

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

1:30 PM

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

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

JOHN C. HERBST Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District 1

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District 2

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District 3

BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District 4

RICKELLE WILLIAMS, 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 1:36 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [25-0351](#)

Introduction of the SizeUp FTL business tool - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Division Manager. Ms. Sainvil provided an overview of this business development tool and introduced a presentation entitled *SizeUp FTL - A New Business Tool (SizeUp FTL)*. Ms. Sainvil said that Mario Ubalde, SizeUp representative, is present virtually to answer any questions.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Sainvil said that the *SizeUp FTL* software is available to the public on the Public Affairs Division's webpage and explained Staff will provide an extensive public outreach program and technical assistance.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Ms. Sainvil provided the initial cost and annual cost. She confirmed there is no cost to the public for accessing this program.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mario Ubalde, SizeUp, explained capabilities included in the *SizeUp FTL* software program modules, which provide the ability for logos and text links.

BUS-2 [25-0188](#)

Presentation - Fortify Lauderdale - (Commission Districts, 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Talal Abi-Karam, Public Works Department Acting Director. Mr. Abi-Karam provided an overview of this Agenda item, which is a continuation of the City's Stormwater Management Improvement Projects that began in 2023.

Mr. Abi-Karam introduced Robert Taylor, Regional Manager, Hazen and Sawyer, Project consultant representative, who narrated a presentation entitled *Phase 2 Neighborhoods Stormwater Management Improvements, City Project No. 12852* (Project).

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

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Taylor confirmed the availability of other detailed neighborhood maps similar to the map included in the presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Taylor discussed stormwater management infrastructure designed to analyze, manage, and accommodate stormwater flow rates during periods of intense rainfall and explained related information. Mr. Abi-Karam explained infrastructure design details for managing extreme rainfall events. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the ability to address extreme rainfall events.

Roberto Betancourt, Public Works Department Division Manager, explained scenarios and aspects of extreme rainfall events over a twenty-four (24) hour period and cited examples. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his understanding. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Taylor confirmed the Project infrastructure could accommodate water flow during a seventy-two (72) hour rainfall event and noted related information, and cited examples.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Taylor confirmed the Project is designed to accommodate ten (10) inches of rain in a twenty-four (24) hour period as anticipated with future climate change. Mayor Trantalis confirmed his understanding.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Taylor confirmed the presentation includes District 3 resident feedback regarding stormwater management level of service (LOS) over the past five (5) to six (6) months. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on District 3 demographics. In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Taylor explained that density data was used in LOS calculations and scoring versus the number of neighbors who provided feedback. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman

remarked on the importance of an accurate number of neighbors providing feedback, explained related details, and cited examples.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his viewpoint regarding LOS calculations for flooded structures that are more impactful to residents versus flooded roadways and cited examples. Commissioner Glassman concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented that resident feedback is subjective and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) feedback is statistical, cited examples, and recommended reliance on FEMA data.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on the importance of an organized, efficient, and reliable process, and equity among all Districts. Mr. Taylor confirmed and cited related examples. Commissioner Sorensen remarked that Commission Members could share nuances of flooding concerns in their respective Districts to adjust prioritization. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on prioritizing neighborhoods without stormwater infrastructure. Vice Mayor Herbst noted pockets of intense flooding in District 1, cited examples that need to be reflected in this modeling, and confirmed the need for Project flexibility. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed the need to specifically identify areas in District 3 experiencing stormwater flooding versus referring to them as "adjoining areas". Mr. Taylor confirmed.

CITY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commission Members announced recent and upcoming events and expounded on related information.

Vice Mayor Herbst discussed concerns regarding water billing errors experienced by District 1 residents and commented on the need to ensure uniform billing for small and large multifamily buildings. In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question regarding multifamily building water tier billing, Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager, explained that an equivalent residential unit factor is included in multifamily building water billing calculations and cited an example of associated calculations that include conversion factors. Vice Mayor Herbst discussed his understanding. Ms. Grant confirmed that Staff would forward Vice Mayor Herbst related information.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman shared input from a recipient of the City's homeless social services who thanked her for the Commission's

homelessness initiatives. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed this individual is now employed and has housing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on her attendance at the District 3 Quarterly Civic Association President's Meeting, which included discussions about preparing for the upcoming hurricane season, encouraging residents to participate in Community Emergency Response Team training (CERT), and the importance of cybersecurity. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman acknowledged everyone involved in the Rock Island Neighborhood Police Roll Call Event and discussed related efforts and opportunities.

Commissioner Glassman noted his participation in a panel discussion regarding the importance of a balance on the barrier island for development and redevelopment, including small boutique structures, large structures, and historic preservation. Commissioner Glassman remarked on the opening of the NE 12th Street extension in Middle River Terrace. Commissioner Glassman remarked on progress in the area of the Las Olas Bridge and the Las Olas Marina and cited examples. Commissioner Glassman requested a moment of silence during tonight's Commission Regular Meeting in remembrance of Richard Ellis.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed his recent meeting with Broward County Film Commissioner Sandy Lighterman and provided updates on local film activities. Commissioner Sorensen cited examples and inquired about associated State legislative initiatives. Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Division Manager, provided a legislative update and confirmed that Staff would pursue additional efforts during the 2026 State legislative session. City Manager Williams remarked on Staff initiatives to implement a film permit application process, which would include a nominal fee. Commissioner Glassman concurred with Commissioner Sorensen's viewpoint in support of pursuing local film opportunities and remarked on the related history and his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Sorensen confirmed that the Edgewood Neighborhood fared well during a recent rain event as a result of recent infrastructure improvements.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager, provided an update on District 4 Parks Bond land acquisition efforts for the Lauderdale Isles Community

Center (LICC), noting the neighborhood's perspective that the LICC needs to accommodate approximately eighty (80) individuals. Mr. Rogers explained information associated with funding shortfalls and efforts to address funding needs with District 4 Park Impact Fees. Commissioner Sorensen concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Rogers explained prior Commission discussion and direction regarding allocating each District's Park Impact Fees. Commissioner Sorensen requested Commission support for reallocating District 4 Park Impact Fees to the LICC. Mayor Trantalis concurred.

Commissioner Sorensen explained the need for a lift station at the LICC and expounded on related information. Mr. Rogers confirmed he would work and coordinate with Staff to reallocate related funding. In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Commissioner Sorensen confirmed that funding would come from District 4 Park Impact Fees.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Trantalis announced recent and upcoming events and expounded on related information.

Mayor Trantalis acknowledged the efforts of Police and Fire-Rescue Department personnel that ensured the success of the Tortuga Music Festival.

Mayor Trantalis noted the agreement the City reached with Broward Health that resulted in reopening Dottie Mancini Park in District 1. Mayor Trantalis commented on numerous upcoming Navy Fleet Week events in the City.

Mayor Trantalis requested Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence provide an update on the status and proposed plans for the One Stop Shop parcel and confirmed the need to discuss at an upcoming Commission Conference Meeting.

Mayor Trantalis discussed feedback received from representatives of the Museum of Discovery and Science and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) regarding putting an end to extended hours for serving alcohol on Himmarshee Street and remarked on related concerns.

Mayor Trantalis requested Commission input regarding a request for the City to sponsor the *Am Israel Chai Symphonic Music Night* on May 21, 2025, at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in recognition

of the 77th Anniversary of Israel. Mayor Trantalis requested Commission Member feedback and noted there was no request for a monetary contribution. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis confirmed there was no objection to this request.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

MGR-1 [25-0267](#)

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

City Manager Williams explained that Staff would conduct a Spring Break After-Action Meeting and results would be presented to the Commission. City Manager Williams discussed planning details for the upcoming hurricane season, which will be presented to the Commission at the May 6, 2025, Conference Meeting.

City Manager Williams confirmed a Walk-On Agenda item at tonight's Regular Meeting regarding delegating authority to the City Manager to approve a co-sponsorship of the Florida Panthers 2025 Playoffs Baptist Health IcePlex Events and permitting the use of City-owned utility poles for the display and placement of Event banners for a period longer than thirty (30) days.

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION - 4:30 P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE

[25-0440](#)

The City Commission shall meet privately to discuss pending litigation, pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, concerning the following matter(s):

Tramon Landers v. City of Fort Lauderdale Case No.:CACE 23-005565 (09)

City of Fort Lauderdale, et al. v. Terminal Ventures, LLC, et al. Case No.:22-011787(05)

Mayor Trantalis announced the commencement and details regarding the Executive Closed-Door Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.