

# City of Fort Lauderdale

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## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

1:30 PM

The Parker

707 Northeast 8th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

## City Commission Conference Meeting

*FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION*

*DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor*

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

*JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I*

*STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II*

*WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV*

*GREG CHAVARRIA, 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 1:50 p.m.

## QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

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

## COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[23-0659](#)

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

***Budget Advisory Board (BAB)  
June 15, 2023***

***Communication to the City Commission***

***A copy of the BAB Communication to the City Commission is part of the backup to this Agenda item.***

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, City Manager Chavarria said the Commission chose Funding Scenario 1 for the new water treatment plant, explained related details, and confirmed the \$12.00 annual increase to the Fire Assessment Fee. In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, explained approximate increases in revenue if the millage rate was increased by .02.

## OLD/NEW BUSINESS

**BUS-1** [23-0492](#)

Sunrise Boulevard at US-1/Gateway Interchange Project Update - (Commission District 2)

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, provided an overview of this Agenda item and discussed the six (6) phases of project development.

Staff from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) provided an update on the Gateway Interchange project (Project) located at Sunrise Boulevard at US-1 (Gateway).

Adham Naiem, PE, PMP, Project Manager, FDOT District 4, explained this Agenda item addresses the planning study portion of the Project, which would be followed by design and construction. FDOT is soliciting feedback from surrounding neighborhoods to develop a shared vision.

Carlos Cejas, PE, Project Manager, Gannett Fleming, explained his role as an FDOT consultant. Mr. Cejas explained the presentation is a summary of previous workshop presentations. He narrated a presentation entitled *Welcome to the Gateway - FDOT District 4 - SR 5/US 1/Federal Highway at SR 838/Sunrise Boulevard Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding Alternative 2, Mr. Cejas explained the blue area reflects the wide sidewalk area, the gray area is asphalt, and green area indicates median areas.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Cejas explained that light gray indicates resurfacing, dark gray represents a widening of the roadway, cited an example, and expounded on details. Further comment and discussion ensued on the Alternative 2 design.

Mr. Cejas explained dual right turn lanes in Alternative 2 accommodate plans for future traffic flow demand in the year 2045 and explained related details.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the impact of Alternative 2 and the need to maintain greenspace. Commissioner Glassman commented that FDOT is working on a landscape plan around Searstown that would come forward.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the benefits of shade trees in greenspace. Mr. Naiem noted FDOT's ability to determine use of the greenspace that can be optimal for both roadway and sidewalk areas. Mr. Cejas commented on feedback from neighbors regarding the negative impact of individuals gathering in shaded greenspace areas could have on drivers.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Cejas confirmed the major lane change included in Alternative 2. Further comment and discussion ensued on the advantages, disadvantages, impact on pedestrians, and overall goals behind FDOT's alternatives.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Cejas explained bicycle lane alternatives, including the ability for bicyclists to share the roadway with and without a dedicated bicycle lane or using a shared sidewalk path with pedestrians. Mr. Cejas expounded on bicycle and pedestrian safety efforts.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Cejas remarked on neighbor feedback and community support for the at-grade alternative options. Over twenty-five (25) neighbor responses have been received in support of Alternative 2 and Alternative 3, which improves vehicular throughput, bicycle and pedestrian use. A third alternative would be included, and all three (3) alternatives would be evaluated and refined based on neighbor feedback. FDOT will return in October 2023 with the updated alternatives. Mr. Naiem elaborated on related details.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Mr. Cejas said an overpass would not eliminate the need for the left turn to travel eastbound. Mr. Cejas commented that Alternative 3 could be designed in such a way as to allow a future flyover without major disruption. The traffic light timing would ultimately determine traffic flow.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his perspective regarding the alternatives and the evaluation matrix, including negative and neutral comments on the last four (4) alternatives, which include an overpass and an underpass. At-grade alternatives would have the least cost and visual impact. Mayor Trantalis expounded on his viewpoint regarding overpasses and cited examples.

Mr. Naiem said that Alternative 3 could include an option for an underpass. Mayor Trantalis commented on his viewpoint and noted the success of the existing tunnel in the City.

**CF-1**    [23-0605](#)

2023 Legislative Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Daphnee Sainvil, Government Affairs & Economic Development Manager, announced State of Florida (State) House of Representative Lisa Dunkley, State House of Representative Daryl Campbell, and State Senator Jason Pizzo would present an update on the 2023 State Legislative Session (Session). Ms. Sainvil provided a brief federal legislative update.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Edward Mejia, District Representative for the Office of US Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick. Mr. Mejia discussed federal legislative accomplishments over the past year and explained related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the reason the veto for Carter Park funding, Representative Daryl Campbell discussed efforts to pursue those funds and remarked on funding that was received.

Mayor Trantalis recognized State Senator Jason Pizzo. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding how appropriations for the City compare to other municipalities, Senator Pizzo remarked on his viewpoint that the City should be receiving more funding based on its population, the amount of revenue the City generates to the State, and cited examples. He discussed legislative efforts related to short-term rentals, parking requirements, and commented on political aspects of the Session. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his viewpoint regarding local level alternatives to prevent overdevelopment adjacent to single-family home neighborhoods. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Senator Pizzo discussed his perspective regarding entities motivated to pursue legislation in support of increased development. Further comment and discussion ensued on affordable housing, high insurance costs, and mandating flood insurance on the upper floors of condominiums.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the amount of tax dollars the State spends on litigation when a court rules in opposition to its legislation, Senator Pizzo noted large amounts of funding included in legislation to fund litigation costs when a challenge is anticipated and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman discussed feedback from constituents regarding the need for the State Legislature to focus on essential issues, including sea level rise, infrastructure needs, and high property insurance costs. He commented on his perspective regarding the negative impact of culture wars at the State level.

Ms. Sainvil said a final legislative report from Staff and a report from the lobbying teams would be submitted to the Commission by the end of the month. There would be a \$2,000,000 funding request for the Galt in the

next Legislative Session in addition to outreach to City Departments to determine gap funding needs, including funding for Carter Park. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the long-time appropriation requests from the State for Carter Park.

Commissioner Glassman requested matrix that cross-references City programs with the results of legislative bills. Ms. Sainvil confirmed. Commissioner Glassman discussed the need for financial assistance from the State to address homelessness.

Representative Lisa Dunkley commented on her legislative efforts during the Session and her communications with City Manager Chavarria during the April 2023 flooding event.

**BUS-2** [23-0402](#)

Living Seawalls Presentation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Dr. Nancy Gassman, Public Works Department Assistant Director - Sustainability. Dr. Gassman narrated a presentation entitled *Living Seawalls - A Tool in the Resilience Toolbox*.

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

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Dr. Gassman explained permitting requirements include the City and Broward County. Depending on various factors, including the waterway, how far into the waterway, and other circumstances, permitting could be required from the South Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the State of Florida (State) Fish and Wildlife Commission. The City may also need to receive permission from the State related to sovereign, submerged lands.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Suzee Bailey, 105 Nurmi Drive. Ms. Bailey spoke from a prepared statement outlining support for living seawalls and discussed the importance of proactive efforts to ensure City waterways are cleaned and maintained.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding the installation of 3D-printed living seawalls, Dr. Gassman explained the focus has been on ensuring existing seawalls maintain their integrity and prevent tidal flooding. She discussed issues related to attaching a living sea wall below the concrete into coated sheet piles that could create an opportunity for corrosion. Dr. Gassman said industrial fixes are available to address sealing concerns and reiterated the focus and purpose of

existing seawalls is to prevent tidal flooding. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding installing living seawalls.

Dr. Gassman commented on opportunities to retrofit existing seawalls to accommodate living seawalls and incorporating living seawalls into future seawalls. She remarked on associated costs.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Bill Brown, 112 N. Birch Road, Central Beach Alliance President. Mr. Brown remarked on his perspective and feedback from residents regarding the need to address existing seawalls in need of repair. He noted the need to understand the costs versus benefits of living seawalls.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Tricia Halliday, 60 Nurmi Drive. Ms. Halliday concurred with Mr. Brown's comments related to the need for more information about living seawalls. She remarked on water quality concerns and expounded on her viewpoint.

**BUS-3** [23-0662](#)

Update for Temporary City Hall Relocation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Chavarria provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a presentation entitled *UPDATE: Temporary City Hall Relocation*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Chavarria provided an update on a recent meeting with U.S. Congressman Jared Moskowitz and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives related to this Agenda item. City Manager Chavarria confirmed FEMA's openness to funding rental reimbursement and expounded on related details.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question regarding a thirty-eight (38) month timeline for FEMA's reimbursement of rental costs, City Manager Chavarria noted FEMA's positive input regarding rental reimbursement, but FEMA did not specify the thirty-eight (38) month duration.

Mayor Trantalis discussed aspects of the meeting with Congressman Jared Moskowitz and FEMA representatives, including its program for rental reimbursement costs and FEMA's recommendation to stop current efforts to maintain City Hall and shut down the building.

Commissioner Sturman commented on rental reimbursement and inquired about any formula that would include out-of-pocket expenses for the City. City Manager Chavarria discussed ongoing work with insurance adjusters to ensure all necessary information is included in FEMA claims.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions regarding the West Marine building (West Marine) space, City Manager Chavarria remarked on positive discussions regarding availability on the first and second floors and commented about ongoing negotiations to determine a timeline and cost. Should the Commission approve the related Agenda item at tonight's Commission Regular Meeting, the relocation plan would be implemented during the Commission Summer Break.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Bill Brown, 112 N. Birch Road, Central Beach Alliance President. Mr. Brown discussed support of maintaining City Hall in a centralized location in the downtown area.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Sheldon Gross, 1515 W. Cypress Creek Road, Cypress Creek, LLC. Mr. Gross narrated a presentation entitled *THE BEST OPTION FOR THE CITY'S TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS*.

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

Mr. Gross remarked on the One East Broward Boulevard (One East Broward) lease, containing language that the City would be charged for parking. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence commented on the language in the One East Broward lease related to the City paying for nine (9) parking spaces. Mayor Trantalis commented on his understanding.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, Mr. Gross confirmed a thirty (30) day timeline for Staff to take occupancy of the Kaplan University (Kaplan) space at \$32.48 per square foot with a three percent (3%) cap on operating expenses. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst commented on the current five percent (5%) inflation rate and inquired about a cap on operating expense for the One East Broward lease.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Ken Krasnow, Colliers



International, explained the One East Broward lease includes a three percent (3%) cap on controllable expenses. Further comment and discussion ensued. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed Staff would research and provide answers to Commission questions about the One East Broward lease at tonight's Commission Regular Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding controllable and uncontrollable expenses.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, Mr. Gross cited examples of controllable and uncontrollable expenses. He explained the differences between the Kaplan lease and the One East Broward lease.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions regarding the relocation of data servers from City Hall, City Manager Chavarria explained a significant portion would be moving to a cloud-based server along with a co-location at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Herbst recommended that all data systems be cloud-based and expounded on his viewpoint.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question regarding costs of Staff moving into One East Broward, including cabling and building out space, City Manager Chavarria said Staff was only presenting the lease and work is ongoing regarding a final determination of those costs that are anticipated to be minimal. Commissioner Herbst asked for a specific understanding of minimal costs and requested detailed information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the need for an understanding of costs for One East Broward before the Commission makes a decision. City Manager Chavarria commented on existing data infrastructure at One East Broward and related details.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Mr. Gross explained details of the Kaplan lease terms, which includes forty-seven thousand square feet (47,000 sq ft) up to seventy-three thousand square feet (73,000 sq ft) with a three (3) year term and two (2) one (1) year options.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions regarding the subleasing costs of One East Broward, Mr. Krasnow confirmed related discussions are ongoing and noted those types of leases are generally five (5) year terms. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the opportunity to sublease the One East Broward space should a new City Hall be built before the end of a five (5) year lease.

Ken Krasnow explained that the One East Broward landlord would be providing a turn-key space on the fourth-floor and available on August 1, 2023.

Commissioner Herbst recommended the Commission reconsider its position and commented on his support of Staff who interfaces with the public (external Staff) being located in a centralized downtown location. He commented on budget-related challenges and the annual savings that would be realized with relocating Staff who do not interface with the public (internal Staff) to Kaplan. He expounded on additional details, noted that not all Staff reside in the City, and cited benefits associated with the Kaplan location.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Deborah Gross, 1515 W. Cypress Creek Road, Cypress Creek, LCC. Mrs. Gross remarked on the ability of Staff to concurrently negotiate leases at the One East Broward Boulevard and Kaplan properties.

Interim City Attorney Spence clarified aspects of parking included in the One East Broward lease. Staff does not use those nine (9) parking spaces. They are provided for guests who come in for depositions, outside counsel, and others who interact with the Office of the City Attorney Litigation Staff at One East Broward. The City Parking Garage charges individuals who visit City Hall.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed that the City would continue to pay fees associated with those nine (9) parking spaces that are included in the lease.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Peloquin, 2510 NE 10th Court, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations (Civic Association) President. Ms. Peloquin discussed her viewpoint on this topic and the Civic Association's previous use of City Hall Chambers for its meetings. Commissioner Herbst reiterated that only internal Staff would be relocated to Kaplan. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the reason for supporting one (1) centralized location and referenced a previous study associated with prior efforts towards a Joint Government Center with Broward County. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Krasnow clarified details of the Agenda item the Commission would consider at tonight's Commission Regular Meeting (Agenda item). It is a

three (3) year lease at One East Broward for approximately sixteen thousand square feet (16,000 sq ft) to accommodate Commission Members and their Staff and City Management Staff. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding additional space at One East Broward.

City Manager Chavarria clarified the Agenda item includes the existing four thousand square feet (4,000 sq ft) currently used by the Office of the City Attorney on the sixteenth floor at One East Broward. It does not include the area for a City Hall Chambers or office space at West Marine.

City Manager Chavarria remarked on feedback from Commission Members regarding their office space needs. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Chavarria confirmed there are two (2) large conference rooms available to Commission Members at One East Broward. There was a consensus for three (3) office spaces per Commission Member.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Steve Ganon, 2517 N. Atlantic Boulevard. Mr. Ganon spoke in support of City Hall and Staff remaining in a centralized downtown location.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jenni Morejon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority. Ms. Morejon spoke in support of City Hall and Staff remaining in a centralized downtown location.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles B. Ladd, 442 NE 7th Avenue. Mr. Ladd spoke in support of City Hall and Staff remaining in a centralized downtown location.

City Manager Chavarria provided details regarding this Conference Agenda item moving forward.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question regarding funding should FEMA not reimburse the City for rent, City Manager Chavarria confirmed funding has been appropriated in the budget.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on his viewpoint in support of keeping Staff in a downtown location and inquired about the specific amount of savings associated with moving Staff to Kaplan. He noted this could be impacted by economies of scale that may not make it worthwhile.

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-2 [23-0634](#)

Audit of Internal Controls Over Ordering Information Technology Services and/or Equipment - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Auditor Patrick Reilly read the findings of the Audit Report entitled *Audit of Internal Controls Over Ordering Information Technology Services and/or Equipment*.

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

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Chavarria confirmed Staff is moving forward to address the Report's recommended enhancements.

CF-3 [23-0667](#)

Discussion - Miami Beckham United, Inc. - Parking Agreements - (Commission District 1)

Interim City Attorney Spence provided background information associated with this Agenda item. In response to the Commission's position at the June 20, 2023, Conference Meeting, Miami Beckham United (MBU) submitted a counter offer. Interim City Attorney Spence advised MBU that he would return to the Commission to discuss the caveat that part of mediation negotiations would include MBU's continued access to parking beyond the end of the 2023 season.

Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed that pursuant to Florida State Statute 768.28, the Commission can now discuss mediation negotiations during Executive Closed-Door Sessions. He requested Commission direction regarding parking and mediation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney Spence said MBU would like to discuss maintaining parking until the community park (Park) construction starts and noted that this could be discussed during mediation. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Herbst confirmed his willingness to extend MBU parking until the end of the 2023 calendar year and explained his perspective. Any additional extension beyond the 2023 calendar year that should be part of the mediation process. Commissioner Herbst said he would not want to extend parking to the end of the 2024 calendar year due to the possibility of another mediation impasse, and those discussions should be part of larger mediation settlement negotiations. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, City Manager Chavarria commented on efforts for a compressed Park design schedule completed by Spring 2024. The thirty percent (30%) design stage for the Park is anticipated in September 2023, which Staff will present to the Commission and public for feedback. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Interim City Attorney Spence, Mayor Trantalis confirmed permission to move forward.

Commissioner Glassman discussed concerns related to recent media reports regarding unpermitted construction occurring at DRV PNK Stadium and correspondence sent by the Office of the City Attorney. Further comment and discussion ensued. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed his understanding from City Management and City Building Inspectors who determined this was not the case. Commissioner Glassman expounded on his understanding of related events.

John Travers, Development Services Department Building Official, explained meetings and discussions with representatives of MBU to provide additional seating and expounded on related information. He confirmed the Office of the City Attorney was advised that the City's Building Inspector would follow up. A building inspector was sent to DRV PNK Stadium and confirmed equipment was being off loaded and stored but no assembly was taking place. Commissioner Glassman expounded on his viewpoint of what transpired.

Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager, clarified aspects of the timeline related to activity at DRV PNK Stadium on related details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Rhonda Hasan, Assistant City Attorney III, confirmed that she had no knowledge of how members of the media received information on this topic. Ms. Hasan explained her conversation with the City Building Official who said he was sending out an inspector to red tag the property and she would update the City Attorney and include counsel for MBU, Stephanie Toothaker, Esq.

Ms. Hasan explained details related to how the email was composed and expounded on related details. Mr. Travers explained his direction to the Assistant Building Official sent to DRV PNK Stadium that if assembly was ongoing, a stop work order should be issued. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the chain of events and related actions.

Commissioner Glassman expounded on his viewpoint and the process for issuing a stop work order. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed her viewpoint regarding this conversation taking place on the dais and expounded on her perspective. She confirmed her belief in the integrity of Commission Members and Staff. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman confirmed her support of Commissioner Herbst continuing to represent the Commission in the mediation.

Commissioner Sturman remarked that the correspondence should have not been sent. He reaffirmed his support of Commissioner Herbst continuing to represent the Commission in mediation negotiations.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the nature of this conversation and his perspective. He spoke in support of Ms. Hasan's efforts and noted her outstanding work in mediation negotiations. Commissioner Herbst thanked Mr. Travers for his work at DRV PNK Stadium site to ensure procedures were followed correctly and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

### **CITY COMMISSION REPORTS**

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

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed recent Commission Member Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training and thanked Staff for their efforts.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on a recent Melrose Manors community meeting with Staff and HDR Engineering, Inc., (HDR) representatives to address stormwater flooding. Melrose Manors looks forward to the upcoming stormwater design and continued conversations with HDR.

Commissioner Glassman commented on a successful meeting with Himmarshee Entertainment District stakeholders, discussed needs that should be addressed and expounded on related details.

Commissioner Glassman noted his participation in a meeting focused on homelessness with State Representative Chip LaMarca, Chief Judge Jack Tuter, and the Broward County State Attorney Harold Pryor to determine ways to address this issue and said specific action items

were identified.

Commissioner Sturman announced and welcomed Aurelio M. Fernandez III, the new Interim Chief Executive Officer of Broward General.

Commissioner Sturman requested City Manager Chavarria ensure all backup documentation is attached to Agenda items in the future. City Manager Chavarria confirmed.

Commissioner Sturman reiterated the need for improved coordination with bridge tenders to address traffic needs during special events. Mayor Trantalis concurred, remarked on his experience and commented on past efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the recent groundbreaking for the new Police Department Headquarters and related funding. He confirmed that public safety is the Commission's top priority and the importance of providing a state-of-the-art facility to support safety needs of residents, tourists, and neighbors visiting, working, or traveling through the City. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on rescheduling the August 15, 2023, Commission Meetings to August 22, 2023. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Chavarria said that Budget Advisory Board (BAB) Chair Brian Donaldson confirmed the Commission Joint Workshop with the BAB could be rescheduled to September 5, 2023.

City Manager Chavarria noted the Commission Joint Workshop with the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee would be rescheduled to August 22, 2023.

Mayor Trantalis discussed ongoing deterioration of the screening and decorative lighting on the Las Olas Parking Garage (Garage). In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed the City has never issued final acceptance of the Garage work.

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director provided an update on efforts to address and his understanding that the review process is ongoing. Interim City Attorney Spence explained outside counsel has been unresponsive. Mayor Trantalis requested Staff return with a recommendation as to how to move forward and remarked on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

## CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Chavarria announced the City's AAA stormwater bond rating. He remarked on an upcoming meeting with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Secretary Steve Brown that will include an in-depth discussion about Tunnel Top Park delays and would provide an update to the Commission.

City Manager Chavarria provided an update on the search for the City Attorney position as of June 30, 2023. Staff has requested The Mercer Group extend its job posting for an additional two (2) weeks. On July 14, 2023, Staff will work with the City Attorney Search Committee, and would provide an update at the August 22, 2023, Commission Meeting.

## REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE CLOSE-DOOR SESSION

Interim City Attorney Spence requested an Executive Closed-Door Session during the August 22, 2023, Commission Meeting at a time to be determined to seek advice on the following matters:

***Allan J. Mayers v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida Case No.: CACE 20-013481 (09)***

***City of Fort Lauderdale v. Grace Community Dev. Corp. of FL, Inc. Case No.: CACE 20-014867 (12)***

Those present at the Executive Closed Door Session will include:

Mayor Dean Trantalis, Vice Mayor Pamela Beasley Pittman, Commissioner John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Warren Sturman, City Manager Greg Chavarria, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Michael Spence, Assistant City Attorney Robert Oldershaw, Outside Counsel Christopher Sterns, and a Certified Court Reporter from Bailey Eaton Court Reporting

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

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.