

City of Fort Lauderdale

<https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv

www.youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale

Cable Television - Comcast Channel 78 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

1:30 PM

NSU Art Museum - Horvitz Auditorium
1 E Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

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 1:39 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

Also Present: City Manager Greg Chavarria, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbro, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly (participated via communications technology)

AGENDA ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Trantalis announced Agenda item BUS-1 would be heard at approximately 2:45 p.m.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-2 [24-0177](#)

Himmarshee Revitalization Plan Presentation - Public Outreach Summary and Next Steps - (Commission District 2)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Development Services Department Director. Mr. Cooper provided an overview of this Agenda item and introduced the City's public outreach consultant, Fabian De La Espriella, AICP, Principal, Urbe Studio, who commented on his community planning firm. Mr. Espriella narrated a presentation entitled *Himmarshee Revitalization Plan - Preliminary Public Outreach Summary and Next Steps*.

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

Commissioner Glassman remarked that the Himmarshee Entertainment District (HED) revitalization was identified as a Commission goal and priority in 2023. He remarked on related details and confirmed his support of efforts to address issues in the HED, which impact surrounding neighbors. Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to pursue additional items, including incorporating parking into future development and ensuring safety. He noted conversations with City Manager Chavarria regarding instituting a branded ambassador program in the HED. Commissioner Glassman commented on specific

resident feedback, noted opportunities for landscape improvements, and commented on actions by Code Enforcement.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Glassman discussed why the HED revitalization is necessary, noting that the area has deteriorated over time and cited examples. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman concurred and commented on her support of HED revitalization efforts and the need for similar efforts in District 3.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street. Mr. Inserra discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item and recommended restoring the HED's character and identity.

Commissioner Glassman noted that the HED is a historic district, and revitalization efforts would reflect its historic character.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Eugenia Ellis, President and Chief Executive Officer at Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Inc. Ms. Ellis spoke in support of this Agenda item. She remarked on the HED's history and maintaining its character, suggested items for consideration, and noted the importance of addressing current safety concerns.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Ms. Ellis explained that in prior years, the Downtown Himmarshee Village Association managed the HED and was comprised of area stakeholders that had a set of business operation guidelines. She remarked on her understanding of its disbanding. Commissioner Glassman suggested reestablishing the Downtown Himmarshee Village Association with updated guidelines.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Joe Cox, 1638 NE 7th Place, Museum of Discovery and Science (Museum) President. Mr. Cox spoke in support of this Agenda item and recommended ideas for revitalizing the HED to enhance the Museum visitors' experience. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Cox noted that Museum visitors are unsure where to go in the area and remarked on the need for wayfinding signage, adequate streetscape design and parking, daytime activities for families, including family-friendly restaurants and shops, and addressing nighttime safety concerns. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on the opportunity for commuter rail and the Brightline to serve visitors of the HED.

Mr. Cooper explained Staff's next steps, including developing an action

plan based on stakeholder input and Commission feedback. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-3 [24-0179](#)

Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) Program Update - (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 introduced Paola Davalos, P.E., Ardurra Group, Inc., who narrated a presentation entitled *Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) Program Update*.

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

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Ms. Davalos explained the impact and challenges associated with I&I. Commissioner Sturman remarked on the effect of I&I on water treatment plant capacity. Ms. Davalos confirmed and noted that infiltration has a more significant impact than inflow on wastewater flow and expounded on related information. She confirmed sources of inflow and the effect of high tides on wastewater flow. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Ms. Davalos explained the impact of I&I on future allocated funding listed in the presentation. It is currently estimated that about twenty-five percent (25%) to thirty percent (30%) of I&I could be addressed with that funding. As efforts progress, improved estimates will be provided. Further comment and discussion ensued. Ms. Davalos said that funding for 2025 is significantly lower than that for future years and noted there is a need to ramp up the Program to ensure adequate financing for rehabilitation, which will dramatically reduce I&I as the Program moves forward. Her team can provide specific numbers and assist with identifying additional funding, such as grants.

BUS-4 [24-0239](#)

Fort Lauderdale Police Department School Zone Speed Cameras Presentation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fort Lauderdale Police Department Police Chief (Chief) William Schultz. Chief Schultz provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a slide presentation entitled *School Zones Speed Camera Enforcement* (Program).

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Chief Schultz explained that the City would absorb administrative costs, cited examples, and

remarked on related information.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, Chief Schultz explained that the Police Motorcycle Units are deployed at City schools in the mornings and afternoons are rotated as there are not enough to assign to each City school. Commissioner Herbst remarked on his support of this Program, noted its benefits, and expounded on related information.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on the previous Red-Light Camera Program. In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Chief Schultz explained that with this Program, the first citation issued would comply with the City Ordinance. If the vehicle owner was not driving the vehicle when the citation was issued, the owner of the vehicle would complete an affidavit stating who was driving, and a citation would be given to the driver of the vehicle. Points would only be assessed if the driver refused to pay the citation.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Chief Schultz explained that approximately forty (40) Police Officers would be necessary to monitor traffic at each City School zone in the mornings and afternoons. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman confirmed her support of this pilot Program.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the involvement of school boards in other areas, Chief Schultz said this Program is relatively new in Florida and that he would research and provide an update. Commissioner Glassman remarked on the citation breakdown included in the presentation. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Orlando Torres, 1920 S. Ocean Drive. Mr. Torres spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Greg Parks, 13000 Laurel Hill, Tallahassee, on behalf of RedSpeed USA, Tallahassee. Mr. Parks spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Hassan Dabaja, 1000 NW 168th Avenue, Pembroke Pines, on behalf of JENOPTIK, Pembroke Pines. Mr. Dabaja spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jason Norton, 414 Selma, Webster, MO, on behalf of ALTUMINT. Mr. Norton spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Commissioner Herbst recommended that the Commission direct Staff to prepare a related Program Ordinance.

BUS-1 [24-0196](#)

New River Crossing Update Part V - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, who provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his recent visit to the Port of Miami Tunnel accompanied by City Manager Chavarria and City Staff, Kevin Kelleher, Broward County Assistant County Administrator, and Broward County Commissioner Lamar Fisher. The purpose was to gather information regarding the feasibility of a Tunnel for the New River Crossing (Tunnel).

Mayor Trantalis recognized Umer Yaqub, BDO Managing Director. He provided an overview of this presentation, including updates on information previously presented to the Commission by BDO. Mr. Yaqub, Nasri Munfah, Gall Zeidler Consultants, and Tom John, BDO, narrated portions of the presentation entitled *Commission Meeting March 5, 2024*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Munfah explained that escalators at the existing Brightline Station (Station) would provide access to trains in the lower level Tunnel, allowing the Station to remain operational and providing a Multimodal Center for other transportation options.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Munfah explained tunnel details included in the illustration. The area between the two tunnels would be excavated to create space for the station where a platform could be placed.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. John explained where the Tunnel boring machine would start. It would go under SW 6th Street and come out on the north side of NW 7th Street. Mr. John remarked on discussions with the owner of the one (1) privately owned parcel impacted by an easement on the southwest side of the New River. Mayor Trantalis commented on discussions with that owner who indicated his cooperation.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on neighbor concerns regarding the impact of underground boring on existing structures. In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, Mr. Munfah said that noise and vibration assessments would be conducted. He explained information related to other tunnel boring projects in areas with similar soil structures. Commissioner Herbst remarked on his understanding of the effects of vibration on existing structures. Mr. Munfah explained mitigation efforts to address underground railway traffic.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Yaqub explained the color-coded buildings illustrated in the presentation:

- Blue buildings are approved but not yet constructed
- Green buildings are under review
- Pink buildings are under construction

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Munfah confirmed that if Tunnel flood gates are closed due to rain events, freight railway traffic will continue as they operate above ground.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the term value capture, which often relates to tax assessments for property owners. He commented on the need to be transparent and expounded on the flow of taxes. Commissioner Herbst discussed his viewpoint regarding examples of opportunities to pursue value capture, which would include discussions with area stakeholders benefiting from this project. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Herbst commented on other public-private partnership (P3) projects that provide a variety of revenue streams, and the possibility of a P3 providing a funding option. Mr. Munfah remarked on payment-based availability for a P3. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the draft Tunnel proposal and the ability to make adjustments, Mr. John confirmed and explained BDO's viewpoint that this project is a candidate for federal grant funding.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Mr. Munfah confirmed that the Brightline Station would remain in place and operational during Tunnel construction and commented on how the existing Brightline Station could be utilized.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Christopher Hodgkins, Miami Tunnel LLC Chairman. Mr. Hodgkins narrated a presentation entitled *City of Ft.*

Lauderdale Tunnel Team.

A copy of the presentation has been made part of the backup to these Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Sturman requested City Manager Chavarria coordinate his visit to the Miami Tunnel. In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Mr. Hodgkins explained that the routing for the Miami Tunnel was the shortest distance underwater and confirmed that hazardous materials travel to the port on a different route as they are not permitted to travel through the Miami Tunnel.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Hodgkins explained how he would pursue a Tunnel, including determining its feasibility and what is best for the community and stakeholders, and cited examples. Mr. Hodgkins confirmed his team would look at the BDO findings in conjunction with reviewing considerations of Broward County and provide feedback. Mayor Trantalis expounded on his perspective regarding the position of Broward County, the BDO report, and efforts to move forward. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Mr. Hodgkins said the cost of floodgates for the Miami Tunnel were approximately \$3,000,000 each. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the need for a fair playing field for project bidders should Mr. Hodgkins' firm assist the City with developing concepts and plans for a Tunnel. Mr. Hodgkins clarified that his firm would determine the feasibility of his firm's involvement. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Chavarria confirmed that Staff would work with the Office of the City Attorney and the Office of the City Auditor to address concerns raised by Commissioner Herbst.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on recent Tunnel site visits by BDO, stakeholders, and community leaders. In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Mr. Munfah explained how cost estimates for a Tunnel were calculated and commented on details related to accommodating an underground platform for the Brightline Station up to approximately one thousand feet (1,000'). The extension of the Brightline Station platform would begin at the end of the current Tunnel platform and continue southbound towards the New River. There would be a connection via an escalator or elevator descending from the end of the existing above-ground Brightline Station platform. All aspects of the Tunnel will be within the existing easement, and no additional land will be needed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-5 [24-0163](#)

Presentation on SeeClickFix (FixIt FTL) Replacing Q Alert (LauderServ) as the City of Fort Lauderdale's Customer Request Management System - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Porshia Garcia, Development Services Department Deputy Director. Ms. Garcia narrated a presentation entitled *Introducing FIXIT FTL*.

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

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Ms. Garcia confirmed that the software application (app) is free. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the app replaces LauderServ. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Ms. Garcia confirmed that the app's soft launch is today and will be available this week.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Garcia explained details regarding Strategic Communications informing all employees and residents about the Program. Mayor Trantalis remarked on this state-of-the-art tool and noted its benefits.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

Commissioner Herbst discussed the longstanding City policy regarding seawalls that allow upland residents to have dock permits. He noted that in 2025, this will no longer be permitted, discussed the need for consistency, and requested that dock permits along City seawalls not terminate in 2025. Commissioner Herbst noted this is a concern in numerous areas of the City and cited examples.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Herbst confirmed that docks on City seawalls would be accessible to the public. Commissioner Sturman confirmed that properties in District 4 have the same situation and echoed Commissioner Herbst's concerns.

Commissioner Herbst requested that Staff present an amendment to the related Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR) Section 8-144

Private Use of Public Property Abutting Waterways eliminating the July 2025 deadline.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman commented on her meeting with Gregory Scott regarding a proposed Oceans of Soul Special Event on the beach in November 2024 and remarked on related meetings with representatives of area homeowners associations.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on a meeting with Carlton B. Moore Friends and Family Foundation, Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Department Director, and Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, regarding efforts to partner with the City for the October 2024 Carlton B. Moore Day Festival (Festival) celebrating the former City Commissioner and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions to the City. She will meet with City Manager Chavarria to discuss this topic and requested this be scheduled for discussion at an upcoming Commission Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis concurred and expounded on his perspective. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted community services offered at the Festival.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted conversations regarding the Alcee L. Hastings Broward Black-Jewish Alliance project and continued efforts throughout the City.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman requested that Staff clarify efforts regarding the L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell Community Center receiving an educational grant.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted several new businesses opening in mixed-use developments along Sistrunk Boulevard.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman confirmed the Jack and Jill Center has been extended to include the Fifth Grade and has reached out to discuss more ways to be involved in District 3.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted her upcoming participation at the National League of Cities Event in Washington, DC, and expounded on related information.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on discussions regarding an AFLAC Workforce and Economic Development Program whose mission is to employ, educate, and empower young entrepreneurs through a six (6) week career readiness program and commented on related

information.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on attending the annual Urban Land Institute (ULI) Conference and expounded on related information, including the positive perspective and feedback received about the City.

Commissioner Glassman noted the upcoming secondary street naming of NE 35th Street to Chabad Drive.

Commissioner Glassman requested that City Manager Chavarria provide additional focus on traffic management during road closures and special events impacting the Las Olas Boulevard and Seabreeze Boulevard area and expounded on related information.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the efforts of Police Department Staff addressing Spring Break safety and his optimistic viewpoint. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Police Chief William Schultz explained information regarding Governor DeSantis' offer of additional law enforcement personnel to address public safety concerns during Spring Break, noting the offer was general output to any City that borders water. Staff advised that State law enforcement is welcome to assist with DUI checkpoints and traffic enforcement on State Roads.

Commissioner Sturman discussed the Breakwater Surf Club community that does not have sidewalks and may need an amended Ordinance to provide relief related to two (2) new properties being built that mandate sidewalks.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on a neighborhood meeting on vacation rentals, commented on his perspective and understanding of State legislation under consideration, and requested a legislative update from Staff.

Commissioner Sturman commented on Noise Ordinance and Tree Ordinance Townhalls and upcoming plans for a Hurricane Preparedness Townhall.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his positive perspective regarding Spring Break activities.

Mayor Trantalis recognized the retirement of the following Staff members:

Christer Billinger, Fire-Rescue Department Firefighter Paramedic - 22 years of service

Christopher Archambault Fire-Rescue Department Firefighter Driver
Engineer - 30 years of service

Gregory Schutzer, Fire-Rescue Department Captain - 26 years of
service

Paul Gilbert, Fire-Rescue Department Firefighter - 24 years of service

Richard Thorpe, Fire-Rescue Department Firefighter - 26 years of
service

Valerie Florestal, Information Technology Services Business Operations
Manager - 20 years of service

Ludovic Norvelus, Parks and Recreation Department Facilities Worker -
17 years of service

James Crawford, Public Works Department Environmental Laboratory
Supervisor - 27 years of service

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Chavarria said he had no updates to Commission Action Items.

City Manager Chavarria remarked on the Commission's new meeting space at the NSU Art Museum - Horvitz Auditorium (Auditorium). He provided an update on efforts with Broward Health regarding Dottie Mancini Park in District 1, and noted that residents will soon receive a copy of *FTL Connect Magazine*. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's questions, Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, provided a breakdown of the additional incidental costs for using the Auditorium. The City pays no fee for the use of the Auditorium, apart from costs for janitorial and security services estimated at approximately \$1,000. Ms. Reece noted other technological startup costs to accommodate Commission Meeting needs in an email to Commission Members. She explained the need for separate NSU Art Museum security staff due to their insurance requirements.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Reece confirmed additional adjustments to include adequate equipment

allowing Staff work areas and charging stations. City Manager Chavarria explained additional plans to enhance Commission Meetings.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, City Manager Chavarria provided a detailed overview of Staff efforts to offer a proposal to Broward Health related to leasing Dottie Mancini Park. Commissioner Herbst remarked on delays, inquired about details, and discussed cost concerns. Further comment and discussion ensued.

MGR-1 [24-0293](#)

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

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE CLOSED-DOOR SESSION

City Attorney Thomas Ansbro requested that pursuant to Florida Statute Section 286.011(8), the City Commission will meet privately in an Executive Closed-Door Session on March 19, 2024, on or before 4:30 p.m. to discuss pending litigation in connection with the following matter(s):

Mark Messina and Bernard McDonald v. City of Fort Lauderdale, FL
Case No.: 21-CV-60168-RKA

Present at the attorney-client session will be:

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis
Vice Mayor Pamela Beasley-Pittman
Commissioner John C. Herbst
Commissioner Steven Glassman
Commissioner Warren Sturman
City Manager Greg Chavarria
City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbro
Deputy City Attorney D'Wayne M. Spence
Outside Counsel Hudson C. Gill, Esquire, Johnson, Anselmo, *et al.*
Outside Counsel Christopher J. Stearns, Esq., Johnson, Anselmo, *et al.*,
and
Certified Court Reporter from Bailey-Entin Court Reporting

The estimated length of this session will be approximately 20 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.