

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

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

WARREN STURMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV

JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District III

GREG CHAVARRIA, 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 1:59 p.m.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner John C. Herbst ,
Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pamela
Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Warren Sturman, and Mayor Dean J.
Trantalis

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[23-0048](#)

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

***Sustainability Advisory Board
November 28, 2022***

Communication to the City Commission

*The Sustainability Advisory Board sends the following communication
to the City Commission:*

*The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) recommends that the City
Commission direct the City Manager to draft an ordinance intended to
expand the number of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations
throughout the City. In 2021, the City of Fort Lauderdale set Net-Zero
greenhouse gas emissions goals for government operations and the
community. One of the cornerstones of any net-zero effort will be to
transition away from fossil-fuel burning vehicles to lower emissions
electric vehicles. The auto industry projects a majority of new car sales
to be electric vehicles by 2030, phasing out manufacturing of
combustion engines. With the significant increases in federal
incentives, additional infrastructure is necessary to support the EV
charging demand of residents and visitors.*

*Ordinances aimed at requiring EV charging infrastructure installation
upon new construction or redevelopment have been passed in Coral
Gables, Miami Beach, Orlando, Miami, Boca Raton, Winter Park,
Hollywood, Jupiter, and the counties of Miami-Dade, Leon, and*

Orange. Adopting such an ordinance would prepare the City for the shift to EVs as well as establish the City as a leader in environmental policy in Broward County.

Preparation of such an ordinance would support the following parts of the City's Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan:

- EVALUATION MEASURE CC 1.1.1: The City of Fort Lauderdale shall work city-wide to reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by government operations with the goal of achieving 80% reduction below 2010 levels by 2050. The City will continue to regularly monitor and track progress of programs and initiatives that contribute to reaching this goal.*
- POLICY CC 1.1.2: The City of Fort Lauderdale shall consider greenhouse gas emissions when making decisions related to procurement, capital improvements, operations, programs, events, long-term planning, land-use, and City operations.*
- POLICY CC 1.1.5: The City of Fort Lauderdale shall promote and support the expansion of alternative and renewable energy on residential, commercial and municipal properties by working to reduce regulatory encumbrances and to develop incentives for renewable and alternative energy installations.*
- POLICY CC 1.1.10: The City shall explore education and implementation incentives for business and residences in regard to solar power, energy efficiencies, and electric vehicle technology that can be incorporated on-site.*
- GOAL 2: Sustainable Development: The City shall encourage sustainable, smart growth which designates areas for future growth, promotes connectivity, social equity, preservation of neighborhood character and compatibility of uses.*

A motion to approve the Communication to the City Commission as discussed was made by Ms. Charles and seconded by Ms. Mazza. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Chavarria remarked on the ability to modify Ordinances requiring or incentivizing the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging station infrastructure in new construction or redevelopment projects.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director - Sustainability. Dr. Gassman confirmed this SAB Communication is requesting the Commission to consider modifying Ordinances within the Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR) to support policies that would make the City EV charging ready. She confirmed that numerous other South Florida municipalities have adopted these EV-ready policies.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Glen Hadwen, Public Works Department Sustainability Manager. Mr. Hadwen provided a brief overview regarding the projected future of the EV market and confirmed reduced costs of providing EV infrastructure during project development versus post-development. He discussed the communication's reference to the City's Net Zero Goal that the Commission adopted in December 2021, establishing a Net Zero Goal for government operations by 2040 and community-wide by 2050.

Mayor Trantalis noted that a State Statute does not permit municipalities to increase the financial burden of developments, and the City would shoulder any increased cost burden on the developer. The incentive approach is the best path.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the Commission's direction to Staff regarding incentivizing development projects, Commissioner Glassman confirmed his support and remarked on the need to add to the existing twenty (20) electric charging stations within City facilities. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed her support for Staff to review.

Mayor Trantalis requested that Staff present proposed Ordinance updates to incentivize new development projects to provide EV charging stations.

***Education Advisory Board (EAB) Meeting
Thursday, December 15, 2022***

Communication to the City Commission - Early Learning

The EAB recommends that the Commission continues to support efforts to collaborate with the Bezos Academy and other evidence based early learning programs that will lead to improved access to early childhood education opportunities linked to increased school readiness and literacy gains. The Education Advisory Board also recommends continued engagement and collaboration with key partners and stakeholders to lay the foundation for long-term

academic success.

Motion by Ms. Brinkworth, seconded by Mr. Relyea, to recommend a Communication to the Commission regarding the Early Childhood Initiatives. In a voice vote, the motion passed with Ms. Jaramillo in opposition. (9-1)

Mayor Trantalis remarked on previous Commission direction approving collaboration with the Bezos Academy.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer. Ms. Saunders provided an overview of the Bezos Academy and Staff's efforts in partnership with Broward County Public Schools. The Broward County School Board requested those efforts be halted when presented at a Workshop. Subsequently, Staff efforts were focused on hosting the Bezos Academy at City-owned properties, which have been ongoing.

Ms. Saunders confirmed that the EAB Communication supported the continuation of those efforts and expounded on Staff's ongoing work. She noted that one (1) EAB member was in opposition. Staff will bring forward a Commission presentation focused on early learning in the City, an overview of existing providers, performance and enrollment data, and an overview of the Bezos Academy.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Saunders explained the EAB's focus on expanding early learning education. She remarked on examples of data collection and efforts to coordinate with early learning education partners.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on concerns related to the lengthy timeline associated with the implementation of Bezos Academy collaboration opportunities. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Saunders explained that the YMCA had already partnered with the Del Mar Arts Academy. She commented on several City properties that could be a good fit for the Bezos Academy.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on feedback from District 3 constituents. She noted several legacy child care centers (Centers) in the community that would be direct competition for the Bezos Academy. She questioned those Centers opportunity to partner with the Bezos Academy. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman recommended a multi-pronged approach to explore such a partnership and a wider-scale communication strategy to educate our community on the benefits and opportunities available for early learning education.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the need to take advantage of Bezos Academy opportunities. He requested Ms. Saunders work with Commissioner Beasley-Pittman towards this goal and return to the Commission with an update. Ms. Saunders confirmed.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman recommended Staff dialog with the Centers towards achieving an understanding to move forward with opportunities associated with the Bezos Academy.

***Education Advisory Board (EAB) Meeting
Thursday, December 15, 2022***

Communication to the City Commission - Employee Volunteer Program

The Education Advisory Board encourages the Commission to implement an employee volunteer program. We encourage Commissioners to lead by example and commit "x number" of hours per month to volunteer in schools in the City of Fort Lauderdale. We envision City Commission supported opportunities for staff members to volunteer during paid City work hours or volunteered time off. The Education Advisory Board respectfully requests the Commission to investigate models for City employees to engage in volunteer opportunities at schools located in the City of Fort Lauderdale and implement such a program to support our City schools.

Motion by Ms. Gohl, seconded by Mr. Relyea, to recommend a Communication to the Commission regarding an employee volunteer program. In a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. (10-1)

Ms. Saunders provided an overview of this communication and said that the Education Advisory Board reflected on existing volunteerism and expounded on details, which prompted a conversation to broaden and expand those volunteerism efforts. Contemplation of an expanded program model would require exploration with Human Resources Staff. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [23-0001](#)

Discussion of the 2023 State Legislative Program - Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Daphnee Sainvil, Government Affairs & Economic Development Manager, narrated a presentation of a draft of the City's 2023 State

Legislative Program (Program). Ms. Sainvil provided a brief overview of the current and upcoming State Legislature calendar and remarked on related details.

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

Ms. Sainvil remarked on updated statements requested by Commissioner Glassman regarding fundamental human and civil rights and read the related statements.

Ms. Sainvil continued the review of the Program.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question regarding the procedure and expectation regarding this Agenda item, Mayor Trantalis explained the Program as a culmination of summaries that Staff has gleaned from conversations and meetings with the Commission. This discussion is an opportunity for Commission Members to comment on items. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst confirmed the Program priorities do not reflect his priorities, and he has not had conversations with Staff or City lobbyists regarding this Program list. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst said his question relates to the Program being a carry-forward of the previous Commission's direction to our lobbyists and Staff. Before presenting this Program, he confirmed his preference for a conversation with Staff and City lobbyists and expounded on related details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Sainvil commented on the importance of City appropriation requests and related details. She confirmed that she would meet with each Commission Member to discuss changes or additions to the Program, along with an in-depth discussion of the process of Staff formulating Program efforts moving forward.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Ms. Sainvil confirmed that following individual discussions with Commission Members regarding their Program priorities and a discussion of unified Commission priorities, Staff would present a revised Program for Commission approval.

Ms. Sainvil continued narrating the Program.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed Ms. Sainvil would meet with each Commission Member to review and modify Program priorities.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [22-0992](#)

Update on the Subsurface Tunnel System from Downtown Fort Lauderdale to Fort Lauderdale Beach - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis provided background information regarding this Agenda item to find a solution to alleviate traffic congestion experienced on the Las Olas Boulevard corridor with a Subsurface Tunnel System (Project) from Downtown Fort Lauderdale to Fort Lauderdale Beach. He noted that the three (3) new Commission Members had yet to have the opportunity to visit similar projects and recommended they take that opportunity to visit Las Vegas.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Herbst discussed his perspective regarding his opposition to this Project, including the purpose of those traveling along Las Olas Boulevard and additional routes for reaching the beach area.

Commissioner Herbst noted that more immediate traffic concerns exist from Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport (FLL) to Port Everglades and from FLL to the downtown. He remarked on the City's pursuit of this Project, expounded on his perspective, and cited examples.

Commissioner Herbst shared his discussions with Boring Company representatives in which he said that the Boring Company should have included a business plan and paid for both the current analysis of the Project and the entire Project. He would support federal government funding of the Project but opposes contributing Staff time or City funding.

Mayor Trantalis responded to Commissioner Herbst's remarks and agreed on significant traffic concerns between FLL and Port Everglades. He commented on discussions with the County officials regarding a subsurface tunnel solution for the area. County officials have plans for an overhead monorail system.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman marked that this Agenda item had been brought back for Commission discussion following negative coverage in *The Wall Street Journal* article on other Boring Company projects in other cities. She remarked on the need for more

information, including a business plan, a report on Las Olas Boulevard, and how salt water would impact the Project. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman explained related concerns and the need for more information and said she does not currently support the Project. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis reiterated that each Commission Member should have the opportunity to be made more aware of the Project's feasibility. The point of engaging with The Boring Company for a feasibility study was to determine the logistical suitability of the Project, followed by a cost-benefit analysis. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman discussed his ongoing support of this Project. He reached out to The Boring Company regarding concerns raised in the *The Wall Street Journal* article and explained the feedback received. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on his most recent discussions with The Boring Company, indicating they would identify, source, and fund this Project. He is interested in pursuing that proposal with the proper bonds to protect the City. Commissioner Glassman expounded on his perspective regarding the Project, noted his vision that it would be Phase One of additional efforts to address traffic congestion concerns. He concurred with Commissioner Beasley-Pittman regarding the need for additional information.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Commissioner Glassman said he had yet to reach out to the municipalities referenced in the *The Wall Street Journal* article.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, City Manager Chavarria explained that the existing contract with The Boring Company contains payment milestones. The City has been invoiced \$50,000 of the \$375,000 total cost, which is being processed for payment. Should the City decide not to move forward, the City would not be liable for the remaining contract amount.

Vice Mayor Sturman concurred with Commissioner Herbst's perspective and explained his logistical concerns for families traveling to the beach. He confirmed his constituents' opposition to this Project. Vice Mayor Sturman said that no additional City funds should go toward the Project.

Commissioner Herbst concurred with Commissioner Beasley-Pittman regarding the need to reach out to municipalities included in the *The Wall Street Journal* article. He requested a report from City Manager

Chavarria regarding the perspective of those municipalities. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding pursuing a funding request to the State Legislature for the Project's feasibility study.

Commissioner Glassman expounded on his perspective regarding the beach being a destination for numerous City events.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, narrated the slide presentation entitled, *Update on the Subsurface Tunnel System from Downtown Fort Lauderdale to Fort Lauderdale Beach*.

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

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Rogers confirmed his understanding that the feasibility study would cost more than \$375,000, and noted that the City capped its costs at \$375,000.

City Manager Chavarria confirmed The Boring Company is committed to fully funding the capital expenditures to complete the Project and expounded on related details. There are two (2) current options. The Commission can continue the feasibility study, which would need to be amended to include that The Boring Company would have the burden of developing the financial and capital plans for construction without City funding. The other option is to end the feasibility study and not continue with the Project.

Mayor Trantalis encouraged the Commission to direct City Manager Chavarria to continue discussions with The Boring Company and provide additional information before a Commission decision.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, City Manager Chavarria provided his opinion regarding the Project that would support transportation to major events on the beach, minimize traffic along Las Olas Boulevard, and cited examples.

Vice Mayor Sturman said additional funding for the Project should stop until more facts have been gathered about the other municipal projects discussed in *The Wall Street Journal* article.

Mayor Trantalis concurred regarding needing more information and remarked on the need to continue the City's analysis and feasibility study of its Project.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman said there is no urgency surrounding

this topic. She concurred with Vice Mayor Sturman's viewpoint that additional funding should only occur once more information on other similar municipal projects have been reviewed.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Herbst concurred with Commissioner Beasley-Pittman and Vice Mayor Sturman's perspectives. Commissioner Herbst remarked on concerns regarding the amount of Staff time going towards the Project and requested a Staff update. Before starting a Commission discussion of the Project, The Boring Company should provide a business plan and market analysis. Commissioner Herbst remarked on using the Water Taxi to travel to events on the beach, and said that the Project is not a replacement for that experience.

City Manager Chavarria remarked on details related to the expectation that there will be increased demand for travel to the barrier island. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman explained that the Project is part of a multi-pronged approach for those traveling to the beach and remarked on related details.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Peterson, 920 SW 18th Street. Ms. Peterson spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michael Ray, 6130 NW 33rd Terrace. Mr. Ray commented on his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item.

BUS-2 [23-0061](#)

2022 Year In Review - Citywide Accomplishments Highlights - (Commission Districts 1, 2 3 and 4)

City Manager Chavarria provided an overview of this Agenda item highlighting what was accomplished in 2022 and an outlook regarding financial and grants performance and projections.

Aricka Johnson, Structural Innovation Manager, Office of Management and Budget, and Yvette Matthews, Budget Community Investment Plans and Grants Division Manager, Office of Management and Budget, narrated a presentation entitled *2022 Year in Review - Citywide Accomplishment Highlights*. Ms. Johnson noted that additional detailed information is contained in the Exhibits included in this Agenda item.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Ms. Matthews provided a

high-level overview of Staff efforts to actively determine federal grant funding opportunities for the water treatment plant infrastructure. She confirmed Staff would provide additional information.

BUS-3 [23-0063](#)

Pickleball Design at Snyder Park - (Commission District 4)

Mayor Trantalis provided an update regarding this Agenda item. The Commission has approved the Pickleball Project (Project), and the associated comprehensive agreement has been executed. The purpose of this Agenda item is for the applicant to present the Project design to the Commission and the community.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ellyn Bogdanoff, Becker & Poliakoff, P.A., One East Broward Boulevard, on behalf of the applicant, My Park Initiative (MPI). Ms. Bogdanoff narrated a presentation entitled *My Park Initiative - Pickleball at Snyder Park (Park)*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Ms. Bogdanoff confirmed details of specific areas shown in the aerial map, part of which is owned by a private entity.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, Ms. Bogdanoff explained her viewpoint regarding Snyder Park's deed restriction. She said that if it does exist, which she does not believe it does, it qualifies because everything proposed for the Project is in the Parks Zoning Code. She cited examples included in the presentation.

Commissioner Herbst mentioned his visit to Snyder Park earlier today and recreational activities observed. In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence provided the City's position regarding the Project. The deed restriction is in the root title, is recorded, and is still effective. The restrictive covenant regarding the Project's use of the Park on this property is consistent with the City's Land Development Codes and Comprehensive Plan. Interim City Attorney Spence said he would confirm that the language is consistent with the related Charter provision. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman remarked that the Project is all-encompassing. In response to his question regarding adding paddle ball courts, Ms. Bogdanoff confirmed paddle ball courts were added based upon community feedback and could be removed. This design has forty (40) pickleball courts and four (4) paddleball courts.

Commissioner Glassman discussed feedback from the District 2 Agenda Meeting regarding concerns about the facility remaining open until midnight. Ms. Bogdanoff explained that the agreement states the range of hours of operation as 6:00 a.m. until midnight for activities such as pickleball tournaments. Commissioner Glassman remarked on the ability to issue a Special Event Permit for tournament activities. He explained his viewpoint that this Project meets the criteria of a public purpose and would be a good addition to Snyder Park.

In response to Vice Mayor Sturman's question regarding the latest design, Ms. Bogdanoff explained that the restaurant would be at the lake house. Vice Mayor Sturman discussed details of the District 4 community meeting on the Project that included many residents both supporting and opposing the Project. He summarized points raised by the community, including the hours of operation, Park lighting, installation of improvements such as a traffic light, parking, membership requirements, pricing and discounts, noise and drainage for residents, and the relocation of the dump site. Ms. Bogdanoff said concerns would be incorporated into the site plan and addressed in the Development Review Committee (DRC) process. She commented on working with and the positive feedback from Broward County regarding installing a traffic light at Fourth Avenue and Perimeter Road. Ms. Bogdanoff confirmed there would be continued community outreach and work with City management to address concerns raised. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sturman's questions regarding public access, Ms. Bogdanoff confirmed public access to all areas of the Project. She explained related details, including public discounts and a minimum of 1,000 hours of free court time for residents. MPI will provide pickleball equipment to every school in the City, along with offering the coaches and residents free lessons. One percent (1%) or \$100,000 of MPI's general revenue will go to the City. The comprehensive agreement merges the buildings and the entire facility with the land, and the City owns the land. MPI will have a license to run the facility that includes certain benchmarks. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions regarding the water quality and suitability of the Project's beach area for swimming, Ms. Bogdanoff confirmed the goal to ensure quality water standards for swimming will be explored through the DRC process and expounded on related details.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions regarding the hours of operation in areas other than the proposed facility, Phil Thornburg,

Parks, and Recreation Department Director, explained Snyder Park typically closes at dusk, 6:00 p.m. in the winter, and 7:00 p.m. in the summer. Mr. Thornburg explained there would be barriers between the Project and the other areas of Syner Park, and the only access to the Project would be from Perimeter Road.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions regarding the security plan, Ms. Bogdanoff confirmed MPI would be responsible for security. When the specific security plan is developed, it will be shared with the City.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the restaurant, Ms. Bogdanoff confirmed MPI is asking for the same privilege to serve alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages as Lockhart Park and planned for Holiday Park and are included in the comprehensive agreement. She discussed hours of service when serving alcohol at Special Events.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question regarding a cutoff time for serving alcohol to spectators, Ms. Bogdanoff commented on details related to risk management and restricting the hours of service for Special Events and serving of alcohol. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street. Mr. Inserra spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Virginia Smith, 1314 E. Las Olas Boulevard. Ms. Smith spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Tom Turberville, 1224 SW 32nd Street. Mr. Turberville spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ann Wiley, 1600 SW 5th Street. Ms. Wiley spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized John Rodstrom, 1712 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. Rodstrom spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Kitty McGowan, 910 SW 30th Street. Ms. McGowan spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Alan Scharf, 1761 SW 30th Place. Mr. Scharf spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charlotte Rodstrom, 66 Nurmi Drive. Ms.

Rodstrom spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Boganoff explained details associated with site plan locations included in the slide presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the Parks Bond referendum including funding for Snyder Park, Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Department Director, confirmed funding for Snyder Park was included. The Parks Bond allocates a little over \$6,000,000 for Snyder Park.

In response to Vice Mayor Sturman's questions, Mr. Thornburg confirmed City parks with lights close at 9:00 p.m., and other City parks with lights and athletic facilities are open until 10:00 p.m.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding whether the agreement associated with this Agenda violates the Charter, Interim City Attorney Spence explained this agreement is framed as a license agreement and is not subject to the Section of the Charter that refers to sales transfer and leases of property. Interim City Attorney Spence explained a provision in this agreement makes the City the owner of the improvements made in Snyder Park, and Section 6.03 of the Charter speaks to the merger of title of all the improvements. He confirmed that all of the uses included in this project are allowed permitted uses under the Charter.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Madelene Otero, 2542 Flamingo Lane. Ms. Otero spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ada Lopez, 2625 Flamingo Lane. Ms. Lopez spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Peterson, 920 SW 18th Street. Ms. Peterson spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michael Ray, 6130 NW 33rd Terrace. Mr. Ray commented on his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his discussion with Ms. Bogdanoff regarding incorporating pickleball courts at the community park planned at Lockhart Park and noted her feedback regarding the need for the Project to be available for the 2024 Pickleball Tournament season. Commissioner Herbst confirmed Lockhart Park as a prime destination for pickleball courts.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Chavarria confirmed that Lockhart Park is on City-owned land and remarked on related details.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Interim City Attorney Spence noted the need for Commission feedback on its approval of the Project design as presented before proceeding through the DRC process.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed the Commission is providing feedback based on the preliminary design plan based on the renderings and design presented. It would proceed through the DRC process for refinement. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager, confirmed that Staff reviewed related requirements. There is no park development included in the Project design that would cause the Project to move forward beyond the DRC process and would be confirmed through the DRC process. He expounded on related details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed the status of this proceeding. The comprehensive agreement was a preliminary approval of the Project design. This meeting is an opportunity for the Commission to review and comment on the Project design, which proceeds to the DRC process.

Commissioner Glassman clarified this Project does not need to return for further Commission approval.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the Parks Bond and efforts associated with the list of priorities. He remarked on the significant amount of community interest in pickleball courts that were not part of that Parks Bond. Mayor Trantalis commented on the cost to the City for pickleball facilities and confirmed his support of MPI funding this Project for the enjoyment of the community.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman requested consideration of reinstating the invocation at Commission Meetings.

Interim City Attorney Spence remarked on equal protection and affording opportunities to non-traditional organizations who have expressed interest in the past.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding having a Moment of Silence, Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on the need to reconvene the Charter Revision Board (CRB) and its scheduled meeting dates on the first Thursday of the month. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sturman's question, City Clerk David Soloman confirmed each newly elected Commission Member has the option to reappoint the representative of their predecessor or appoint a representative of their choice to the CRB within six (6) months of taking office.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the status of previous City Attorney Alain Boileau, Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed Mr. Boileau is on administrative leave. A resolution at tonight's Commission Regular Meeting terminates his employment contract effective in February 2023, per his contract, and sixty (60) days from when Mr. Boileau was placed on administrative leave. Mr. Boileau will have access to his emails for the remainder of his administrative leave and will have access to the building until the Resolution is adopted.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding a list of outside counsel working on pending cases, Interim City Attorney Spence said he would provide the Commission with a list when he meets individually with each Commission Member to review and update them on the pending cases.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman expounded on numerous Martin Luther King holiday events that begin today and invited everyone to participate.

Commissioner Herbst discussed recruiting for a new City Attorney and explained details of a process utilized in the past that included the formation of a committee of individuals from the legal community in the City used to evaluate potential candidates and requested a conversation regarding how to move forward.

Mayor Trantalis recommended scheduling this topic as a discussion item at a Conference Meeting.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Chavarria said Staff is working with the Saint Patrick's Day event coordinator. When complete details are confirmed, Staff will present them to the Commission.

Commissioner Glassman noted the need for a complete understanding of the Master Calendar of events, recommending one area on the City's website to view approved, proposed, and anticipated events. City Manager Chavarria confirmed.

Vice Mayor Sturman remarked on the Commission Goal Setting Session on January 24, 2023, ensuring the CRB will convene on February 2, 2023. Mayor Trantalis noted the need to confirm any new Commission appointments to the CRB at the January 24, 2023, Commission Regular Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sturman's question regarding the status of the Tree Ordinance, Chris Cooper, Development Services Department Director, provided an update. Staff met with the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Board in December 2022 and provided a presentation update which Staff will bring back to the P&Z Board in February 2023 for consideration. Vice Mayor Sturman requested Staff move this forward.

In response to Vice Mayor Sturman's question regarding an update on a SAFER Grant for Fire-Rescue, City Manager Chavarria confirmed Fire-Rescue Chief Stephen Gollan is addressing how to secure the grant and will update the Commission in February 2023.

Vice Mayor Sturman discussed District 4 residents' concerns and perceptions of the public-private partnership (P3) process. Mayor Trantalis commented on the P3 process and said that the State Statute is followed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked that perception concerns might relate to the previous State Statute. The State Statute has changed, and updated guidelines provide an additional opportunity for discussion. Commissioner Herbst confirmed his support of modifying the Ordinance. He recently sent an email to City Manager Chavarria and Interim City Attorney Spence to mirror updates in Miami-Dade's P3 Ordinance that the Commission could consider. He concurred with Vice Mayor Sturman's comments that Miami-Dade County's P3 Ordinance contains an improved structure and guidelines for the Commission to move forward, evaluate and approve P3s to benefit all stakeholders.

Vice Mayor Sturman suggested the Commission revisit how it handles P3s.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the success of the New Year's Eve Anchor Drop on January 31, 2022. He suggested partnering with Drive Pink Stadium to attract performers towards enhancing this event at Lockhart Stadium and possibly becoming a nationally televised event.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

MGR-1 [23-0092](#)

Update on Legal Notices to the Public - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Chavarria provided an update on legal notices to the public. A new State Statute provides the alternative to advertising public notices in circulated newspaper publications, and the current expense of advertising public notices in publications is \$52,000. There is now an option to post public legal notices on a web page.

City Manager Chavarria said the January 24, 2023, Commission Conference Meeting would include an Agenda item discussing Commission goals it would like the Charter Revision Board (CRB) to pursue. The January 24, 2023, Commission Regular Meeting will allow updates to Commission CRB appointments. The CRB is scheduled to meet on Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

2023 | State Legislative Program



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

Insert photo of
CITY COMMISSION

DRAFT

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

Warren Sturman
Vice Mayor/Commissioner | District 4

John Herbst
Commissioner | District 1

Steven Glassman
Commissioner | District 2

Pamela Beasley-Pittman
Commissioner | District 3

Greg Chavarria
City Manager

Daphnee A. Sainvil
Government Affairs Manager

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DRAFT

Introduction and Strategic Goals

The 2023 Legislative Priorities reflect the general position of the City Commission pertaining to upcoming legislation that would impact operations. Most importantly, this Program integrates the Commission's Strategic Goals: *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024*, which brings focus and coordination to what we do every day as we make this community a place to live, work, play, and invest. This framework enables our employees to collaborate and innovate together to achieve a set of aspirational goals, objectives, and initiatives over the next five years.



Infrastructure

GOAL 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community.

GOAL 2: Build a multi-modal and pedestrian friendly community.



Public Places

GOAL 3: Build a healthy and engaging community.



Neighborhood Enhancement

GOAL 4: Build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods.



Business Development

GOAL 5: Build an attractive global and local economic community marketplace.



Public Safety

GOAL 6: Build a safe and well-prepared community.



Internal Support

GOAL 7: Build a values-based organization dedicated to developing and retaining qualified employees.

GOAL 8: Build a leading government organization that manages all resources wisely and sustainably.

Fundamental Principles

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Address homelessness and the creation of housing opportunities including evaluation of activities and initiatives that can address the root cause of homelessness while identifying ways to create additional housing opportunities in the City.

The Commission *supports* full funding for the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP); and other housing programs which aid income eligible residents, including individuals with disabilities.

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

Support the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Legislative Priorities and Policy Statements, unless specific issues conflict with the City's approved Legislative Priorities.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

Oppose legislative efforts to increase or eliminate the monetary limits on the waiver of sovereign immunity in current law.

TAXES AND FEES

Oppose legislation that modifies, restricts, or eliminates a municipality's ability to levy and collect or spend franchise fees, communications service taxes, local business taxes, or other revenues.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Oppose legislation which shifts the financial burden from the state to local government, specifically municipalities.

WORKFORCE EDUCATION/EARLY LEARNING

Support funding for early learning education; and full funding for workforce readiness programs.

Commission Legislative Priorities

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATIONS

The Commission *supports* legislation:

- Allowing local government to regulate short-term rental properties, vacation rentals, and sober homes.
- That would change the date for the non-ad valorem assessment roll public hearing from September 15th to September 25th to avoid a special meeting of the City Commission regarding the budget.
- To amend Sec. 286.011, Florida Statutes allowing closed-door meetings on pre-suit liability claims.

FIREARM REGULATIONS

The Commission *opposes* the Legislature's attempt to prohibit local governments from implementing firearms regulations.

INFRASTRUCTURE, RESILIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Examine and address infrastructure needs related to water, wastewater, and stormwater. Integrate resilience in all decisions relating to current and future City operations, so that the city can effectively plan for, respond to, and quickly recover from disruptive events. Develop programs and implement strategies to improve traffic flow and evaluate new solutions that will alleviate congestion within the city.

The Commission *supports* legislation and funding for transportation enhancements focused on greenways, complete street initiatives, pedestrian safety, improving traffic flow, and mass transit development. The Commission further supports legislation that:

- Requires flood disclosures upon the sale of a property;
- Promotes energy conservation and alternative energy development; and
- Supports the inclusion of municipalities in the state environmental permitting process.

Plastic Bag & Styrofoam Bans

The Commission *supports* the repeal of state regulations prohibiting local governments from banning the use or sale of polystyrene products.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Commission *supports* initiatives that focus on a fair and equitable justice system, which can be achieved through statewide comprehensive criminal justice reform. The Commission further *supports* legislation that modifies the Law Enforcement Trust Fund's (LETF) evidentiary standard in a forfeiture proceeding and use of future forfeitures, which may result in an increase in amounts collected.

Blue Light Initiative

The Commission *supports* the expansion of blue emergency light use to fire rescue and EMS by amending s. 316.2397(2)(3), F.S.

Appropriation Requests

ARTS AND CULTURE

The Commission *supports* increased funding for historic preservation, and the restoration of full funding for the cultural arts. As a city known for its arts and culture, the Commission supports all efforts to restore state funding to pre-recession levels.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Commission *supports* funding for Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport capital projects, and the collaboration between the marine and aviation industries to promote economic development and tourism. Furthermore, the Commission *supports* VISIT Florida and the transfer of the spending authority of the Tourism Development Tax to municipalities based on tourism activity.

EDUCATION

Education Enrichment Program | \$705,000

Elevating its role in education, the city hosted learning pods while schools were shuttered and has continued to expand academic enrichment offerings through summer and afterschool programs since the pandemic. An academic summer program was piloted using CARES Act funding in the summers of 2021 and 2022, in which more than 1,600 children and youth benefited from the City's summer program, resulting in participants mastering three or more reading and math skills.

Funding will build on the success of the City's summer academic program and expand services to include afterschool enrichment, workforce exploration and citizenship development.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Court Program | TBD

The goal of the Community Court program is to reduce the daily jail population by addressing the needs of homeless, petty crime and municipal ordinance offenders. Community Court focuses on the root causes of each defendant's issues, applying appropriate therapeutic and community service-based punishments. Participants must choose to take an active role in their rehabilitation. Furthermore, funding will support the operational expenses of the weekly court sessions in the City of Fort Lauderdale's Commission Chambers.

The program will provide participants with access services specific to their needs including hygiene kits, bus passes, birth certificates, and state issued identification in addition to access to social service and treatment agencies. Supplies for court participants including hygiene kits, bus passes, birth certificates, and state issued identification. In addition to Court operating costs such as advertising, office equipment, office supplies, parking fees for services providers, etc.

Rapid Rehousing Program | TBD

For over five (5) years, the City of Fort Lauderdale received \$1.15 million leading to the success of the Rapid Rehousing program. Along with local resources, we provided housing to limited income individuals and families. We have provided move-in assistance, first and last month's rent, security deposits, temporary hotel stays, utility deposits, support services, step down rental assistance, and case management services.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Support full funding for parks infrastructure projects that fight sea level rise; fighting sea level rise, and funding existing infrastructure projects. Specifically, the Commission supports:

Carter Park Improvements | \$272,500

As a result of recent cost escalations, many much needed planned park improvements were either removed or deferred leading to a significant reduction in the community's expressed desired elements and park needs.

Funding will be used to resurface the Orange Bowl Football Field at Carter Park, which would result in an increase in usage by residents and visitors. Funding will also provide continued outdoor fitness opportunities in support of the city's initiative to encourage its residents to live a healthy lifestyle.

Hardy Park Improvements | \$555,000

Funding will be used for the installation of a new multi-purpose field at Hardy Park. A major benefit for taxpayers will be the conversion of the existing Bermuda grass fields at Hardy Park to artificial turf. This will greatly reduce maintenance demand, costs, and additional water usage. Today, water conservation is critical, thus, this improvement will promote the City's sustainability initiatives. The artificial turf field will also increase residential and visitor use – encouraging the community to live a healthy lifestyle.

RESILIENCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Support full funding for infrastructure projects that fight sea level rise; fighting sea level rise, and funding existing infrastructure projects. Specifically, the Commission supports:

- The identification of adequate funding for water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure improvements.
- Legislation that requires flood disclosures upon the sale of a property.
- Legislation that promotes energy conservation and alternative energy development.
- Legislation that supports the inclusion of municipalities in the state environmental permitting process.
- Maintaining, at minimum, \$50 million recurring for beach re-nourishment, revitalization, and enhancement efforts.

Stormwater Pump Station Generators | \$700,000

During storms and power outages, the pump-station is not operational, causing massive flooding on downtown roads and abutting properties. Two gas generators will ensure that the station remains operational during power outages, increasing the resilience in the downtown area and significantly reduces flooding impacts.

Funding will add two generators to an existing stormwater pump-station located on the New River, which drains the downtown Fort Lauderdale area. During storms and power outages, the pump-station is no longer operational, causing massive flooding on downtown roads and abutting properties.

Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation of Basin B-14 | \$1,500,000

The rehabilitation and replacement of the sanitary sewer collection mains, manholes, and laterals is required to reduce inflow and infiltration, which can adversely impact system capacity to transmit and treat wastewater. The rehabilitation will increase the lifecycle of all assets and reduce such flows within PS B-14 Basin.

***pending information* Sidewalk Repairs | \$1,500,000**

The project will repair damaged sidewalks by constructing or reconstructing existing sidewalks within the City of Fort Lauderdale's right of way. The City of Fort Lauderdale has approximately 420 miles of sidewalk to maintain. Sidewalk repairs city wide are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The goal is to reduce pedestrian accidents caused by damaged sidewalks and provide ADA access.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation in any city is a critical component to stability and growth. The Commission *supports* full funding for all transportation projects within the FDOT Workplan.

Riverland Road Traffic Calming Project | \$1,000,000

The City of Fort Lauderdale identified the need to install traffic calming devices on Riverland Road to mitigate cut-through traffic and increase pedestrian and bicycle safety. The proposed project would install raised intersections and crosswalks to mitigate dangerous conditions.