

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

1:30 PM

City Hall - City Commission Chambers
100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

BEN SORENSEN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV

HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III

GREG CHAVARRIA, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Steven Glassman and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Also Present: City Manager Greg Chavarria, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Trantalis requested a Moment of Silence in remembrance of Mimose Dulcio, Development Services Department Administrative Assistant.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Trantalis discussed details related to the November 8, 2022, Special Elections for Commission Member vacancies resulting from Commission Member resignations in District 1, District 3, and District 4. The Broward County Supervisor of Elections is waiting for the return of outstanding overseas election ballots before certifying election results. When the election results are certified, the elected District Commissioners will be sworn in and a quorum will be available to conduct Commission Meetings that require a Commission vote.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Attorney Boileau confirmed that on November 14, 2022, the City received two (2) affidavits challenging the election results for District 1. City Attorney Boileau explained, as required under Section 3.04 of the Charter, the Commission is the arbiter of election results and candidate qualifications. A quorum of the Commission would hear the District 1 election challenge at a Special Meeting. City Attorney Boileau acknowledged the possibility of a court challenge and remarked on the process and a recommended timeline. At the next meeting, the Commission would adopt a resolution declaring the results of the Special Election and hear the District 1 election challenge.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, City Attorney Boileau expounded on details related to the quasi-judicial process, the individuals who will present to the Commission, and the Commission making a decision regarding the District 1 election challenge based

upon the evidence presented. City Attorney Boileau said that current Commission Members, Commissioner Members-elect, and individuals involved in the District 1 election challenge should refrain from discussing this topic prior to the Special Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the upcoming timeline, City Attorney Boileau noted December 6, 2022, is the next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting date. After the Broward County Canvassing Board certifies the results of the Special Elections, the Commission can hold a Special Meeting for the swearing-in ceremony of District 3 and District 4 Commissioners-elect before December 6, 2022. The District 1 election challenge should be a time certain on December 6, 2022, or a Special Meeting can be called with a certain date and time.

Commissioner Glassman clarified details regarding the one hundred forty (140) overseas ballots yet to be received for the District 4 election, which had forty-nine (49) votes separating two (2) top candidates. City Attorney Boileau confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Chavarria remarked that November 20, 2022, is the date listed for the Broward County Canvassing Board to certify the November 8, 2022, election results. City Attorney Boileau remarked on the need to provide sufficient time for the parties to prepare for the District 1 election challenge. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Attorney Boileau said the anticipated number of Commissioners to be sworn in after receipt of the certified election results would be two (2), one (1) from District 3 and one (1) from District 4. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding possible challenges being received after certification.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Attorney Boileau recommended no further discussion or public comment regarding the election during this Commission Conference Meeting because it was not noticed to the public. City Attorney Boileau reiterated that the election challenge will be addressed in a quasi-judicial manner and would include a Commission quorum.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the ability to move forward with the balance of the Conference Meeting Agenda because it consists of discussions between the Commission and Staff. Commission voting does not apply to Conference Agenda items, and a quorum is not necessary.

Further comment and discussion ensued.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[22-1112](#)

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

Historic Preservation Board (HPB)

Monday, October 17, 2022

Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Rosa, seconded by Mr. Jones to provide a Communication to the City Commission to affirm that the Board greatly appreciated the presentation brought forward, and after having a better look at the proposed design, the majority of the Board is comfortable with what was brought forth, including incorporating the undulating design, historic photos, and a plaque. In a voice vote, the motion passed 6-0

Trisha Logan, Development Services Department - Historic Preservation Planner, explained details associated with this communication relating to the Wells Fargo Building on South Andrews Avenue, which was identified as a potential historic landmark. The City received a redevelopment application for the property to demolish the existing structure and construct a new bank on the site. Project representatives came before the Historic Preservation Board in October to present redevelopment plans that incorporate existing elements of the historic building into the new building. The HPB sent this communication to the Commission to advise that they were satisfied with the applicant's proposal. The new building would include replicating the wavelike design on the outside of the existing building along with historical photos in the lobby of the new structure and a plaque on the exterior of the new building.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on his agreement with the comments of HPB Member Arthur Marcus included in the HPB Meeting Minutes opposing the HPB consensus. Commissioner Glassman expounded on his viewpoint that this building qualifies as a historic structure.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Logan confirmed the Historic Preservation Ordinance allows the Commission to request a stop work order and proceeding with an emergency meeting to discuss a structure's historic designation.

Commissioner Glassman commented on his view that this property qualifies for historic designation and his support of objections raised by Mr. Marcus. Ms. Logan commented on her recollection of related HPB discussions.

***Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights
Redevelopment Advisory Board
October 11, 2022***

Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Calhoun, seconded by Mr. Olvera, to request the Board of CRA Commissioners reconsider the Sistrunk View project and that the minutes from this CRANWP Board meeting accompany that request. In a roll call vote. Motion passed 11-0.

Mayor Trantalis commented that he and Commissioner Glassman did not support the Sistrunk View project. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding his understanding of the process related to reconsidering a matter, City Attorney Boileau confirmed it would require a member of the prevailing side to request reconsideration.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Rhoda Glasco Foderingham, 2150 NW 30th Avenue, Chair of Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Redevelopment Board (NWPFH). Chair Foderingham read from a prepared statement in support of the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board's reconsideration of the Sistrunk View project. The Sistrunk View project was ranked number one (1) for addressing affordable housing needs in the area. She confirmed her participation as part of the evaluation committee and her recusal as a voting member of the NWPFH CRA Board for this project.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Chair Foderingham confirmed she was speaking on behalf of the NWPFH CRA Board.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [22-1079](#)

Discussion of Red Light Camera Program - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Police Chief (Chief) Patrick Lynn introduced Assistant Police Chief (Assistant Chief) Dana Swisher, who provided a historical review of the City's Red Light Camera Program (Program). The Program was started in July 2010 and was stopped in March 2015 due to legal challenges.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Assistant Chief Swisher confirmed the Program's Study had mixed results regarding its effectiveness. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his concerns and commented on the need to educate the public on the Program to ensure pedestrian and vehicle safety.

Chief Lynn confirmed the use of grant funding for enhanced enforcement and additional motorcycle Police Officers addressing overall traffic enforcement to reduce pedestrian traffic fatalities.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the need to address individuals at intersections and encouraged the Police Department to mitigate.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on his understanding of the information in the backup documentation, including litigation and Program costs, which exceed fines.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, City Attorney Boileau confirmed that related litigation was resolved in favor of the Program. Chief Lynn confirmed that the City of Davie and the City of Sunrise utilize the Program. The cameras used for the 2010-2015 Program were removed, and the City will need to procure new cameras.

Commissioner Glassman discussed his perspective regarding the data provided in the backup information and the \$700,000 for personnel startup costs to reinstate the Program. He recommended stepping up Police enforcement.

Mayor Trantalis recommended additional discussion on this topic when the entire Commission is present. Commissioner Glassman concurred. Chief Swisher expounded on Program details included in the backup information.

City Pilot Programs Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

BUS-2 [22-1131](#)

City Manager Chavarria explained this Agenda item address two (2) successful, partially funded pilot programs in need of expansion in Fiscal Year 2023, the Transportation Circulator Services Program and the Housing Navigation Program.

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, and Luisa Agathon, Neighborhood Support Manager, narrated a presentation entitled *City Pilot Programs Update*. Mr. Rogers narrated

the presentation related to the Circulator Services Program (Circulator Program), and Ms. Agathon narrated the portion of the presentation related to the Housing Navigation Program (Housing Program).

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

Commissioner Glassman remarked on community feedback regarding the Circulator Program discussed at the District 2 Pre-Agenda Meeting related to reliability and efficiency. Mr. Rogers commented on efforts to improve efficiency with ride hailing and remarked that current ridership exceeds capacity.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Rogers explained the goal of the Circulator Program is to collect ridership data, reduce in-town vehicle traffic, and provide a transportation option to visitors.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rogers confirmed the Circulator Program is a free service.

Ms. Agathon narrated the Housing Program portion of the presentation.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Agathon said that based upon recent numbers, there is an estimated four hundred (400) bed shortage for homeless individuals.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the importance of this Housing Program and related services. He commented on the need for Broward County municipalities to join this effort.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding plans to address outstanding needs of the homeless, City Manager Chavarria discussed the opportunity in coordination with efforts of the Broward County Continuum of Care Board (BCCCB) to address the needs of the homeless on a regional level and expounded on related details. This Housing Program pilot program is an effort to expand the BCCCB's efforts. City Manager Chavarria urged Commission nominations to the BCCCB to prioritize and appropriate funding resources to the City to expand its services to the homeless. He noted an upcoming meeting with Broward County Sheriff Gregory Tony to discuss expansion of a regional sheltering option at the Broward County facility known as the Stockade.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his prior service as a BCCCB member

and the need for a Commission Member to represent the City on the BCCCB to replace former Commissioner Sorensen.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jenni Morejon, 201 East Las Olas Boulevard, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and on behalf of the Downtown Coalition. Ms. Morejon spoke in support of the Circulator Program and urged the Commission's continued support.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Steven Cook, 708 SW 16th Court. Mr. Cook commented on his perspective regarding the Circulator Program's funding from the General Fund while benefiting only a portion of the City and concerns regarding cost efficiency.

In response to City Manager Chavarria's question, Mr. Rogers explained details of the Circulator Program's ridership graph included in the presentation. The City's pilot program did not begin until August 2022.

BUS-3 [22-1134](#)

Discussion - Commission Appointments to Organizations Outside City Structure - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Mayor Trantalis announced that this Agenda item would be discussed when a full Commission is present.

BUS-4 [22-1136](#)

Fire Station and Fire Rescue Facilities Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, narrated a slide presentation entitled *Fire Station and Fire Rescue Facilities Program Update*, focusing on Fire Stations 13 and 54, temporary Fire Station 13, Emergency Medical Substation 88, and the Ocean Rescue Facility. The update included the scope, timeline, and anticipated costs associated with each project and a recap of the Fire-Rescue Bond Program.

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

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the status of seeking compensation for defects related to Fire Station 54's HVAC system, Mr. Dodd confirmed the collection of extensive documentation and a meeting with the Office of the City Attorney and outside counsel. Mr. Dodd noted the complicated nature of the original design, subsequent value engineering associated with the modified design, which was accepted by Staff and efforts to determine

responsibility for design defects and latent deficiencies. City Attorney Boileau concurred with Mr. Dodd's comments. City Attorney Boileau remarked on a meeting with outside counsel and the significant amount of project material to review. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on cost concerns associated with Fire Station 54's HVAC system, his perspective regarding the City accepting the modified design, anticipated litigation and the lengthy timeline of the project.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the lengthy timeline associated with Fire Station 13. Commissioner Glassman concurred.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Dodd confirmed the temporary location of Fire Station 13 would be on Vistamar Street.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the Ocean Rescue Station, City Manager Chavarria explained that the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) is providing a prefabricated trailer facility as a temporary Ocean Rescue Station that will be located at the Las Olas Bridge until the International Swimming Hall of Fame facility is completed.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the MIASF's intended use of the former U.S. Coast Guard facility, City Manager Chavarria commented on the MIASF's use of that area during The Boat Show and its desire to expand. City Manager Chavarria confirmed the MIASF's proposed use of the former U.S. Coast Guard facility would be brought before the Commission.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding total costs of the Fire Bond Program, Mr. Dodd confirmed costs in excess of \$55,000,000 and explained that \$40,000,000 came from the Fire Bond Program and the balance came from other funding sources.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Chavarria confirmed individuals scheduled to attend the Commission Regular Meeting to receive proclamations were notified

that the meeting is cancelled.

City Manager Chavarria commented on a temporary beach license outdoor event request scheduled for November 19 and 20, 2022, that he would approve administratively and bring back to the Commission for ratification.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed today's scheduled Community Redevelopment Agency Board Meeting is cancelled due to lack of a Board quorum.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.