# City of Fort Lauderdale

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## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, June 17, 2025**

**1:30 PM**

**Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Mary N. Porter Riverview Ballroom - 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312**

## City Commission Conference Meeting

*FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION*

*DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor*
*JOHN C. HERBST Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District 1*
*STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District 2*
*PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District 3*
*BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District 4*

*RICKELLE WILLIAMS, 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 2:38 p.m.

## COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

**Commission Members Present:** Vice Mayor John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Ben Sorensen (participated via communications technology), and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

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

## COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

25-0646 Communications to the City Commission - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

*Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)*
*April 28, 2025*

*Communication to the City Commission*

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Spencer Lasday, 500 N. Andrews Avenue, SAB Member. Mr. Lasday explained details of the SAB communication.

*Historic Preservation Board (HPB)*
*May 5, 2025*

*Communication to the City Commission*

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager. Mr. Cooper explained details of the HPB communication.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Trisha Logan,

Development Services Department Historic Preservation Planner, confirmed the HPB Fiscal Year 2026 Budget (Budget) funding request would be for HPB initiatives, and the current $100,000 HPB funding is for one of its initiatives.

*Planning And Zoning Board (P&Z Board)*
*May 21, 2025*

*Communication to the City Commission*

***A copy of the communication is part of the backup for this Agenda item.***

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager. Mr. Cooper explained details regarding this communication.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jacquelyn Scott, 1626 SE 1st Street. Ms. Scott commented on her understanding of the P&Z Board's perspective regarding its meeting location. Further comment and discussion ensued.

## OLD/NEW BUSINESS

**BUS-1** 25-0511 Presentation on the Sailboat Bend Vision Plan - (Commission District 2)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager. Mr. Cooper provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Trisha Logan, Development Services Department Historic Preservation Planner. Ms. Logan provided an overview of the Sailboat Bend Vision Plan.

Ms. Logan introduced Andrew Georgiadis, Dover, Kohl & Partners. Mr. Georgiadis narrated a presentation entitled *SAILBOAT BEND VISION PLAN PRESERVING THE PAST, LIVING THE PRESENT, SHAPING TOMORROW* (Vision Plan).

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

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the similarity between the Vision Plan's entranceway into Sailboat Bend and Oakland Park's main street entrance design, noting it is simplistic and effective. Mr. Georgiadis confirmed it reflects community feedback. Mayor Trantalis remarked

on the design of entranceways into other City neighborhoods, expounded on his perspective, and cited examples.

Commissioner Glassman acknowledged the efforts of all stakeholders in developing the Vision Plan and expounded on his perspective that this effort should continue and be completed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on her support and noted her viewpoint that this Vision Plan serves as a pilot project to encourage similar efforts in other historic neighborhoods.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Georgiadis explained feedback from the Sailboat Bend community and noted the wide range of responses regarding historic preservation. Ms. Logan stated that the community was not asked about maintaining the neighborhood's historical designation. She noted the streamlined improvements to the historical designation process and positive feedback from the community.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the community feedback listed in the presentation, his perspective regarding individuals purchasing residences in a historically designated neighborhood. Mayor Trantalis commented on the importance of adhering to community feedback.

Commissioner Glassman shared his perspective regarding the community's preference to maintain its historic designation. He commented on the streamlining of the historical designation process and his concerns related to the removal of historical designation zoning and expounded on his perspective.

**BUS-2** 25-0524 Mixed-Use Code Project Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager. Mr. Cooper provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jim Hetzel, Development Services Department Principal Planner. Mr. Hetzel narrated a presentation entitled *MIXED-USE CODE PROJECT UPDATE.*

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Hetzel explained the genesis of this Agenda item. This effort was approved in Fiscal Year 2024 for review of the City's existing regulatory criteria to address

future development associated with the Broward County Land Use Policy 2.16.4 (Geller Amendment) and Florida Statute 166.0415 (7) (Live Local Act).

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Hetzel explained that the Live Local Act does not preempt the Geller Amendment. Developers can pursue either the Geller Amendment or the Live Local Act, not both. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Hetzel explained the removal of the zoning reference to single-use residential for properties of ten (10) acres or less, which removes contradicting language applicable to the mixed-use section of the Code. Mr. Hetzel clarified that mixed-use development could have single-use buildings.

Commissioner Sorensen confirmed that staff's recommendations apply to several projects in District 4. The recommendations received positive community feedback. Commissioner Sorensen recommended the Commission move forward with staff recommendations.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Hetzel provided an overview of how the mixed-use regulations could impact areas of District 3.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Hetzel said the City has received six (6) Live Local Act development projects. Commissioner Glassman remarked that one (1) approved Live Local Act mixed-use development is in District 2. Mr. Hetzel confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Hetzel explained that if the Commission approves the zoning Code changes, they will not apply retroactively to those Live Local Act development project submittals. Commissioner Glassman confirmed his support to move forward with staff recommendations.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Doug Eagon, 1050 Seminole Drive. Mr. Eagon discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item. Mayor Trantalis remarked on developers' efforts to exceed height limitations, cited an example, and expounded on his viewpoint.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street, River Oaks Civic Association President. Mr. Inserra discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman voiced concerns regarding the impact of development in municipalities located immediately adjacent to

District 3 neighborhoods. Mr. Hetzel said that the Geller Amendment and the Live Local Act apply to adjacent municipalities and confirmed the need for staff to research and determine whether adjacent municipalities plan to implement similar Zoning Code updates.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Hetzel confirmed the need for Commission direction to move forward. A fast timeline for the related process is estimated at approximately four (4) months.

**BUS-3** 25-0572 Code Enforcement Lien Collection and Administrative Cost Recovery - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager. Mr. Cooper provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Porshia Garcia, Development Services Department Deputy Director. Ms. Garcia narrated a presentation entitled *CODE ENFORCEMENT LIEN COLLECTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE COST RECOVERY.*

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

Vice Mayor Herbst remarked on his understanding of lien enforcement and recommended that staff not view old liens as uncollectible.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Garcia explained input from the Office of the City Attorney regarding liens discharged through bankruptcy, noting that related fines can be collected. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Garcia explained that the lien collection efforts related to the property foreclosure process are conducted by the Office of the City Attorney. Mayor Trantalis discussed his concern regarding lien reductions and amounts collected. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Interim City D'Wayne Attorney Spence explained that staffing is the reason there is not an aggressive lien enforcement effort. Recruitment efforts are underway to hire a litigation attorney to address lien foreclosures. Commissioner Sorensen recommended that staff pursue a related cost-benefit analysis. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the goal is compliance and concurred that expenses to recover foreclosure liens and fines should not exceed recovered lien amounts.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding nuisance abatement assessments added to non-ad valorem tax bills, Ms. Garcia said it applies to both homesteaded and non-homesteaded properties.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Ms. Garcia noted that life safety Code violations impacting the welfare of the community fall under nuisance violations and explained related information. Ms. Garcia reconfirmed that lien-related foreclosures have not progressed due to staffing issues. Mayor Trantalis commented on the need to pursue lien foreclosures.

Mayor Trantalis commented on revising the existing lien amnesty program discharge policy and confirmed his support of staff recommendations.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding contracting out lien foreclosure efforts to outside counsel, Interim City Attorney Spence said that staff had reviewed this alternative and remarked on similar efforts by other municipalities. Commissioner Sorensen noted this could be a viable option and confirmed his support for revising and pursuing the existing lien discharge policy. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective and confirmed Commission direction that liens should be pursued. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen recommended additional research on the statute of limitations for liens and confirmed his support of staff's recommendation regarding lien adjustments. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ms. Garcia discussed the positive and negative consequences associated with percentage changes to lien adjustments.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the discretion of the Special Magistrate. Ms. Garcia explained amnesty liens are administrative and do not involve the Special Magistrate.

Ms. Garcia noted a recent modification to the lien amnesty program that allows owners, at the discretion of the City Manager, to receive an additional lien reduction based on the property's value and current financial hardships. Ms. Garcia also confirmed the option for lien payment plans.

**BUS-4** 25-0619 Presentation - Net Zero Plan Next Steps - (Commission Districts 1,

2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Luz Ramirez, Public Works Department Sustainability Coordinator. Ms. Ramirez provided an overview of this Agenda item. Ms. Ramirez narrated a presentation entitled *Net Zero Plan Next Steps FY 2026-2035.*

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the increased funding request for the Circuit Micromobility Transportation Program (Circuit Program), Ms. Ramirez said it would fund two (2) additional vehicles in the existing service area.

Vice Mayor Herbst remarked on his understanding that Broward County (County) Surtax funds (Surtax Funds) would be allocated to the Circuit Program. Mayor Trantalis recognized Yvette Matthews, Office of Management and Budget Acting Director. Ms. Matthews confirmed County funding via an interlocal agreement with the County. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Williams explained plans to apply Surtax Funding to the existing Circuit Program, which is an expansion that requires additional funding. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Herbst clarified his understanding that staff will reinvest General Fund dollars freed up by Surtax Funds into the Circuit Program. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Williams clarified that these funding recommendations apply to Fiscal Year 2026.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Acting Director. Mr. Majstorovic clarified plans for expansion of the Circuit Program over the next three (3) years includes a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Vice Mayor Herbst remarked on his research regarding a previous analysis of electric vehicles compared to four (4) cylinder cars that indicated non-electric vehicles produced a lower carbon footprint, and expounded on his viewpoint. Mayor Trantalis recognized Glen Hadwen, Public Works Department Sustainability Manager. Mr. Hadwen explained his research on this topic, which indicates that electric vehicles have a lower carbon footprint over time. Mr. Hadwen discussed staff's perspective regarding achieving Net Zero goals. In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question, Ms. Ramirez said the

anticipated life of an electric vehicle battery exceeds seven (7) years. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Herbst confirmed that he does not support the Net Zero Plan.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Williams explained staff is requesting Commission input regarding staff initiatives and potential next steps. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his support of the Net Zero Plan, transitioning to energy-efficient electrical systems, expansion of the Circuit Program, electric vehicle replacement of fleet vehicles, and solar panel installation. Mayor Trantalis confirmed Commission support of those items. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis emphasized the importance of achieving Net Zero goals and constructing a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified new City Hall building.

**BUS-5** 25-0595 Mayor's Appointments to the Election Board to Certify the Results of the Election of the Employee's Recommended Appointee to the Civil Service Board - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Jerome Post, Human Resources Department Director, explained Charter requirements of appointing two (2) Commission Members to certify the results of the election of the employee's recommended appointee to the Civil Service Board, noted the minimal time commitment, and remarked on related details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question, Mr. Post confirmed the notice requirements. Mayor Trantalis recommended that term-limited Commission Members serve and remarked on his viewpoint.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Post explained the required timeline for Commission Member appointment. Mr. Post provided additional background information.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' comments, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence clarified that this Agenda item is not related to City-wide elections. Mayor Trantalis confirmed that he and Commissioner Beasley-Pittman would serve as the Commission Member representatives.

## CITY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

***Commission Members announced recent and upcoming events and expounded on related information.***

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman shared a Broward League of Cities (League of Cities) video. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman shared details of the June 5, 2025, League of Cities Meeting, which focused on a resiliency plan that she will share with City Manager Williams. Further comment and discussion ensued.

***A copy of the video is available through the Office of the City Clerk.***

Commissioner Glassman noted an upcoming Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) community outreach meeting to discuss the installation of crosswalk signals in areas of District 2.

Commissioner Glassman commented on a recent article in *Forbes Magazine*, which listed Fort Lauderdale as Florida's Spring Break Capital and commented on related information.

Commissioner Sorensen noted a recent community meeting regarding anchor limitations in Lake Sylvia.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding upcoming plans for SE 17th Avenue, Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Acting Director, provided an update regarding plans for a temporary closure of a portion of SE 17th Avenue, noted support from the Colee Hammock Neighborhood, and explained related information.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his temporary support, discussed the potential consequences of this type of request becoming a pattern in other neighborhoods, and highlighted the potential negative impact on other roadways. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed his meeting with Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport staff regarding stormwater drainage and its negative impact on the Edgewood and River Oaks Neighborhoods, and commented on related information. Mayor Trantalis concurred on the need for all stakeholders to work together to determine solutions, discussed the County's responsibility to fund approved plans for drainage system pumps and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner

Sorensen discussed additional mitigation efforts and said he would continue to keep the Commission updated.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

***Mayor Trantalis announced recent and upcoming events and expounded on related information.***

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his upcoming attendance at the US Conference of Mayors and noted the topics for discussion.

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

**MGR-1** 25-0628 City Commission Follow up Action Items - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Williams remarked on the seventy percent (70%) increase in the number of sandbags distributed at the recent Parks and Recreation Department sandbag distribution event.

City Manager Williams confirmed efforts to promote a more robust response for City Hall unsolicited proposals following the notice published in the Florida Administrative Register.

## CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence discussed Commission Members voting on quasi-judicial items and the need for a unanimous Commission vote during Agenda item PH-1 at tonight's Regular Meeting. He suggested adding a Walk-On Resolution before Agenda item PH-1 to allow remote voting on quasi-judicial items.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed PH-1 requires a unanimous Commission vote, not a supermajority vote.

## ADJORNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.