

# City of Fort Lauderdale

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## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

1:30 PM

Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Abdo New River Room  
201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

### 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*

*THOMAS J. ANSBRO, 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, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Warren Sturman (arrived at 1:49 p.m.), and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

**Also Present:** City Manager Greg Chavarria, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbro, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

## COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[24-0139](#)

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

***Board of Adjustment (BOA)  
January 10, 2024***

***Communication to the City Commission***

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

Mayor Trantalis noted the communication states the need to appoint an alternate member to the BOA.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, City Clerk David Soloman said three (3) individuals have submitted applications to the BOA. Currently, there are two (2) vacant alternate positions on the BOA. Appointments to the BOA are by consensus.

Mayor Trantalis requested City Clerk Soloman forward the BOA applications to the Commission for review and possible consensus appointments. City Clerk Soloman confirmed.

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [24-0185](#)

Audit of Asphalt Mills and Resurfacing Contract - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Auditor Patrick Reilly reviewed the audit of the Asphalt Mills and Resurfacing Contract included in the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Auditor Reilly said that the audit of this contract is an aspect of the Office of the City Auditor's annual audit plan.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the benefits of this type of audit. In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Reilly confirmed the stringent nature of Public Works Department procedures. He explained the need for other departments to be more comprehensive by using this type of contract. The intent in the future is for Public Works Staff to review other departments using this type of contract. The City Manager will work with other departments to ensure thorough procedures. Mr. Reilly confirmed satisfaction with Management's Responses to the Audit Observations, explained related information, and remarked on the importance of ensuring procedures are tightened.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Mr. Reilly explained information regarding the process associated with this type of audit to ensure internal control policies and procedures are being followed.

Commissioner Herbst concurred with Management's position of Audit Observation Two (2).

## NEIGHBOR PRESENTATIONS

NP-1 [24-0126](#)

Michael D. Ray - Lead Emissions at and near FXE Airport

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michael Ray, 6130 NW 33 Terrace. Mr. Ray gave a Neighbor Presentation on concerns related to lead emissions from Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) and submitted a related document.

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

Commissioner Herbst discussed District 1 community outreach, related studies, and work with the City Manager and FXE Management to determine facts and cited examples.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Rufus James, FXE Manager, explained information related to the types of fuels used by different aircraft at FXE.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on previous Commission discussions on this topic and directed Staff to perform a study to determine lead levels. Mr. James confirmed a related task order is being prepared. Commissioner Sturman remarked on his understanding of this concern. Mr. James remarked on the results of a prior study at Naples Airport that did not indicate lead contamination in the ground.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on health concerns related to lead exposure. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. James noted the planned study should be completed in approximately three (3) months.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. James acknowledged Mr. Ray's concerns, commented on related parameters and the FAA's timeline to eliminate one hundred percent (100%) Avgas fuel by 2030, and expounded on associated details. Mr. James explained the City cannot accelerate that timeline without jeopardizing grant assurances and remarked on previous comments regarding lead contamination on airport runways. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his recollection that his observation of lead contamination on airport runways was from a related prior study.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding past practices, Mr. James explained the recommendation of the consultant is to start at the airport in areas where the aircraft run up and take off and discuss related information.

Mr. Ray remarked on the neighborhood's understanding that soil and water samples would be collected at the airport and nearby communities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis said the City would work with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to accelerate these efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

**BUS-1** [24-0104](#)

Las Olas Parking Garage Facade Lighting Update - (Commission District 2)

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the Commission's direction to Staff regarding this Agenda item.

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, narrated

a presentation entitled *Las Olas Parking Garage Façade Lighting Update*.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rogers explained the cost of removing the existing lighting on the Las Olas Garage (Garage) skeleton would add to the cost of replacement lighting, and the existing Garage screen would remain. Mr. Rogers noted that current discussions with SACO Technologies for replacement lighting are a high-level overview and not a detailed cost analysis for replacing the façade lighting on the Garage.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions regarding ensuring replacement Garage lighting remains relevant, Mr. Rogers confirmed the need for Staff to develop a scope of work that includes warranties and remedies that identify a software component that could be continually upgraded. Mr. Rogers confirmed the existing Garage lighting software and hardware needs to be replaced. Commissioner Herbst cited similar examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on environmental concerns such as exposure to salt water. In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Rogers noted that SACO Technologies has lighting installations at the Hard Rock Hotel and on cruise ships. He cited additional examples of marine exposure, and confirmed he would provide additional information.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on his viewpoint regarding the need for software upgrades, citing examples. Mr. Rogers explained that the existing lighting on the Garage does not correlate with existing software. City Manager Chavarria said the existing lighting in the Garage is obsolete. Mr. Rogers confirmed.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on his viewpoint regarding the high cost of replacing the Garage lighting, and said there is no guarantee that costs for new lighting would be reimbursed from litigation associated with the current lighting vendor.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on the opportunity for private sector advertising funding to supplement costs for replacement lighting. City Attorney Ansbro remarked on the City's position regarding off-premise advertising by billboard companies that conflict with City sign Codes and said Staff could research. Commissioner Sturman commented on the opportunity for naming rights similar to discussions with the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his viewpoint, including the need to understand anticipated reimbursement from litigation associated with the vendor and possible funding from remaining Beach Area Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funds. City Manager Chavarria noted there are approximately \$1,000,000 in remaining CRA funds and commented on Staff efforts to extend the Beach CRA to retroactively reallocate those funds.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on his viewpoint and input from the community regarding the Garage and its functions as both a garage and an iconic public art structure. He remarked on the need to address the lighting, noted the financial contributions of Barrier Island residents, and expounded on the importance of the City maintaining assets.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Rogers confirmed that outside counsel approved by the Commission in November 2024 would provide information related to the lighting and screening warranty installed on the Garage. Mr. Rogers confirmed the eighteen (18) month timeline included in this presentation for replacement lighting. Commissioner Glassman noted the ability of the City to be on a parallel track to replace Garage lighting while pursuing related litigation. He noted the opportunity to receive input from the Beach Business Improvement District (BBID) regarding moving forward and ensuring the Garage functions as initially designed.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Rogers said the Garage and lighting cost was approximately \$40,000,000. He explained his understanding that the Parking Fund provided approximately \$13,000,000, and the Beach CRA funded the balance. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on the high costs and discussed finding an alternative to beautify the Garage.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his recollection of the history associated with construction of the Garage, including being wrapped in a decorative feature. Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to follow the procurement process, the need to address Garage decorative concerns, and the availability of remaining CRA funds. He expounded on his perspective.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his understanding that CRA funds could not be spent on repairs, only on new construction and requested Staff confirm.

Commissioner Herbst responded to Commissioner Glassman's earlier comment, stating that the Beach CRA was in place for twenty-five (25) years, and the growth in property values at the beach remained. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Rogers introduced outside counsel Gary L. Brown, Esq., Construction Department Chair at Kelley Kronenberg, P.A. Mr. Brown explained his qualifications, background, and efforts in conjunction with current and former Staff members to determine whether the City could pursue those responsible for the current screening and lighting installed on the Garage. He said related research and investigations are ongoing and would present results to the Commission at a future Commission Meeting.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the Commission's understanding that legal efforts on behalf of the City were ongoing. Deputy City Attorney D'Wayne Spence confirmed outreach to the previous law firm that indicated no progress. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman confirmed the need to move forward. Mr. Brown confirmed he would obtain related records and move forward. Mayor Trantalis remarked on concerns regarding whether the vendor and other responsible parties were put on notice regarding warranties.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on the need to repair the façade before the resolution of legal proceedings and costs. He concurred with Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's comments regarding addressing the façade with another type of decorative amenity, which would qualify for CRA funding versus repairing the lighting.

Mayor Trantalis concurred with Commissioner Glassman's remarks regarding determining costs for screen and lighting repairs and discussed how the City should put forth its Request for Proposals (RFP). He cited examples, discussed related information, and noted Commissioner Sturman's suggestion to use another decorative amenity for the Garage.

Mayor Trantalis recognized William Brown, 112 N. Birch Road, and Central Beach Alliance (CBA) President. Mr. Brown discussed his support of ensuring the Garage is iconic and cited examples.

**BUS-2** [24-0170](#)

New River Crossing Update Part IV - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Chavarria provided an overview of this Agenda item. Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility (TAM) Department Director,

confirmed this Agenda item represents BDO's ongoing updates to keep the Commission informed on efforts to develop a tunnel as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the New River Crossing (Project) and to receive Commission feedback.

Umer Yaqub, BDO Managing Director, narrated a presentation entitled *City Commission Project Update*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Yaqub confirmed that discussions are ongoing regarding having a commuter rail station in Fort Lauderdale separate from the Brightline Station. Commissioner Sturman confirmed that was his understanding. Mr. Yaqub noted his understanding that the Broward County Board of County Commissioners (County Commission) had engaged a consultant to work through low and mid-level bridge options as the LPA for the Project. Mayor Trantalis noted that Broward County Assistant County Administrator Kevin Kelleher could provide additional information.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Tom John, BDO USA, P.C. Mr. John narrated the *Indicative Project Development Stages* portion of the presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. John confirmed that there are different security requirements and protocols associated with a commuter rail and Brightline, which is the reason they are discussed as separate entities. The passenger streams are kept separate. Commissioner Sturman remarked on his experience regarding Brightline security requirements, which are similar to airport security requirements. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst questioned how BDO quantifies intangible qualitative costs to the community, such as a bridge's negative impact on the community west of the railway tracks. Further comment and discussion ensued. John explained that the analysis and determinations will be based on comparisons and assumptions of other places, some of which will be subjective and cited examples. Commissioner Herbst hoped that the BDO Report would clarify and illustrate related source data.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson provided his viewpoint on this Agenda item.



In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Rogers confirmed he would work with the Information Technology Services (ITS) Department Staff and provide Commission Members with a map illustrating impacted intersections with a tunnel.

Mr. Rogers provided an update on BDO and the next steps moving forward. Mayor Trantalis confirmed. Mr. Rogers confirmed Staff has adequate information to apply for a RAISE grant and requested Commission direction. Mayor Trantalis confirmed.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the timeline for continued study of a tunnel option should Broward County determine it would move forward with a bridge as the LPA, Mr. Rogers explained his understanding of the Broward Commission's actions today to utilize its existing contracts to continue the conceptual design of a bridge as the LPA.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his understanding of the County Commission's action today to move forward with \$2,000,000 in funding for a design and environmental study to assess bridge options. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the timeline related to Staff working with BDO and commented on concerns regarding the procurement process. In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, City Manager Chavarria explained related information and said that the City modeled its contract with BDO after a West Palm Beach contract. Commissioner Herbst said the West Palm Beach contract had no similarities to BDO's scope of work with the City and reiterated his concerns regarding the procurement process. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, Linda Short, Finance Department Director, explained the Chief Procurement Officer determined that the City could piggyback consulting services for a tunnel with BDO on the West Palm Beach contract for consulting services for a Police Headquarters (West Palm Beach Contract). Commissioner Herbst pointed out that the projects were different and the determinations in the consulting services for those two (2) projects were different.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, City Auditor Reilly said the Audit Department has yet to review this procurement and said the cost associated with the BDO consulting contract is within the threshold of City Manager Chavarria's signature authority. Commissioner Herbst

clarified that the City Manager's signature authority is separate from the applicability of piggybacking a contract, which does not relate to Procurement Code requirements. Mr. Rogers said the initial services for the West Palm Beach Contract were for redevelopment and strategic planning. Commissioner Herbst requested input regarding how redevelopment and strategic planning relate to the viability of a tunnel versus a bridge for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis said the Commission approved the BDO contract. Commissioner Herbst remarked on Staff's initial presentation of information related to that Agenda item that the Commission relies upon. He discussed concerns regarding the underlying information not reflecting the context of the existing contract and reiterated his concerns with the procurement process. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Rogers explained Staff efforts regarding grant applications, commented on other possible funding opportunities, including submitting a Letter of Interest to the US Department of Transportation Build America Bureau (USDOT BAB), and explained related information. Mayor Trantalis remarked that these efforts would weigh on the financial viability of a tunnel, which the Commission is working to determine. Mayor Trantalis confirmed Staff should move forward with funding opportunity efforts.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Rogers explained the purpose of a Letter of Interest from the City to the USDOT BAB is to communicate and memorialize the City's interest in funding opportunities and financing mechanisms. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman requested that Staff provide a summary of the County Commission's actions today on this issue. BDO should ensure that the County Commission is informed of BDO's analysis. Commissioner Sturman remarked on BDO's presentation to him as an individual Commissioner, his support of a tunnel as the LPA for the New River Crossing. He noted additional questions regarding aspects of tunnel construction under the New River. Commissioner Sturman noted that Brightline and Florida East Coast Railway (FECR) commuter rail both support a bridge or a tunnel for the New River Crossing and inquired about the position of FECR freight rail traffic. Mr. Rogers said FECR would meet with BDO and Staff and provide feedback on the design when available for review. Mr. Yaqub confirmed that FECR has no bridge or tunnel preference for the New River Crossing.

Commissioner Sturman commented on the construction of tunnel portals

under the commuter rail station of the cross-streets of the New River's south side illustrated in the presentation. Mr. Yaqub explained related details and noted Brightline would prefer a station length of one thousand feet (1000').

Commissioner Sturman commented on the possibility of having an underground platform station without open-cut construction. Mr. Yaqub confirmed and explained this would avoid impacting the existing FECR right-of-way and the Brightline Station. BDO is currently working to secure subterranean data related to pilings underneath the existing Brightline Station and geotechnical data underneath the FECR rights-of-way to assess how subterranean tunnel construction can proceed. Commissioner Sturman noted the importance of that assessment.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Yaqub commented on the impact of the SE 7th Street corridor illustrated in the presentation and remarked on alternatives to alleviate. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his meeting and related discussions with the contractor and operator of the Port of Miami Tunnel. He noted their invitation to Commission Members to visit the Port of Miami Tunnel to gain additional information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

**BUS-3** [24-0188](#)

Draft FY 2025 Commission Priorities and Themes - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director. Ms. Reece reviewed the Draft FY 2025 City Commission Priorities and Themes (Commission Priorities) document and requested additional Commission feedback and modifications. Ms. Reece discussed the next steps in the annual budget process to ensure the FY 2025 Budget aligns with Commission Priorities.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed the storage and securing of firearms would be part of educational efforts. Mayor Trantalis commented on discussions with Victor Gilla, owner of Founders Shooting Club and Apex Shooting Center (F&A) while attending a fundraising event with Commissioner Herbst. Mayor Trantalis remarked on discussions with Mr. Gilla regarding F&A offering free firearm safety courses. Mayor Trantalis directed Staff to coordinate with F&A to offer gun safety education opportunities in neighborhoods and schools. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed the F&A firearms safety course would include proper storage of firearms and safety concerns. Commissioner Herbst said that F&A originated in Boston, Massachusetts, and offers a Gun, Accident, Assault and Suicide Prevention (GAASP) Program developed in coordination with the Boston Police Commissioner. Commissioner Herbst recommended working with the School Board of Broward County and Police Chief Schultz to coordinate gun safety education efforts in schools to address suicide and gun violence.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted one of her Commission Priorities is to address city-wide gun violence in partnership with Cities United and said that this firearms safety training would be an additional grassroots opportunity to address gun violence. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on concerns related to anticipated legislation from the State of Florida (State) regarding homelessness. He directed Staff and lobbyists representing the City to communicate the City's viewpoint to the State Legislature and State Agencies. Mayor Trantalis discussed how the City works to address homeless individuals, cited examples, and remarked on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on his understanding of future State legislation addressing homelessness and said homelessness is the top issue for constituents. He noted the need to collaborate closely with the State Legislature, Governor Ron DeSantis, and other stakeholders and expounded on his viewpoint.

Commissioner Herbst concurred with Commissioner Glassman's comments, cited examples of homelessness concerns in District 1, and remarked on related information and his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Herbst remarked that the City cannot build its way out of the homelessness problem and discussed innovative ways to address housing needs that will require Zoning Code density modifications. He expounded on related information and cited examples of how this is addressed in other areas of the country.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on challenges related to changing the Zoning Code, citing vacation rentals, discussed related concerns, and cited examples.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on previous efforts as a member of the

Broward Housing Partnership to establish a land trust to use land in perpetuity for affordable housing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street. Mr. Inserra discussed his viewpoint regarding the need for dredging to be included in Commission Goals and Priorities.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on prior Commission efforts to dredge canals and community feedback. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman noted that dredging was a topic at the Commission Goals and Priorities Workshop and should have been included on the Commission Goals and Priorities. He remarked on the opportunity for the City to obtain federal matching grant funding for canal dredging. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis confirmed canal dredging would be added to the Commission's priorities.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Maggie Hunt, 1307 SW 4th Court. Ms. Hunt discussed her viewpoint regarding this Agenda item and the importance of including LauderTrail in Commission Goals and Priorities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman discussed the need to include bike lanes in a bridge or tunnel for the New River Crossing.

**BUS-4** [24-0168](#)

Update on Flood Recovery - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, explained information regarding this Agenda item that provides a high-level overview and an update of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recovery efforts associated with the April 12, 2023, flood event.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jonathan Clark, Vice President of Thompson Consulting. Mr. Clark reviewed information regarding FEMA's requirement for the demolition of City Hall. Mr. Clark narrated a presentation entitled *FEMA Project Status for Fort Lauderdale April 2023 Flood Event*.

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jason Fawcett, Vice President of Operations, AshBritt. Mr. Fawcett continued narrating the presentation

focused on the phases of flood mitigation efforts in and around City Hall.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Chavarria confirmed all useable furniture and equipment had been removed from City Hall and is in offsite storage.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Chavarria discussed information regarding the timeline for the demolition of City Hall that is anticipated in August 2024.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Melissa Doyle, Public Works Department Program Manager. Ms. Doyle explained that AshBritt is addressing the removal of hazardous materials at City Hall before demolition. Thompson Consulting is assisting the City with the FEMA 428 Process (428 Process) that requires FEMA approval to allow the City to move forward with demolition of City Hall. Ms. Doyle explained the steps involved with moving forward with demolition.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Doyle reiterated the anticipated August - September 2024 timeline for City Hall demolition that is dependent on FEMA approval of the 428 Process. Commissioner Glassman remarked on ways to improve the visual aspects at this location.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question regarding demolition costs, Ms. Doyle explained factors that require floor-by-floor demolition due to building construction and explained related information.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to pay homage and memorialize the City Hall Building and expounded on his viewpoint, including working with the Historical Society. Further comment and discussion ensued.

**BUS-5** [24-0105](#)

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

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a presentation entitled *Laudertrail Update*.

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

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his perspective regarding the portion of Laudertrail between Holiday Park and George English Park having bike sharrows. He noted the intent of Laudertrail is for residents and visitors to

have unobstructed travel without vehicle traffic. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sturman concurred. Mr. Rogers confirmed and continued narrating the presentation.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on discussions with District 2 stakeholders in areas planned for Lauderdale (Stakeholders) regarding pedestrian safety and connectivity needs and cited examples. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding Staff ensuring coordinated and ongoing Stakeholder involvement, Mr. Rogers concurred on the need to incorporate Stakeholder involvement in the Development Review Committee (DRC) Process now that the Lauderdale has reached sixty percent (60%) design phase. Commissioner Glassman reiterated the importance of this effort, cited examples, and commented on recent meetings with FDOT and Stakeholders regarding roadway and aesthetic design along Sunrise Boulevard and at the Gateway. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question regarding plans for crossing Federal Highway at the former Sears Town location, Mayor Trantalis noted discussions with the developer regarding donating a pedestrian bridge. Commissioner Sturman remarked on an opportunity for a pedestrian tunnel. Further comment and discussion ensued.

**BUS-6** [24-0206](#)

Lawsuit Challenging § 112.3144, F.S., Form 6 Requirements -  
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to allow both Commission Members and members of the public to have an opportunity to provide input on joining a lawsuit challenging the requirement for municipal elected officials in the State of Florida (State) to file a Form 6. Further comment and discussion ensued. There was a Commission consensus in support of full financial disclosures and transparency for municipal elected officials. The City will not participate in legal action associated with this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charlotte Rodstrom, 66 Nurmi Drive. Ms. Rodstrom provided comments on this Agenda item.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item and cited examples, including setting thresholds and unintended consequences. Commissioner Glassman concurred.

City Attorney Thomas Ansbro clarified details related to this Agenda item.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Daphnee Sainvil, Government Affairs & Economic Development Division Manager, said there has yet to be a discussion at the State legislative level to tweak legislation related to this Agenda item. Further comment and discussion ensued.

### **CITY COMMISSION REPORTS**

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

Commissioner Herbst requested Commission input regarding the request by Eugenia Ellis, President & Chief Executive Officer at Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Inc., to install a sign on the top of the Henry E. Kinney Tunnel referencing Las Olas Riverwalk. Mayor Trantalis noted the need to circulate this opportunity to area stakeholders, including the Riverwalk Trust and the Downtown Civic Association, and commented on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Herbst remarked on the opportunity to combine a mural referencing Riverwalk.

Commissioner Herbst discussed concerns regarding Walk-On items placed on Commission Regular Meeting Agendas without the opportunity for Commission discussion, noting the need to ensure transparency and inform the public. Mayor Trantalis noted that he announces Walk-On items at the beginning of Commission Regular Meetings. Commissioner Herbst recommended the Commission consider adopting a policy to address this concern.

Commissioner Herbst recommended the Commission adopt a Commission Code of Conduct and decorum governing itself and interaction with the public and Staff. He cited the example of the St. Johns County Code of Conduct and confirmed he would forward a copy to each Commission Member. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst discussed the City's reduction of restrictions regarding where sexual predators can reside in the City based on input from a prior City Attorney, which have impacted the location of homeless sexual predators and negatively impacting District 1 residents. Commissioner Herbst expounded on related details and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Herbst requested the Commission consider reverting to the previous Ordinance. Deputy City Attorney D'Wayne Spence clarified information related to the amended Ordinance and expounded on related details.



In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Deputy City Attorney Spence explained the reason for the amended Ordinance based on advice from the previous City Attorney. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed a meeting with OIC of South Florida (OIC SFL) representatives in District 3 and its offering worker training in banking and cyber security, in addition to employment assistance, and other services. She expounded on related information and other assistance.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed the Infinite Scholars Scholarship Fair held at the L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell Community Center and expounded on information regarding educational opportunities. A short video of the event was shown.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman commented on participating in a roundtable discussion at the Good Jobs Great Cities Initiative meeting that focused on educational and career path opportunities and expounded on related efforts and opportunities. She remarked on padel ball recreational opportunities planned for Mills Pond Park. Commissioner Glassman noted similar plans for padel courts at Snyder Park.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman commented on meetings with counsel regarding Rock Pitt Lake in District 3 and will keep the Commission updated.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed the efforts of Staff and Florida Power and Light to address street lighting needs in District 3.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on concerns regarding removing a heritage tree on the northeast corner of Oakland Park Boulevard and the Intracoastal Bridge. Chris Cooper, Development Services Department Manager, explained that Code does not distinguish between a tree removal permit for a parcel with a pending development, a proposed development, or any consideration of a future development. Mr. Cooper explained the process when a property owner wants to remove a tree at their property, including a permit application. Commissioner Glassman noted his dismay and the need to address this issue and expounded on his perspective. Mr. Cooper commented on the location of planned development in this area and related information. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Cooper confirmed the applicant contributed \$31,400 to the Tree Preservation Fund and expounded on Staff efforts related to developing a Tree Ordinance. Commissioner Glassman expounded on his viewpoint

regarding the need to protect heritage trees. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman discussed neighborhood concerns regarding the VCA Walk for Animals due to early morning noise issues, cited concerns and examples, and requested Staff address. City Manager Chavarria confirmed and cited examples of what would be allowed going forward.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on Governor DeSantis' homelessness initiatives. He confirmed the need for Staff to remain focused on this topic as it is the number one concern expressed by residents in emails. Commissioner Glassman acknowledged City efforts to address homelessness. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman noted February is Black History Month and confirmed the importance of the City supporting all related educational opportunities.

Commissioner Sturman commented on the upcoming Noise Ordinance Townhall Meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at South Side School in Hardy Park. He noted that there would be a Tree Ordinance Townhall Meeting later in February 2024 at South Side School.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his participation in a round table discussion with other Broward County Mayors and the new School Board of Broward County Superintendent regarding efforts to redefine schools and education.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on philanthropic contributions by the Florida Panthers Hockey Organization to rehabilitate the War Memorial Stadium. He expounded on similar philanthropic donations from other organizations for families and the community, including developing pickleball courts in the City and development of the Inter Miami Stadium at Lockhart Park. Mayor Trantalis discussed being approached by an interested party to develop indoor pickleball, padel ball, and tennis courts (Courts) in the City, including Mills Pond Park.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Herbst explained details and information regarding previous discussions to build outdoor pickleball courts at the Beach Community Center located in the Galt Ocean Mile area and noted the opportunity to build an indoor pickleball facility at this location only if existing parking remains as requested by the North Beach Merchants Association. Further comment

and discussion ensued regarding an alternative site on North Federal Highway. Mayor Trantalis commented on the need for further discussion and noted the possibility of a public-private partnership. Commissioner Herbst confirmed the amenability of constructing Courts at the Lockhart Community Center Park site. AECOM's sixty percent (60%) design phase site plan is anticipated shortly. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding other possible sites.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding streetlights and traffic lights in areas of District 3, Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman explained traffic lights were previously located at NW 19th Avenue, NW 23rd Avenue, and NW 24th Avenue at Sistrunk Boulevard. She noted the need to reinstall lights at these locations is related to ingress and egress safety concerns at Sistrunk Boulevard. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman said that Transportation and Mobility Department Staff is working with Broward County to address.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

City Manager Chavarria provided an update on an upcoming meeting to redefine Broward County Public Schools. He commented on participating in an upcoming discussion with Broward Health to discuss Dottie Mancini Park in District 1, upcoming Reimagining City Hall meetings, and a panel discussion on aging water infrastructure in Miami.

**MGR-1** [24-0160](#)

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.