

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

1:30 PM

The Parker

707 Northeast 8th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III

JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV

GREG CHAVARRIA, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

THOMAS J. ANSBRO, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Warren Sturman (arrived at 1:47 p.m.), and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Commission Members Not Present: Commissioner John C. Herbst (excused)

Also Present: City Manager Greg Chavarria, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbro, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[24-0074](#)

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

***Historic Preservation Board (HPB)
December 4, 2023***

Communication to the City Commission

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Richard Bray, HPB Member, explained information regarding this communication, including ensuring a process to develop and implement effective ways to highlight historical aspects of both the Sailboat Bend and Himmarshee Historic Districts. Commissioner Glassman concurred and discussed efforts to revitalize the Himmarshee Historic District, and noted this was included in the 2023 Commission Goals and Priorities. He discussed the importance of ensuring Sailboat Bend neighbors and stakeholders are involved.

Mayor Trantalis commented on this HPB communication. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager, explained related Staff efforts in 2016, recommended Staff or a facilitator host a stakeholder charrette to determine the next steps moving forward, and remarked on related information. Commissioner Glassman noted

the optimal timing associated with the coordination of Sailboat Bend Civic Association's development of a Neighborhood Master Plan and the importance of stakeholder involvement. Mayor Trantalis commented on Mr. Fajardo managing this effort.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted her optimistic viewpoint regarding this communication. In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Fajardo explained funding opportunities for a charrette facilitator from either the Development Services Department (DSD) or the General Fund. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Fajardo said he would work with Staff to develop a proposal and determine grant funding associated with the City being a Certified Local Government.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Christian Garay, 1515 Arpeika Street, Sailboat Bend Civic Association (SBCA) President and Sailboat Bend Master Plan Committee Member. Mr. Garay discussed the efforts of SBCA residents and surrounding neighbors to preserve historic buildings in Sailboat Bend, and development of the Sailboat Bend Master Plan. He expounded on related information and goals. Commissioner Glassman confirmed the importance of historic preservation efforts and provided his perspective.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman confirmed her support for making historic preservation a City-wide effort and the need to identify historic areas of District 3 and include them in the canopy of historic preservation efforts. She remarked on a solid historical legacy in District 3 and confirmed all Districts should have a seat at the table for HPB discussions. Commissioner Glassman concurred, expounded on his support, and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Fajardo said Staff is performing a City-wide Historic Preservation Survey (HPS) and explained related information and grant funding that includes the Historic Dorsey-Riverbend neighborhood. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed the need to ensure District 3 residents receive hard paper copies of historical surveys. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Fajardo remarked on HPB efforts and thresholds and confirmed he would meet with Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman to discuss in detail.

***Historic Preservation Board (HPB)
November 6, 2023***

Communication to the City Commission

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager, confirmed the City has a Transfer of Development Rights Program (TDR Program). Mr. Fajardo discussed related information, noted it was modeled after other TDR Programs around the State of Florida and noted the timeliness of implementing a study of the Program.

Richard Bray, HPB Board Member, explained the genesis and expectations of this HPB communication, including the need for additional clarity and information to ensure a higher level of visibility to encourage the public's utilization. Mayor Trantalis concurred and explained his viewpoint.

Commissioner Glassman recommended residents review the related HPB Meeting Minutes. He expounded on his perspective, noted that the current TDR Program is not working and the need to move forward with the HPB's recommendation to incentivize and preserve historic properties.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the need to incentivize property owners and developers for the preservation of historic properties and requested that the TDR Program be scheduled for discussion at an upcoming Conference Meeting.

***Community Services Board (CSB)
December 11, 2023***

Communication to the City Commission

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Development Services Department Director. Mr. Cooper explained the CSB is requesting that the enabling legislation be modified to reduce the number of required meetings from ten (10) to eight (8). Mayor Trantalis noted there was no objection from the Commission and requested an amended Ordinance be presented to the Commission.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [24-0060](#) Quarterly Investment Report for Period Ending September 30, 2023 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Linda Short, Finance Department Director. Ms. Short reviewed the City's portfolio performance.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Short explained that the allocation of earnings is based upon each investment fund contribution and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Ms. Short explained details regarding the City's increase in investment earnings and confirmed she would provide additional information.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Richard Pengelly, Managing Director of PFM Asset Management LLC. Mr. Pengelly discussed the positive investment outlook and opportunity for interest earnings, remarked on related efforts with Staff, expounded on corresponding information, and cited examples.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding income received from the Police and Firefighter Pension System meeting the City's related obligations, Ms. Short confirmed and said interest income received has assisted in lowering the City's contributions and explained related information.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [24-0070](#) City Homeless Initiatives Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Luisa Agathon, Neighborhood Support Manager. Ms. Agathon provided an overview of this Agenda item, acknowledging Staff who comprise the homeless initiatives team. She introduced Lisette Woskobochnik-Palmero, Neighbor Support Program Manager. Ms. Woskobochnik-Palmero narrated a presentation entitled *Homeless Initiatives Review Fiscal Year 2023*.

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

Commissioner Glassman remarked on his support of the City's efforts to address homelessness and expounded on his perspective.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Ms. Woskobochnik-Palmero explained Staff efforts to meet with the Broward County (County) Sheriff's Office to address homelessness concerns associated with inmate discharge from the Broward County Jail and patient discharge from the County Hospital District. Staff would continue its efforts to meet with these entities and return within ninety (90) days to provide an update.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on ongoing concerns related to panhandlers at intersections, tents on the beach and noted related progress in the Galt Ocean Mile area. Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager, explained efforts to address these concerns, including enforcement of Ordinances and expounded on details.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective, including his optimistic view of Staff's efforts to work with the court system and explained related information.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Fajardo suggested those wishing to volunteer or contribute towards addressing homelessness can contact Neighbor Support to determine the best path forward. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Paula Yukna, 2701 N. Atlantic Boulevard, and Homeless Advisory Committee Chairperson. Ms. Yukna remarked on the challenges and efforts to address homelessness.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street. Mr. Inserra discussed his concerns regarding this Agenda item and expounded on his perspective.

City Manager Chavarria remarked on the Homelessness Outreach Team's recent efforts. Mayor Trantalis discussed efforts to connect homeless individuals with social services. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented on points raised by Mr. Inserra. In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Fort Lauderdale Police Department Major Pat Hart explained efforts to address concerns and connecting homeless individuals with social services. Major Hart explained efforts and details related to addressing safety in rights-of-way.

BUS-2 [24-0015](#)

Debt Capacity and Financing Flexibility Presentation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Linda Short, Finance Department Director. Ms. Short provided an overview of this Agenda item, noting Sergio

Masvidal, Managing Director - PFM Financial Advisors LLC, would also participate. Ms. Short narrated a presentation entitled *Debt Capacity and Financing Flexibility*.

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Sergio Masvidal, Managing Director, PFM Financial Advisors LLC. Mr. Masvidal narrated the portion of the presentation entitled *Financing Flexibility*.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Masvidal discussed information related to how credit rating agencies calculate the City's bond ratings, expounded on related information, and noted the City's Water and Sewer Bond credit rating had increased. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's questions, Ms. Short said that as of October 1, 2023, the City's total overall bond debt is \$1,455,936,762, explained items included in this amount, and confirmed she would share additional information with Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Short confirmed the ability to bond additional capital project costs is based on the City's debt policy.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Ms. Short explained information associated with the current \$88,000,000 bond funding for stormwater and wastewater projects. She discussed a \$19,000,000 Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Line of Credit that has not been drawn upon and confirmed the ability to apply for related bonds. The Parks bond has not been included in the presentation because it has not been issued. A \$100,000,000 Public Safety Bond is included in the presentation, and there is a Line of Credit for additional costs of the Police Headquarters, which will be converted to a bond when the project is completed and the total cost is determined.

BUS-3 [24-0106](#)

Renew Lauderdale General Obligation Bond Presentation -
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director. Mr. Dodd provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a presentation entitled *Renew Lauderdale*.

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

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Dodd confirmed the \$23,000,000 listed in the presentation for sidewalk maintenance equates to an annual cost of \$2,100,000.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Dodd explained information in the presentation included small neighborhood canal dredging, which is the responsibility of the City. Mayor Trantalis commented on previous input on this topic from neighborhoods in opposition due to a possible special assessment. Mr. Dodd confirmed.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Dodd confirmed the number of seawalls listed on page six (6) in the presentation for repair should be listed for seawall replacement and would be corrected.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Dodd said the information in the presentation are long-term objectives. Mr. Dodd confirmed the opportunity for additional funding sources and cited examples. City Manager Chavarria confirmed the availability of other funding sources, remarked on determining factors, and cited examples.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman commented on concerns related to City bond debt. Mayor Trantalis concurred and noted the opportunity to discuss this topic at the upcoming Commission Goal Setting Session.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the City's bond obligations, Ms. Short noted that as of October 1, 2023, the City's total overall bond debt is \$1,455,936,762 and does not include the City's Lines of Credit because they have not been converted into bonds. The City's total debt, including Lines of Credit, is about \$1,600,000,000. Ms. Short discussed the City's outstanding bonds. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted her understanding that the City has twenty (20) outstanding bonds, and Ms. Short confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on his positive perspective regarding Staff efforts to address the City's resiliency needs and the importance of determining alternative funding.

Commissioner Glassman concurred and expounded on his positive perspective regarding the City's efforts and the need to discuss this topic further at the Commission Goal Setting Session.

Strategic Plan - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director. Ms. Reece narrated a presentation entitled *PRESS PLAY FORT LAUDERDALE 2029 - Our City, Our Strategic Plan* (Strategic Plan).

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

Ms. Reece requested Commission feedback on the Strategic Plan, which is scheduled for Commission adoption at tonight's Regular Meeting. Mayor Trantalis noted this presentation is a high-level overview, and the Commission will focus on specific topics related to each District during its upcoming Goal Setting Session to determine related guidelines and principles to meet goals of the Strategic Plan.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed her meeting with Sharon Woodfield, Old Dillard Museum, regarding plans to recognize and celebrate Dillard High School's 100th Anniversary in April 2024. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman said she would discuss coordinating related plans with City Manager Chavarria. She noted numerous historic educational opportunities offered at the Old Dillard Museum, which is a historic landmark, and remarked on related information.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on efforts of Black Genius in Flight, to provide information about aviation careers and related educational opportunities. Mayor Trantalis discussed aviation opportunities provided by Atlantic Technical College. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted the need for collaboration and expounded on her viewpoint.

Commissioner Glassman noted the 25th Anniversary of Arts United and remarked on related information. Commissioner Glassman commented on fundraising efforts by the artist Joseph Gormley, Bayview Elementary School Head Custodian and his creation of a series of Leo Messi portraits and discussed related details.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Chavarria remarked on interaction with the School Board of Broward

County (School Board) regarding their plans to create a police force and noted input from City Staff was not requested. City Manager Chavarria said Staff could communicate Commission feedback to the School Board. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his perspective, the need for additional information, and requested Police Department Staff present on this topic at the next Conference Meeting. City Manager Chavarria confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman requested the Commission recognize several community members during tonight's Moment of Silence at the Commission Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Sturman noted two (2) upcoming District 4 Workshops regarding the Commission Goals Setting Session and the 17th Street Improvements Project. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Sturman explained information regarding the 17th Street Improvements Project and confirmed it would not include discussions regarding the County's Bypass Road.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on attending the District 3 Kwanzaa Event and the need to restore related funding. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman concurred. Mayor Trantalis commented on the Downtown Countdown Event and recommended it be relocated to DRV PNK Stadium including additional entertainment and other festivities.

Mayor Trantalis noted that today is National Law Enforcement Day and recognized all members of Law Enforcement and First Responders. He commented on the upcoming Commission Goal Setting Session at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport on January 19, 2024, and said the public is invited to attend.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Chavarria provided an update on efforts with Broward Health regarding reopening Dottie Mancini Park and expounded on related information. Work is ongoing for a temporary lease to reopen Dottie Mancini Park and determining an alternate permanent location to expand the Hospital District's health facilities. Commissioner Sturman remarked on an opportunity for a land swap with the Hospital District. City Manager Chavarria explained related efforts that did not suit the necessary criteria of the Hospital District. He explained that the search has now been expanded beyond District 1 and a resolution is anticipated in the next ninety (90) days.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Chavarria provided an update on the tunnel study as an alternative for the New River Crossing (Study) that included meetings with the City's consultant (BDO) and Broward County. Feedback received included concerns that BDO is addressing. BDO is completing a level four (4) cost estimate and pursuing related funding opportunities. BDO will meet with additional stakeholders at the end of January 2024 and provide an update at the Commission Conference Meeting on February 6, 2024. The Regional Infrastructure Accelerators Program (RIA) grant agreement will also be presented to the Commission in February.

City Manager Chavarria announced the second Reimagining City Hall Workshop will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at the L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell Community Center.

City Manager Chavarria provided an update on the tornado that impacted forty-two (42) homes. Commissioner Glassman remarked on Staff's efforts to address the impact of the recent tornado and expounded on related information.

City Manager Chavarria noted a request from the Broward County Supervisor of Elections to begin discussions regarding its use of the DRV PNK Stadium (Stadium) on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, for the 2024 Election. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding accommodating this request by using one (1) of the four (4) days designated for the City's use of the Stadium.

City Clerk David Soloman requested Commission feedback regarding the opportunity to bring forward an Ordinance that would require online reporting of campaign finances. City Clerk Soloman said that several surrounding municipalities have implemented this on-line reporting. Further comment and discussion ensued. There was a consensus to provide online reporting as an option for election candidates.

MGR-1 [24-0112](#)

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.