

City of Fort Lauderdale



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

1:30 PM

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

Access Via:

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City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

HEATHER MORAITIS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III

BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager

JOHN HERBST, City Auditor

JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Trantalis recognized and thanked Police Department and Fire-Rescue Department First Responders for their efforts towards keeping the community safe during the *Memorial Day Weekend*. He acknowledged and thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for organizing and planning *Memorial Day Services*.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, Commissioner Ben Sorensen and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Excused: Vice Mayor Heather Moraitis

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau and City Auditor John Herbst

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[21-0556](#)

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

***Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee (ITFAC)
Virtual Meeting
May 3, 2021***

Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Partington, seconded by Ms. Scott, that the Infrastructure Task Force does not consider that a development moratorium related to infrastructure is necessary at this time; however, the City should consider the condition of the water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure impacted by developments in addition to the capacity of impacted infrastructure, and that the Ordinance currently governing development should be amended to include explicit consideration of condition of infrastructure. In a roll call vote, the motion

passed unanimously (9-0).

Motion made by Chair Mammano, seconded by Ms. Scott, to forward this as a communication to the City Commission and request a workshop with them to discuss the recommendation and the next steps for the Infrastructure Task Force Committee. In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (9-0).

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom commented on challenges related to considering infrastructure conditions as part of development approval. City Attorney Boileau explained consideration of capacity is part of the Code and condition is not.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the voluntary efforts of developers to address infrastructure conditions.

Mayor Trantalis recognized ITFAC Chair Marilyn Mammano. Chair Mammano provided a brief historical summary of ITFAC efforts and confirmed the ITFAC request for a September 2021 Commission Workshop (Workshop) and confirmed its recommendation to amend and include explicit consideration of infrastructure condition in the Ordinance governing proposed development project approval. She said this recommendation comports with an April 19, 2021 memorandum from City Manager Lagerbloom and explained related details. The Workshop would provide an opportunity for the ITFAC to review its work to date and an understanding of its Commission assigned priorities.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Chair Mammano said the ITFAC did not focus on similar actions in other municipalities. ITFAC's work focused on materials relative to condition and the review process currently utilized by Staff. Chair Mammano emphasized the need to consider the condition of infrastructure and confirmed the ability to include this in the process. City Manager Lagerbloom and City Attorney Boileau indicated Staff would review best practices by other municipalities.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed a Commission Workshop with the ITFAC would be scheduled in September 2021.

Marine Advisory Board (MAB)
Virtual Meeting

May 6, 2021

Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Morley, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, to send the following letter as a communication to the City Commission:

By Ordinance C-2074, one of the Marine Advisory Board's top responsibilities is that of waterway safety and traffic control on the waterways of Fort Lauderdale. As mitigation for the concerns of this Board, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Marine Industry Association, the DEP added the specific condition prohibiting dockage along this section of Riverwalk. DEP permit issued January 25, 2016 specific conditions operation and maintenance activities No. 15: Within 10 days of completion of dock construction, permit handrails and No Mooring signs shall be Marine Advisory Board installed along all portions of 3553 sq. ft. irregular shaped concrete boardwalk adjacent to non-mooring areas. Handrails shall be constructed to eliminate access to the pier by boaters and shall be maintained for the life of the facility. For whatever reason, this was not done by the City and needs to be corrected. Handrails must be installed to eliminate access. This area of New River over the Kinney tunnel twists and turns, has strong currents, and is used as a holding passing area and turning basin by large vessels. The boats docked immediately to the west display evidence of the danger, with many dings, dents, scratches, and broken hardware along their hulls, as well as the extraordinary amount of fenders and bumpers hanging from their sides in anticipation of being hit. Boats being damaged and, more importantly, people being injured by vessels colliding is the reason for not allowing vessels to dock at this location. The Marine Advisory Board is strongly opposed to allowing dockage at this location and strongly recommends full compliance of the DEP permit specific to Condition 15. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained this communication relates to prohibiting dockage in the area of Riverwalk at Stranahan House due to the narrowness of the New River waterway at this point.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Anthony Fajardo, Department of Sustainable Development Director, noted interest in dockage in this area but had not seen an application. Comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding language in this communication, Mr. Fajardo explained his understanding regarding the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) allowing this Riverwalk connection but not allowing dockage at this location due to the narrowness of the New River waterway.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on waterway travel to dining locations. Mayor Trantalis commented that the Water Taxi has a stop in this area.

In response to Mayor Trantalis, Andrew Cuba, Parks & Recreation Department Marine Facilities Manager, explained only the Water Taxi passengers could disembark or embark at this location. Mr. Cuba commented on the permit requiring fencing.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [21-0584](#)

Joint Governmental Campus Complex Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Lagerbloom provided a status update and overview of details scheduled for the upcoming June 10, 2021 City of Fort Lauderdale Commission and Broward County Commission Unified Direct Procurement Authority Meeting (UDPA Meeting). He reviewed meeting-related details and agenda items listed in the Commission Agenda Memo. City Manager Lagerbloom expounded on his perspective and moving forward.

Susan Grant, Finance Department Director, provided financial details for the proposed Joint Government Campus Complex. There were five (5) responses to the Request for Quotation (RFQ). Staff anticipates the County to provide Commission Members matrixes summarizing the five (5) RFQ responses. Staff has determined all responses were qualified and formal action is anticipated at the June 10, 2021 UDPA Meeting, along with determining the number of responses to be considered. The related Request for Proposal (RFP) is not ready, and issuance of the RFP is expected at a future UDPA Meeting. Ms. Grant expounded on value engineering and cost reduction efforts. The City share of the cost is forty-three percent (43%) of the \$625,000,000 total cost, estimated at \$270,000,000 (\$231,000,000 for the tower cost and \$38,000,000 for the parking garage cost). Annual availability payments, i.e., rents, are estimated at \$15,700,000 (less approximately \$1,500,000 in current rental payments for City operations). The amount from the General Fund is estimated to be \$9,500,000. Other funds, i.e., Parking Fund and

Water and Sewer Funds, would contribute to the annual rent balance.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding comparison to current costs, Ms. Grant said this could be calculated and noted related details. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the numerous variables involved, i.e., associated costs and opportunity costs. Ms. Grant confirmed Staff would move in this direction.

City Auditor Herbst commented on previous AE7 reports reflecting related facility use costs for all departments City-wide. Laura Reece, Management and Budget Office Director, explained the AE7 report includes depreciation costs, not rental costs. City Auditor Herbst noted the AE7 information would provide a baseline estimate for calculating comparisons of existing costs and costs associated with a new facility. Ms. Grant confirmed Staff would address and noted the opportunity to request related information from Colliers International for calculations.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ms. Grant confirmed the estimated \$15,700,000 in annual rental costs includes operations and maintenance in the new proposed facility. Further comment and discussion ensued. The dedicated square footage area for Staff at the new facility would be 253,000 square feet. The shared common area space would be 100,000 square feet.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Grant said the cost per square foot is \$664, excluding the cost of the parking garage. Further comment and discussion ensued on costs, meeting future needs and City plans to centralize versus the County plan to decentralize.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the two-year timeline and related efforts and expenses towards reaching this point. He commented on working with Broward County, his perspective and his support of moving forward. Commission McKinzie confirmed his comfort with moving forward and commented on his perspective. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his support of moving forward and recommended Staff assertively pursue future meetings.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed a Commission consensus to move forward.

BUS-2 [21-0553](#)

Presentation of Proposed Ordinance Amending Division 3. - Rate and Charges of Chapter 28 - Water, Wastewater, Stormwater and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Overview - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Susan Grant, Finance Department Director, narrated a presentation

entitled Water / Wastewater Credits related to proposed updates to the Ordinance Amending Division 3. - Rate and Charges of Chapter 28 - Water, Wastewater, Stormwater.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the impact of uncollected amounts related to water bill spikes, Ms. Grant explained details regarding financial impact of crediting the entire amount. She noted related bond covenant restrictions and requirements for meter testing before issuing a credit. Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective.

Glen Hadwen, Public Works Department Sustainability Manager, narrated a presentation entitled *Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)*. He noted real-time water usage alerts *AMI* would provide and impacts.

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

Mr. Hadwen explained previous efforts to implement an energy performance contracting model. Staff decided on a different method for directly procuring digital water meters without an energy services company that resulted in substantial savings. The six (6) month pilot program will begin next month and includes *AMI* services from six (6) vendors listed in the presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Hadwen explained the "ballpark" cost is estimated to be \$30,000,000 for digital water meters, installation and communication network. *AMI* would reduce the amount of unbilled water. He confirmed Staff would work to identify possible federal infrastructure legislation funding opportunities for the *AMI* initiative.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, City Manager said *AMI* cost is built into future revenue projections and passed to the ratepayer in 2022. Commissioner McKinzie commented on his reluctance to pass through costs to consumers. Mayor Trantalis acknowledged it is a burden and commented on possible State and Federal funding opportunities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed moving forward with the *AMI Pilot Program* and working towards finding funding sources.

BUS-3 [21-0367](#)

Uptown South Master Plan - Preliminary Analysis Presentation -
(Commission District 1)

Anthony Fajardo, Department of Sustainable Development Director, provided an overview of Staff work to address the *Uptown South Master Plan*. He introduced Jim Hetzel, Department of Sustainable Development Principal Planner.

City Manager Lagerbloom inquired about moving this Agenda item to the June 15, 2021 Conference Meeting Agenda to include District 1 Commissioner, Vice Mayor Moraitis.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Hetzel explained details of this presentation include the Staff analysis of the District 1 Uptown South area and recommendations regarding land use, zoning and possible opportunities with the *Inter Miami CF Soccer Club*.

Mayor Trantalis announced this item would be rescheduled to the June 15, 2021 Commission Conference Meeting.

BUS-4 [21-0592](#)

Discussion Regarding Request by the U.S. Department of Justice to Dissolve Remaining Portion of 1980 Consent Decree - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Attorney Alain Boileau provided a historical review as stated in the Commission Agenda Memorandum backup. The *U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)* requested dissolution of the remaining portion of the *1980 Consent Decree ((Consent Decree))*.

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

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Attorney Boileau confirmed the City had consistently cooperated, communicated and reported information and data to the *DOJ* following criteria included in the Consent Decree.

Commissioner Sorensen inquired about Police Department and Fire-Rescue Department recruiting process efforts for black and female applicants. City Manager Lagerbloom said if the Commission decides to move forward with the dissolution of this *Consent Decree*, he will present recruitment and hiring strategies to meet goals identified in the *Consent Decree* at the June 15, 2021 Commission Conference Meeting. Commissioner Sorensen noted the importance of exceeding those Police Department and Fire-Rescue Department goals. City Attorney Boileau commented on working with recent data for hiring goals.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective and discomfort with dissolving the *Consent Decree* until a determination is made

regarding attaining hiring goals based on current information.

In response to Commission McKinzie's question regarding not moving forward with the *DOJ*, City Attorney Boileau explained the jurisdiction and ability of *DOJ* to move forward on its own.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on existing disparities, the current hiring process and the need to think outside the box for a solution.

City Attorney Boileau confirmed the remaining aspect of the *Consent Decree* relates to the Fire-Rescue Department.

Fire-Rescue Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr explained details and opportunities related to the next firefighter class. Chief Kerr discussed the importance of minorities being visible within current ranks when pursuing minority hiring. She cited her experience, stating recruiting and hiring women increases when a woman is in charge, visible and part of recruiting efforts.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Chief Kerr confirmed progress since 1980 and noted her hiring at the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department in 1983 as part of the *Consent Decree*.

Commissioner Glassman expounded on his perspective. He commented on progress to date and willingness to dissolve the *Consent Decree* if assured that language listed below and included in the last paragraph of the CAM is adhered to:

The City Manager commits to continuing diversity recruitment efforts. If we agree to support this joint motion to dissolve the consent decree, it is our intent to bring forward a recruitment plan and strategy that will continue to fulfill the spirit of the consent decree where we voluntarily hold ourselves accountable to the highest of recruitment standards.

City Attorney Boileau clarified the position of the *DOJ*. Dissolution of the Consent Decree in no way lessens the importance of this subject and continues to be necessary.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective regarding management and the hiring process and the need for ongoing monitoring of diversity recruitment and hiring.

Mayor Trantalis concurred with Commissioner McKinzie and recommended incorporating diversity recruitment and hiring standards into policies and procedures.

Mayor Trantalis recognized J. Scott Bayne, President - Fort Lauderdale Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 765. Mr. Bayne explained similar recruitment challenges throughout Broward County. He noted the ability of the City to put its recruitment and hiring policies and procedures in place. He expounded on details associated with hiring and ranking applicants and confirmed the IAFF's support of matching hiring with community demographics.

Mr. Bayne explained differences in hiring and recruit training costs of Police Academy and Firefighter Academy recruits. Police recruits are hired and paid while training. Firefighters and Paramedics pay for their training and certification and are subsequently hired.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's request, Mr. Bayne explained details associated with the *Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County (FCABC) Firefighter Scholarship Program (Firefighter Scholarship Program)* high school outreach efforts towards providing full Fire Academy scholarships to students.

Commissioner McKinzie noted *Fort Lauderdale High School* has a *Firefighter Scholarship Program* and the need to replicate at *Dillard High School*. Mr. Bayne commented on recruiting existing City employees. Further comment in discussion ensued.

Chief Kerr noted Staff and Management efforts to increase the diversity pool, expounding on details. She recommended expanding the *Firefighter Scholarship Program* and related efforts.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen, Chief Kerr explained details associated with firefighter training and hiring costs and expounded on details.

City Manager Lagerbloom discussed his willingness to replicate efforts of other municipalities to address diversity hiring, i.e., the hiring of firefighter recruits and providing paramedic and firefighter training. Further comment and discussion ensued on staffing emergency response vehicles with one paramedic.

Commissioner McKinzie expounded on his perspective and discussed the need to provide improved access without lowering standards.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the availability of an *Employee Tuition Reimbursement Program*.

Comment and discussion ensued on how City diversity efforts compare to other local municipalities. Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective and the need to continue diversity efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie and Commissioner Glassman reiterated their positions stated earlier. Commissioner Sorensen recommended not moving forward with dissolution of the *Consent Decree* until a specific plan is in place and approved to address diversity hiring. Mayor Trantalis commented on the need to set a standard and codify diversity hiring policy and procedures. Further comment and discussion ensued on related timelines.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest.

Commissioner Glassman commented on a trip to Las Vegas, Nevada, to meet with *The Boring Company* about the proposed underground tunnel and commented on related media coverage. He plans to discuss similar projects planned in other municipalities.

Commissioner Glassman commented on attending the *War Memorial Auditorium Memorial Day Event* and details regarding upgrades to the facility.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' concerns regarding the need for shade structures during the *Great American Beach Party Event over Memorial Day Weekend*, Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Department Director, concurred and noted Staff is reviewing. Comment and discussion ensued on Memorial Day Events. Mayor Trantalis commented on inviting previous Commission Members to *Memorial Day Events* and there was consensus to do this for additional City events going forward.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed recognizing *Dillard High School* and *Saint Thomas Aquinas High School* athletic achievements.

Commissioner McKinzie clarified details associated with a *Shot* notification near *Bass Park* in the *Lake Aire Neighborhood*. Chief Lynn confirmed ongoing investigation of this incident. Commissioner McKinzie discussed his perspective regarding policing, including calls for police service, having a presence and differing neighborhood perspectives regarding policing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie confirmed he would follow up with the *Lake Aire Homeowners Association* regarding police presence. Further comment and discussion ensued on policing, educating youth on unacceptable behavior and community policing.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding crime incident reporting and providing related statistic to neighborhoods, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed he would work with Police Department Staff to provide electronic real-time incident updates. Commissioner McKinzie expounded on past Neighborhood Action Team (NAT) policing efforts and the impact of COVID on policing.

Chief Lynn commented on Police community involvement and interaction efforts pre COVID and efforts to resume, citing a recent successful *Front Porch Meeting*. He said no District 3 Police were reassigned during *Spring Break* or for *Memorial Day Weekend Events* on the barrier island. Further comment ensued on the previous success and positive impact of *Front Porch Roll Call Meetings*. Chief Lynn confirmed he would provide requested neighborhood policing statistics as requested by Commissioner Sorensen.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's request for a *Bahia Mar* update, Mayor Trantalis and Commission Glassman confirmed ongoing meetings with representatives of Bahia Mar. Mayor Trantalis noted the need to confer with representatives of *The Boat Show* regarding items offered by the developer and updating the public at a Conference Meeting.

Commissioner Glassman commented on progress with *Bahia Mar* tenant and having this topic as an upcoming Conference Agenda item. Comment and discussion ensued on providing and scheduling a progress report and the process. Mayor Trantalis confirmed scheduling a Workshop Meeting to provide a Bahia Mar progress report.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding the ability to review *Bahia Mar* subleases, City Attorney Boileau noted conflicts between Articles 20 and Article 26 of the *Bahia Mar* lease regarding the ability of City Manager Lagerbloom to review subleases. City Attorney Boileau confirmed the ability of City Manager Lagerbloom to review other types of subleases as delineated and noted the previous position of the City regarding the review of subleases.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed his perspective that the City should work with the tenant/developer and evaluate and approve future subleases. City Attorney Boileau said he would meet with City Manager Lagerbloom to inform him regarding discussions on this subject.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding the ability

to review, approve and deny *Bahia Mar* a sublease of a sublease, City Attorney Boileau explained it would depend on the type and additional information would be needed to make a determination.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained efforts regarding the remodeling project of 8th Floor City Commission Offices and layout of staff. He recommended a noticed discussion on this topic. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding traffic flow at the *Inter Miami CF Soccer Club* game, City Manager Lagerbloom explained traffic flow was reasonable. City Manager Lagerbloom commented on specific details. Further comment ensued along with the need to address the traffic light at Commercial Boulevard and Powerline Road. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed adequate parking, expounding on related details. Discussions are ongoing regarding additional future parking opportunities.

Mayor Trantalis discussed monitoring sea turtle hatchlings by volunteer groups. City Manager Lagerbloom explained the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) perspective regarding volunteer groups, expounding on FWC details. Further comment and discussion ensued on the FWC's hatchling monitoring by four (4) groups. Commissioner Sorensen explained related details.

Commissioner McKinzie remarked about discussions with City Manager Lagerbloom and Public Works Department Staff (Staff) regarding potholes along seven-mile routes of underground pipes in the City and the need to mitigate asphalt repairs. Further comment and discussion ensued on this topic. Raj Verma, Public Works Director, confirmed ongoing investigations by Staff. He explained efforts and details to address and confirmed brittle underground infrastructure and the cascading effect. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Lagerbloom provided an update on Police Chief hiring efforts, clarifying details inaccurately reported in the *Sun-Sentinel Newspaper*. Candidates would come to the City to participate in community forums and other engagements June 11-13, 2021. City Manager Lagerbloom said he anticipates a determination of the final four (4) candidates would be announced at the June 15, 2021 Commission Meeting followed by interactions with him and Commission Members.

Hiring of a new Police Chief is expected at the end of June 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.