

# City of Fort Lauderdale

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## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 27, 2022

9:00 AM

Commission Prioritization Workshop

Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club

20 S. Andrews Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

### **CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP**

*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*

*DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk*

*ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney*

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Commission Members Present:** Vice Mayor Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (arrived at 9:12 a.m.), Commissioner Ben Sorensen and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis (arrived at 9:21 a.m.)

**QUORUM ESTABLISHED**

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

**Charter Officers Present:** City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, Deputy City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau and City Auditor John Herbst (participated via communications technology)

**Annual Commission Prioritization Workshop Agenda**

- 9:00 am**      **1. Mayor's Welcome and Introduction**
- City Manager Lagerbloom announced the start of the meeting at 9:06 a.m.
- Vice Mayor provided opening remarks.
- 9:10 am**      **2. 2021 Commission Priorities accomplishments/successes**
- City Manager Lagerbloom reviewed 2021 Commission Priorities, accomplishments and successes and discussed future opportunities.
- 9:30 am**      **3. Challenges and opportunities for the upcoming year**
- Each District Commissioner commented on their perspective and discussed details related to items of importance as the City advances:
- District 1 - Vice Mayor Moraitis:
- Ensuring Public Safety
  - Public Park opportunities in District 1
  - Increasing open public green space
  - An inventory of remaining public land
  - Adoption of a public-private ordinance (P3)
  - Waterway quality improvements
  - Educational career technical training opportunities

- Development of an Electronic Arts (EA) Sports facility at Lockhart Park

District 2 - Commissioner Glassman:

- Delving deeper and refining efforts for existing Commission Priorities
- Improving aesthetics towards beautifying the City
- Funding Las Olas Boulevard improvements
- Moving up District 2 stormwater projects
- Concerted efforts for historic preservation to include related incentives and historic thematic districts

District 3 - Commissioner McKinzie:

- Continued cohesive pursuit of Commission Priorities
- Incentivizing affordable housing and historic preservation
- Attracting businesses with tax credits
- Pursuing state and federal funding opportunities through lobbying efforts
- Including sidewalks as part of infrastructure priorities

District 4 - Commissioner Sorensen:

- Pursuit of current Commission Priorities
- Leveraging City-owned land for workforce affordable housing
- Investment in City seawalls
- Federal lobbying efforts to fund the proposed tunnel for the New River crossing
- Pursuit of LauderTrail development
- Pursuit of Transportation Surtax Program funding
- Adequate Staffing of Code Enforcement
- Improving education in City schools

Additional comment and discussion ensued on Commission calendar coordination, federal funding for infrastructure and federal funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

Mayor Trantalis commented on the growth of the City and remarked on significant achievements and future opportunities to attract businesses. He discussed the need to diversify the economy and smart growth, expounding on details and citing examples.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on significant items of importance and included Commissioner comment and discussion:

- Tunnel Top Park
- Bahia Mar

- Tunnel for the New River crossing
- Joint Government Center
- Transportation Infrastructure funding
- Infrastructure Resiliency as a whole to include the Water Treatment Plant
- Panhandling and related homelessness concerns
- One-way traffic pairing in downtown

***The list of 2022 City Commission Priorities is attached to these Minutes.***

**10:00 am      4. Identify 2022 Commission Priorities**

Further comment and discussion ensued on:

- Commission Priorities
- Items of importance raised by each District Commissioner
- Analyzing the ranking of 2022 Commission Priorities
- Strategic Communications Division messaging to residents

City Manager Lagerbloom commented on methods towards optimal messaging of City goals and achievements to constituents.

**12:00 pm      5. Lunch**

**12:30 pm      6. Nonprofit organization grant discussion**

City Manager Lagerbloom provided a overview of 2021 nonprofit organization grant funding and discussed related details.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the importance of adequately funding firefighters and police officers and programs associated with fulfilling its missions. He is opposed to raising taxes to support nonprofits.

Vice Mayor Moraitis remarked on her philosophy to use tax dollars for unfunded City projects and cited examples.

Further comment and discussion ensued regarding developing the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget (2023 Budget) and its timeline and the process towards determining availability of nonprofit funding.

Budget Advisory Chair Brian Donaldson discussed financial challenges related to the 2023 Budget General Fund. Chair Donaldson explained his understanding of Commission direction regarding funding 2022 Commission Priorities and advising nonprofits of funding challenges.

Should nonprofit funding be included in the 2023 Budget, he would inform City Manager Lagerbloom of unfunded City projects.

Comment and discussion ensued on funding vital City programs serving the homeless and managed by nonprofit organizations and the need to inform other nonprofit organizations of anticipated budget challenges. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed a related communication to nonprofit organizations would be sent.

**1:00 pm**

**7. Adjourn meeting**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at \_\_\_\_ p.m.

**Attachments**

[22-0132](#)

2021 Commission Priority Accomplishment Matrix



# 2022 City Commission Priorities

Top Priorities	Themes
Homelessness and Housing Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Court and support services</li><li>• Increase affordable housing inventory</li><li>• Homelessness prevention</li></ul>
Infrastructure and Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seawalls</li><li>• Sidewalks</li><li>• Stormwater infrastructure</li><li>• Water and wastewater infrastructure</li><li>• Water treatment plant</li></ul>
Parks and Public Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City beautification of empty lots/dormant spaces (publicly and privately owned)</li><li>• Complete design of Lockhart Park including Community Center</li><li>• eSports opportunities</li><li>• Maintenance of streetscapes, medians, and public areas</li><li>• Parks Bond implementation</li><li>• Host premier events at Lockhart Park</li><li>• Public Private Partnership (P3) ordinance</li><li>• Shared use playgrounds with schools</li></ul>
Transportation and Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Las Olas Mobility Vision Plan</li><li>• LauderTrail</li><li>• One-way pairing of streets downtown</li><li>• Tunnel under the New River</li><li>• Tunnel between downtown and the beach</li></ul>



# 2022 City Commission Priorities

Priorities	Themes
Community Response and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Code enforcement resources</li><li>• Continue COVID-19 response for community health Police Headquarters</li><li>• Vacation rental regulation</li></ul>
Economic Diversification*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advocate for State and Federal funding</li><li>• Attract new businesses and industries to the City (such as the film industry)</li><li>• Reduce economic reliance on tourism and marine industries</li></ul>
Historic Preservation*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop thematic districts</li><li>• Evaluate City's historic preservation staffing and resource levels</li><li>• Incentivize the designation of buildings and homes as historic</li><li>• Recognize and retain the City's built history</li></ul>
Smart Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Balance growth and development with infrastructure plans</li><li>• Consider Uptown Master Plan South</li><li>• Preserve land and City assets</li></ul>
Waterway Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue water quality testing</li><li>• Guarantee waterways are clean and safe</li><li>• Pumpout stations</li><li>• Waterway dredging</li></ul>
Workforce Training and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue partnership with Broward County Public Schools</li><li>• Continue work with consultant to identify aviation workforce development options</li><li>• Develop workforce training opportunities</li></ul>

\* New initiative