

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 4, 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 1:38 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Vice Mayor John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven 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

COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

[25-1089](#)

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

*Education Advisory Board (EAB)
October 16, 2025*

Communication to City Commission (Communication)

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

City Manager Rickelle Williams provided an overview of this Communication. The Fire-Rescue Department (Fire-Rescue), through the EAB, is recommending a partnership with the School Board of Broward County (School Board) to facilitate a public safety training facility at one (1) of its school sites.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Janet Gualtieri, EAB Chair. Chair Gualtieri noted that Fire-Rescue staff shared a presentation regarding a partnership between the City and the School Board. Chair Gualtieri confirmed the EAB's support of this recommendation. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Chair Gualtieri said a specific School Board site was not requested and commented on related details.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michael Owen, Fire-Rescue Assistant Chief. Assistant Chief Owen remarked that the School Board has offered Seagull Alternative High School (Seagull HS) and confirmed that the site would work.

Mayor Trantalis commented on utilizing a former Fire-Rescue training facility adjacent to Fire Station 29 in Poinsettia Heights. Vice Mayor Herbst noted that the Fire Union had returned that property to the City due to the high rehabilitation costs.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Assistant Chief Owen said that costs and partnership details for utilizing Seagull HS had not been determined, confirmed that Fire-Rescue is eager to investigate. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Williams confirmed that a new public safety training facility would be utilized by both Police and the Fire-Rescue. Mayor Trantalis commented on costs and the need to pursue the most cost-effective alternative for a training facility site.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fire-Rescue Chief Stephen Gollan. Chief Gollan remarked that both Police and Fire accreditation reviews have consistently identified the lack of a dedicated training facility as a critical deficiency. He detailed the operational needs for comprehensive training, including classroom instruction and hands-on, scenario-based exercises. Chief Gollan emphasized the broader opportunity for a new facility to support recruitment and promote careers in public safety. He explained information associated with the School Board's suggestion to use the Seagull HS facility and remarked on next steps.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed his support for this opportunity. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Chief Gollan confirmed possible revenue streams from other agencies.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Chief Gollan confirmed that the facility would combine both Police and Fire into one (1) centralized training location. He discussed current training efforts and locations. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Williams said that a training facility would be advantageous, but it would not limit us from continuing to be accredited.

Mayor Trantalis noted his understanding that the new Police Department Headquarters would have a training facility.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fort Lauderdale Police Department Chief William Schultz. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Chief Schultz explained details of training available at the new Police

Department Headquarters and discussed additional emergency training needs and cited examples.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding next steps, City Manager Williams noted continued discussions with the School Board regarding a potential partnership for a new public safety training facility.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [25-1102](#)

Prospect Lake Clean Water Center Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Albert Carbon, Utility Services Department Director. Mr. Carbon introduced Joseph Padron, 3501 W. Prospect Road, Prospect Lake Clean Water Center (Project) Manager. Mr. Padron narrated a presentation entitled *Prospect Lake Clean Water Center Update*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Padron explained how the Project will manage Per-and Poly-Fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from the well.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence confirmed positive progress with platting and noted related information.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Padron confirmed the 2026 timeline for the Project to come online and explained the clean water capabilities that will serve both the City and surrounding communities currently serviced by the City.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Padron provided an update on the status of the enabling works needed for the Project. Mr. Padron said the most critical element, the installation of the forty-eight inch (48') pipeline connecting the Project to the existing water distribution system, has been completed and explained related information.

BUS-2 [25-1099](#)

Fort Lauderdale Police Department Headquarters Update: Phase II and Construction Status - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Anthony Fajardo, Development Services Department Director. Mr. Fajardo provided an overview of this Agenda

item and confirmed the accuracy of the information in the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Mr. Fajardo clarified AECOM's financial responsibilities related to remediation issues and provided an update. Mr. Fajardo explained the City's position is for AECOM to fully cover one hundred percent (100%) of the Phase One deflection issues and any Phase Two corrective work. Those terms are currently being negotiated through the Office of the City Attorney (CAO). The City maintains that the contract's two percent (2%) liability limitation should not apply to these two (2) structural issues. Mr. Fajardo confirmed that AECOM has begun ongoing structural monitoring, with baseline and follow-up measurements showing no movement to date. AECOM has also agreed to continue this monitoring for approximately fifteen (15) years.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Williams confirmed efforts are on track to remedy construction defects. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Fajardo noted the anticipated move-in date is February 2026. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-3 [25-1056](#)

**International Swimming Hall of Fame Project Updates -
(Commission District 2)**

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Grant, Special Advisor to the City Manager. Ms. Grant provided background and update information regarding the International Swimming Hall of Fame (HOF) Project (HOF Project).

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mario Caprini, Hall of Fame Partners, LLC (HOF). Mr. Caprini noted the focus of this update is on the financial structure of the HOF Project, stating that the primary goal is to leverage private-sector investment to deliver this public facility with a net-zero financial impact to the City. Mr. Caprini narrated the first portion of a revised presentation entitled *ISHOF Redevelopment Updates Financial Closing Package - Phase 2 - November 2025* (Project).

A revised copy of the presentation is attached to these Meeting Minutes.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michelle S. Chung, Hensel Phelps Design Manager. Ms. Chung narrated the portion of the presentation entitled *Construction and Permit Updates*.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Chung said that the HOFB grandstand shade structure will be sun-deflective, the exact material and design are being evaluated and explained related goals and information.

Mr. Caprini narrated the next portion of the presentation entitled *Project Financials*. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding how a smaller building could cost approximately fifty percent (50%) more than previously estimated, Mr. Caprini explained the primary cost driver is a redesign that increased the proportion of leasable square footage, improving building efficiency even as overall size was reduced. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Matt Krstolic, Hensel Phelps Operations Manager. Mr. Krstolic explained that the total cost now combines both core construction and tenant improvement (TI) costs and remarked on the waterfall revenue structure.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the waterfall revenue structure, Mr. Caprini said that all initial revenue streams are first paid to the City, followed by an additional proposed \$4,700,000 that would go exclusively to the City. When those thresholds are met, remaining revenues are split fifty-fifty (50/50) between the City and HOFB. Mayor Trantalis continued to express concern about the substantial cost increase for a smaller building. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding whether there is a square footage differential shown in the Phase One square footage and in the current proposal, Mr. Caprini confirmed the difference but did not have the specific figures available. He noted that detailed square-footage breakdowns exist across multiple spreadsheets and would need to be referenced to provide exact numbers, and said that detailed cost and square footage information had been submitted to the City. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis noted that some commercial leases include provisions requiring tenants to share revenue above their base rent with the City. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding whether that shared revenue is separate from, or inclusive of, the amortized monthly payments for TI build-out costs, Mr. Caprini clarified that the Phase One closing cost of \$86,000,000 does not include TIs, except for the Ocean Rescue area, which was fully funded with TIs. The remaining TIs are estimated at roughly \$40,000,000 for future Phases

and are not included in the initial Phase One figure. Mr. Caprini explained information related to TIs for additional Phases.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on his understanding regarding Project costs and the delta in square footage. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding Project costs, Ms. Grant noted that PFM Asset Management LLC's (PFM) financial analysis presentation will provide information regarding the difference between the current and prior Project costs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis pointed out concerns regarding a larger delta in Phase 2 and remarked that the City is paying for TIs for businesses that could go out of business prior to the City being made whole. Mr. Caprini confirmed his tenant vetting as a minority investor to mitigate those concerns and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen expressed significant concerns about the financial risk to the City under the proposed financial structure, which requires the City to make an annual payment of approximately \$13,600,000 to the lender through HOFP, regardless of occupancy levels or lease revenue performance. He emphasized that this financial exposure is substantially different from other City projects in which payments are more closely tied to actual revenue generation and occupancy. The main concern is that regardless of leasing or expected visitor traffic, the City would be fully responsible for the annual debt obligation. Mr. Caprini noted that Phase One lender loans have been closed and discussed information associated with guaranteeing Phase Two financing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Herbst discussed legal concerns regarding financing security interests on government-owned property, noting that such arrangements are not permitted under the Florida Constitution. He noted other financing mechanisms such as a Certificate of Participation. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Vice Mayor Herbst explained there are ways to structure loans on property that do not pledge an underlying security interest in the property. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Vice Mayor Herbst discussed his viewpoint regarding increased revenue sharing and concerns regarding the City being the debt guarantor. Vice Mayor Herbst said that the benefits of having an aquarium provided a level of comfort, cited examples, and expounded on his viewpoint. Further

comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Herbst noted his concerns regarding burdening taxpayers with loan obligations over the life of the Comprehensive Agreement (CA). Commissioner Sorensen agreed and expounded on his viewpoint.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Williams confirmed that in 2025, the Aquatic Complex experienced a \$2,160,000 annual deficit. Mayor Trantalis concurred with Vice Mayor Herbst and Commissioner Sorensen's concerns and remarked on the significant increase to the annual master lease payment.

Mr. Caprini explained the reason for increased Project costs listed in this presentation was due to the inclusion of the aquarium that required a redesign of the entire Project and expounded on related information. Vice Mayor Herbst reiterated that his support for this Project relied upon the inclusion of the aquarium and expounded on his perspective.

Mr. Caprini discussed how the aquarium will make the Project financially viable, expounded on Project efforts and how the community benefits from tenant improvements. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on his concerns regarding the Project's financial structure and cited examples.

Commissioner Glassman expressed overall confidence in the Project and explained his viewpoint. He noted the broader transformation underway along the beach area, stating that this Project is part of a coordinated, impactful redevelopment effort. He noted that tenant improvements and square-footage allocations in Phase Two had shifted from Phases Three and Four, resulting in a higher Phase Two cost estimate. Commissioner Glassman pointed out earlier concerns raised by the swimming and diving communities, which prompted the City and the developers to significantly revise the Project design and added major public-benefit enhancements and cited examples.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the large number of tenant lease commitments and the development team's ability to efficiently adapt the Project design, and said that the updated Project offers strong value, improved public amenities, a solid tenant mix, and support from the aquatic community, which justifies moving forward.

Commissioner Glassman noted that the aquarium component is expected to be a major revenue-driver and that the City will be the owner of all improvements after thirty (30) years. Mr. Caprini

discussed how the City will benefit financially.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, it was confirmed that the East Building is part of Phase Three. Mayor Trantalis remarked on costs. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Chung explained that a portion of the Phase Four costs for construction and tenant improvements have been reallocated into Phase Two. While some of the changes are a shift in timing, there is also an underlying cost increase. PFM's financial analysis will demonstrate how Projected revenue offsets help balance higher Phase Two costs. Mayor Trantalis noted it would have been helpful for the Commission to have had a detailed explanation of those reallocations and expounded on his viewpoint.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding staff's recommendation to this Commission, Ms. Grant suggested first allowing PFM to present their analysis, which would clarify the revenue and financial structure and illustrate multiple scenarios.

Vice Mayor Herbst reiterated the importance of understanding how revenue performance affects the City's financial risk and potential revenue opportunities. He noted the anticipated Project revenue will pay debt service. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Kevin Plenzler, PFM. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Plenzler explained PFM is a financial advisor to municipalities and counties and provided related examples. Mr. Plenzler narrated a presentation entitled *HOFP Redevelopment Review*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Plenzler confirmed the largest Project cost increase, approximately \$28,000,000, is tied to TIs for the aquarium, and said that the City would fund those construction costs upfront. The Aquarium operator will repay the City through its generated revenue. Ms. Grant confirmed.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding what revenue sources make up the City's \$4,759,00 Project revenue, Mr. Plenzler explained that the initial revenue stream, estimated at approximately \$8,000,000, is base lease revenue from tenants at a ninety-five percent (95%) occupancy. The second revenue is from tenant revenue-sharing agreements and other peninsula income sources such as dive events, naming rights, dock activation fees, and

similar activities. The City receives the first \$4,750,000 of that second revenue pool each year before any revenue is shared with partners. Mr. Plenzler confirmed the revenue streams are not fixed amounts and are subject to fluctuation. Commissioner Sorensen remarked on his understanding, commented on fluctuating occupancy, and noted that reduced occupancy would result in increased Project subsidizing by the City. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented that the success of this Project hinges on the aquarium and questioned why the City is underwriting its construction. Ms. Grant clarified that the financial structure remains consistent with how it was originally developed. The City is guaranteeing the financing, but not borrowing the money directly, which enables HOFPP to secure financing.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the financial scenario showing a twenty-five percent (25%) revenue reduction and questioned how many tenants are included in that model, noting that the key revenue contributors appear to be the aquarium and the restaurant. Mr. Plenzler confirmed and explained related details.

City Manager Williams noted there are two (2) confirmed signed leases and additional Letters of Intent (LOIs). Ms. Grant provided details of the two (2) signed leases and the LOIs, discussed additional types of Project revenue, and offered her perspective that the Project could experience a blend of outcomes, which could create larger financial swings for the City. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding who holds the naming-rights related to one (1) LOI, Ms. Grant said that the LOI is with an entity named Aquacal and noted the principals listed on Sunbiz.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding ways to reduce the City's financial exposure, Ms. Grant outlined several potential strategies: shift (TI) costs to HOFPP who would collect the associated rent, rather than the City; renegotiate revenue-sharing terms, adjusting post-Phase One revenue allocations during years when the City faces negative cash flow, allowing a greater share of revenue to flow to the City to offset losses; or, modify Project scope to reduce overall cost and risk exposure. Commissioner Sorensen remarked on the opportunity for Ms. Grant and HOFPP to renegotiate and reduce the financial risk to the City.

Commissioner Glassman said that at this point, he is not in agreement with implementing the strategies discussed by Ms. Grant. In response

to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the impact of those strategies on the financial structure and the Project, Ms. Grant explained how those strategies would impact the Comprehensive Agreement (CA). The existing CA established a phased approach to the Project. The City has already closed on Phase One, which includes major public improvements, such as the seawall and the Ocean Rescue facility, and the City is committed to the associated master lease payment. Each subsequent Phase requires mutual agreement on scope, cost, and associated impact on the master lease payment, giving the City a checkpoint before advancing further. Ms. Grant noted that proceeding with the next Phase as proposed or implementing revisions would require an amendment to the CA and explained related details. Mr. Caprini discussed his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman noted aspects of earlier Projections for the original Project iteration proposal that included a \$11,000,000 master lease cap and a negative \$1,100,000 net impact to the City.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding whether the current Project financial structure appears more favorable. Ms. Grant said that the current model is a financial improvement for the City. The updated revenue assumptions rely more heavily on performance-based components, such as naming rights and revenue sharing.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the impact of renegotiations, Ms. Grant remarked on an estimated one (1) month timeline associated with only changing the financial structure of the Project presented today. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Richard Waltzer, Broward County Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Commissioner. Mr. Waltzer confirmed his support for the aquarium and expounded on related benefits and cited examples.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Peloquin, 2510 NE 12th Court. Ms. Peloquin spoke in support of this Agenda item, discussed her viewpoint and items of importance.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Carla Albano, 6051 N. Ocean Drive, Hollywood. Ms. Albano spoke in support of this Agenda item and discussed related information.

Vice Mayor Herbst discussed locations contemplated for the Ocean Rescue Facility, confirmed his support of this iteration of the Project,

and noted that the aquarium should serve as an educational institution.

Mayor Trantalis acknowledged the efforts of HOFPP and their community outreach, expounded on his positive perspective regarding this iteration of the Project, stating that it is best for the City as it provides the optimal final product. Mayor Trantalis said that the Project should move forward.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding the next steps, City Manager Williams remarked on Commission feedback. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman requested additional clarity regarding Commission direction.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed her perspective, noted positive aspects of this iteration of the Project design, and remarked on the need to reduce financial exposure to the City. She requested additional information regarding naming rights and noted her discomfort with what was presented.

Vice Mayor Herbst expressed support for this Project iteration, noting the improved visual aspects, commenting that it is an overall better plan. He voiced concerns about the City bearing most of the financial risk and recommended renegotiating a more balanced financial structure, particularly regarding the revenue split. This would help protect taxpayers while ensuring the Project's viability, reducing the City's financial exposure, and promoting a fairer distribution of financial responsibility. Commissioner Sorensen concurred with Vice Mayor Herbst's remarks toward moving the Project forward. Commissioner Glassman reiterated his viewpoint that this is an improved iteration of the Project versus the original. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed Commission direction to staff to renegotiate a more balanced financial structure.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the Project's phased approach and the ability to modify the CA, Lynn Solomon, Assistant City Attorney III, confirmed that Phase One of the Project is complete and not subject to renegotiation, but future phases can still be negotiated under the CA. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman reiterated her recommendation to renegotiate the financial structure to reduce the City's exposure without redesigning the Project.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman voiced support for the redesigned Project and improvements made in response to community feedback but continued to express concern about the overall financial

commitment required from the City.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the Commission consensus for staff and HOFP to renegotiate financial aspects of future Project phases.

BUS-4 [25-1101](#)

Presentation on the City of Fort Lauderdale's Unified Land Development Regulation's (ULDR) Requirements for the Measurement of the Height of Walls and Fences - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Anthony Fajardo, Development Services Department Director. Mr. Fajardo provided an overview of this Agenda item. Mr. Fajardo introduced Karlanne Devonish, Development Services Department Principal Urban Planner. Ms. Devonish narrated a presentation entitled *GRADE MEASUREMENT AMENDMENT*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Fajardo explained details of the accessory wall/fence image in the presentation, noting it is on the property line as allowed by Code, and discussed staff's recommendation to only consider the portion of the accessory wall/fence after the front yard setback and explained related details, including architectural features associated with staff's recommendation.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Richard Mercede, 329 SW 2nd Street. Mr. Mercede discussed his viewpoint and recommendation regarding this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his viewpoint regarding a situation in the Bal Harbor neighborhood that would have benefited from a higher wall between a commercial property and the residential neighborhood. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding staff feedback on commercial development standards adjacent to residential areas, Mr. Fajardo explained that the current code permits an increased wall height up to ten feet (10') when commercial development are located next to residential properties, but this is optional, not a requirement. Mr. Fajardo advised that a deeper analysis would be needed due to unintended negative impacts in other situations. Commissioner Sorensen discussed his support of continuing to make this an option, not a requirement. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need to make the ten feet (10') height a requirement for commercial development abutting residential areas. Mr. Fajardo confirmed staff would research and provide an update to the Commission. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Fajardo explained how the proposed Code amendment impacts current grade measurements and outlined staff's recommendations. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Fajardo explained how the proposed Code changes would affect site grading and wall height measurements, which would not allow site grading more than one foot (1') or building a wall as high as possible, and expounded on related information. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his understanding.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman suggested that updating Code requirements in advance would help ensure consistency in fence heights and wall measurements. In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question about proactive efforts to leverage newly available Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding for property elevation improvements of homes to meet flood resilience standards, Mr. Fajardo confirmed and remarked on older homes that sit below roadway elevation and confirmed proactive adjustments to the Code could better support homeowners seeking FEMA-eligible improvements. Mayor Trantalis confirmed a consensus to move forward with Code amendments.

CITY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

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

Commissioner Glassman remarked on activities associated with the recent *Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show*. Commissioner Glassman shared positive remarks about participating in a local podcast hosted by young and engaged residents and explained related information.

Commissioner Glassman acknowledged the Police Department's efforts to address crime issues at Airbnb rentals in Victoria Park.

Commissioner Glassman requested a Moment of Silence during tonight's Regular Meeting in remembrance of former City employee Hal Barnes.

Commissioner Sorensen acknowledged First Responders for their efforts associated with ensuring the success of the annual *Boat Show* and other activities in the community.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's request for clarification on the rules for electric bikes (e-bikes) due to their increasing presence in

neighborhoods and parks, Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Department Director, said that park rules prohibit the operation of electric vehicles within parks. Enforcement is addressed by Police and/or Park Rangers. Mr. Williams noted that concerns had already been raised by residents and Police are assisting.

Police Chief Schultz explained that on public streets, e-bikes are treated similarly to other vehicles and must obey all traffic laws. Though e-bikes do not require license plates, some models may meet the criteria of mopeds or low-speed motorcycles, which carry additional legal requirements. Enforcement depends on classification and behavior. The Commission requested a follow-up to ensure clear and consistent understanding of rules across parks and streets.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding the legality of motorcycles and dirt bikes on City streets, Chief Schultz explained that only street-legal motorcycles equipped with operational brake lights, headlights, turn signals, and proper licensing are permitted on public roadways. Chief Schultz noted that most dirt bikes seen riding in groups lack required equipment and are therefore not legal for street use and said that e-bikes are typically equipped with required reflectors or lights to remain compliant.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding clearer guidance distinguishing between riding e-bikes within parks versus using them for point-to-point travel to reach park amenities, Mr. Williams confirmed that the intent is to prohibit active operation of e-bikes on park grounds and clarified that arriving at the park via e-bike and then dismounting is permissible.

Vice Mayor Herbst remarked on enforcement challenges related to e-bikes, cited examples, and expounded on related details. Chief Schultz concurred.

MAYOR'S REPORT

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

Mayor Trantalis discussed the official opening of The Adderley Apartments as a positive example of new affordable housing units and continued investment in the community.

Mayor Trantalis highlighted the recent *Boat Show* as a major event that showcases marine education, recreation, and industry innovation, expounded on his positive perspective, and discussed related

information.

Mayor Trantalis discussed hosting a Townhall meeting regarding the Galleria Mall project, which drew strong community participation, and served as the initial public discussion on the project's future vision and next steps. Vice Mayor Herbst was also in attendance.

Mayor Trantalis noted that he recently executed \$100,000,000 in City bonds, supporting numerous voter-approved infrastructure improvements, noting the Commission's decision to proactively accelerate these projects rather than waiting on incremental annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

MGR-1 [25-1086](#)

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

City Manager Williams acknowledged the contributions of staff to ensure the success of the annual *Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show*.

City Manager Williams congratulated Brandy Leighton, Public Works Department Division Manager for being named Government Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Broward County Branch. The entire Public Works Department was recognized with the Small Project of the Year Award. Representatives from the ASCE branch will attend a future City Commission meeting to formally present those awards.

City Manager Williams acknowledged the Parks and Recreation Department's sandbag distribution efforts during hurricane season. City Manager Williams noted that the recently issued six (6) month report will transition into a quarterly reporting format moving forward. These reports will continue to track milestones, accomplishments, and key activities to keep the Commission updated on ongoing work.

City Manager Williams expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts supporting Hurricane Melissa disaster relief efforts in the Caribbean, noting that several employees and their families were directly impacted. She described the ongoing coordination with community partners and at City collection sites. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence said that Florida Department of Transportation v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal, Case No.: 4D2025-2876 challenge of a non-final order was dismissed.

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

25-1112

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

Florida Department of Transportation v. City of Fort Lauderdale
Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal Case No.: 4D2025-2876

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal Case No.: 4D2025-2783

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida Case No.:
CACE25014235 (03)

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Division of Administrative Hearings Case No.: 25-004856RU

Mayor Trantalis announced the City Commission shall meet privately to conduct discussions between the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the City Commission relative to pending litigation pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, in connection with the following matter(s):

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Fourth District Court of Appeals
Case No.: 4D2025-2783

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
Case No.: CACE25014235 (03)

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Division of Administrative Hearings
Case No.: 25-004856RU

Present at the attorney-client sessions will be:

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Vice Mayor/Commissioner John C. Herbst
Commissioner Steven Glassman
Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman
Commissioner Ben Sorensen
City Manager Rickelle Williams
Interim City Attorney D'Wayne M. Spence
Senior Assistant City Attorney Paul Bangel
Assistant City Attorney Kimberly Cunningham Mosley
Outside Counsel Howard D. DuBosar, Esq., Weiss Serota, *et al.*,
Outside Counsel Jeremy S. Rosner, Esq., Weiss Serota, *et al.*, and
Certified Court Reporter from Bailey-Entin Court Reporting

The estimated length of this session will be approximately 15 minutes
for each case for a cumulative length of 45 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.