tamieka McGibbon, Principal Budget and Management Analyst, continued narrating the presentation highlighting grants received in 2024.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding infrastructure grant funding opportunities allocated by Congress several years ago, Ms. Matthews explained Staff's active pursuit of federal grant funding and expounded on related information and details.

Mayor Trantalis discussed needing a consultant or lobbyist to move the grants through the process. Ms. Matthews cited examples of related efforts, including hiring professional grant writers and engaging the City's legislative representatives.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the need for additional grant funding for infrastructure projects. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Division Manager, confirmed that the City's



lobbying firms collectively pursue large grant applications for infrastructure projects and expounded on details. Ms. Sainvil explained efforts to resubmit grant applications. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need to find a path forward and expounded on his viewpoint.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Ms. Matthews explained how the City ranked in grant awards compared to surrounding municipalities and municipalities throughout the state and explained related information. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Matthews commented that those neighboring municipalities include the City of Miami Beach and the City of Coral Springs.

**BUS-4** [25-0074](#)

Discussion - "I AM SISTRUNK" Campaign - (Commission District 3)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Division Manager. Ms. Sainvil provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a presentation entitled *"I AM SISTRUNK" - A Community Revitalization Opportunity*.

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ashley Doussard, Strategic Communications Division Director. Ms. Doussard narrated the next portion of the presentation, focusing on the logo concept for the *I AM SISTRUNK* branding plan (Branding Plan), expounded on the genesis of the logos, and remarked on Branding Plan goals and opportunities.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on support for cohesive branding and discussed concerns related to a similar, previous effort. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed community support of this Branding Plan and discussed related information. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding similar previous branding efforts to enhance and ensure the success of the Sistrunk corridor.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, Clarence Woods, Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights (NWPFH) Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Manager, confirmed a separate effort in the NWPFH CRA for an Arts and Cultural District Plan (ACDP). Mr. Woods remarked that both plans would come together at a future point. Mr. Woods updated the Commission on the Branding Plan, ACDP, and its partnership with the Broward County Cultural Division. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman explained her perspective and recommended that Staff

combine and coordinate all these efforts to ensure a significant positive impact. Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed his support and expounded on his viewpoint. Ms. Doussard discussed efforts to ensure a successful marketing campaign and cited examples.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman noted that the direction and goal of these efforts is to include Sistrunk Boulevard as a historic district. Vice Mayor Glassman concurred and commented on numerous grant opportunities for designated historic areas in the City and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis noted that a previous Commission had chosen to extend the length of Sistrunk Boulevard (NE 6th Street) to the FAT Village Arts and Cultural District. This Branding Plan should encompass the entire Sistrunk Boulevard area. Vice Mayor Glassman noted that the THRIVE Arts District and Progresso Village areas are booming. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman pointed out the need to include Avenue of the Arts (SE 7th Street) in the Branding Plan.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Marc Dickerman, 1417 SW 2nd Street. Mr. Dickerman discussed his support for this agenda item.

Ms. Sainvil reviewed the proposed logos. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on community input on the proposed logos. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed community residents preferred the *I Am Sistrunk* logo, and community businesses preferred the *We Are Sistrunk* logo. Ms. Doussard confirmed the details of utilizing both options. Further comment and discussion ensued.

## **CITY COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

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

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman announced the 2024 Police Officers of the Year, Officer Joseph Hoffman and Officer Eric Flores. They were recognized for their bravery and outstanding public safety efforts beyond the call of duty.

Vice Mayor Glassman noted Keith Costa's election as the new President of the International Association of Firefighters Local Union 765.

Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on a serious fire at the Tennis Club Condominiums and the heroic efforts of the Fire-Rescue Department to minimize damage.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested regular updates from Staff on the progress of the new Police Department Headquarters.

Vice Mayor Glassman discussed a lengthy article in *Florida Trend* magazine that focused on the City and Bonnie Clearwater, Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Art Museum Fort Lauderdale Director.

Commissioner Sorensen reviewed a memorandum from Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence regarding the rules and regulations governing City Advisory Boards and Committees (Memorandum). Commissioner Sorensen recommended including military service as an extraordinary circumstance allowing remote participation. In response to Commissioner Herbst's question regarding the duration of time for remote participation, Interim City Attorney Spence remarked that there is no related guidance, expounded on his viewpoint, and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis suggested limiting the number of meetings and allowing remote participation for members of Advisory Boards, Committees, and Task Forces. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Interim City Attorney Spence explained his understanding of Commission feedback and language in the current Resolution. He confirmed that Staff would include remote participation for military service in the related Resolution, allowing up to three (3) remote meeting participations annually. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions, Interim City Attorney Spence said this discussion relates to the Commission, Advisory Boards (Boards), Advisory Committees (Committees), and Task Force members. The remote member can vote if a physical quorum is present. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Interim City Attorney Spence reviewed the portion of the Memo referencing lobbyists, expounded on related case law, additional considerations, and discussed examples. He also remarked on possibly adopting a related Broward County Ordinance, explained additional information, and remarked on his recommendation for the City.

Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on his understanding. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed Board or Committee member who is also a lobbyist would need to resign as it would be a violation of the Code.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, Interim City Attorney confirmed that the Broward County Ordinance provides a defensible lobbying prohibition and expounded on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Glassman requested a review of how other municipalities address this topic to be more proactive.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Interim City Attorney Spence said an update to the Ordinance could limit an individual from serving on more than one (1) Board or Committee. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on the limited number of qualified volunteers. Mayor Trantalis recommended this portion of the Ordinance as written. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney Spence explained information related to Board and Committee quorums and cited examples. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Interim City Attorney Spence explained only the Board of Adjustment (BOA) requires a super-majority vote, and would require an amendment to the related Ordinance. Commissioner Sorensen noted that he would like that changed to a simple majority.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney Spence explained BOA tasks and responsibilities. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Interim City Attorney Spence said he would research the ability to appeal a BOA decision before the Commission versus the Broward County Circuit Court. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the meeting with Florida State Senator Rosalind Osgood to discuss the City's legislative priorities. He discussed Imperial Point's noise concerns related to the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport's runway expansion and confirmed the need for more neighborhood outreach.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his meeting with Meridiam and discussions to build a tunnel for the New River Crossing and expounded on related information.

Mayor Trantalis announced that on January 31, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., residents will have the opportunity to meet and greet City Manager candidates selected by the City Manager Search Committee at the Women's Club in Stranahan Park.

Mayor Trantalis announced the retirement of Fire Marshall Jeffrey Lucas and thanked him for his twenty (20) years of service to the City.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

### **MGR-1 [25-0003](#)**

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

City Manager Grant provided an update on municipal funding and costs associated with the Florida Panthers Stanley Cup Championship Parade. She explained related information and the Florida Panthers organization's request that the City absorb the outstanding costs.

Mayor Trantalis requested Commission Member feedback. In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman and Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, City Manager Grant explained the cost and funding details. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective and opposition to absorbing those outstanding costs. Mayor Trantalis confirmed a consensus opposing the organization's request.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.