

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 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

Beach to Shallows

MARINE SPECIES



01 ENTRY – BEACH SURF



PILCHARD NEEDLEFISH HORSESHOE CRAB

02 BEACH



SAND FIDDLER CRAB GIANT HERMIT CRAB SERGEANT MAJOR

05 MANGROVE



UPSIDE DOWN JELLYFISH

06 MANGROVE



LINED SEAHORSE

03 SEAGRASS

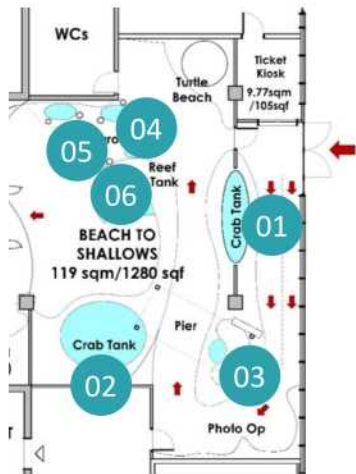


WHITE MULLET WHITE GRUNT SPOTTED GOATFISH FLYING GURNARD PEACOCK FLOUNDER GRASS POGY LANE SNAPPER HORSE CONCH

04 MANGROVE



MANGROVE SNAPPER GULF TOADFISH DUSKY DAMSELFISH CHECKERED PUFFERFISH STRIPED BURRFISH CUSHION SEA STAR FLORIDA FIGHTING CONCH CHESTNUT TURBAN SNAIL



Shallow Reef

MARINE SPECIES



01

LIVE CORAL - SOFT



CORKY SEA FINGER BIPINNATE SEA PLUME KNOBBY SEA ROD PURPLE SEA WHIP YELLOW SEA WHIP RICORDEA SEAMAT CORALLIMORPH FLOWER ANEMONE TOBACCO BASS RHINO BLENNY GREEN CHROMIS MASKED GOBY BARRED CARDINALFISH



CHERUB ANGEFISH SLIPPERY DICK CLOWN WRASSE INDIGO HAMNET SLENDER FILEFISH THORNY OYSTER FLAME SCALLOP PEPPERMINT SHRIMP BLUE LEGGED HERMIT CRAB SCARLET HERMIT CRAB EMERALD CRAB TURBAN SNAIL DWARF CERITH SNAIL STOCKY CERITH SNAIL CHECKERED NERITE SNAIL

02

LIVE CORAL - STONY



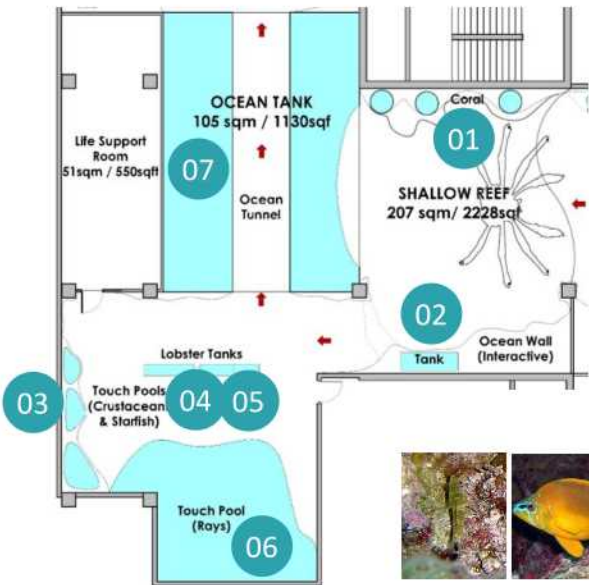
STAGHORN CORAL ELKHORN CORAL CLUBBED FINGER CORAL PILLAR CORAL BRAIN CORAL GROOVED BRAIN CORAL ROSE CORAL MUSTARD HILL CORAL LOBED STAR CORAL GREAT STAR CORAL



ROYAL GAMMA YELLOWHEAD JAWFISH BLUE CHROMIS CHALK BASS NEON GOBY SWISSGUARD EYELASH BLENNY FLAME CARDINALFISH YELLOWHEAD WRASSE GREEN RAZORFISH RAINBOW WRASSE



RED SPOT HAWKFISH GOLDEN HAMLET LONG SNOUT BUTTERFLYFISH JACKKNIFE FISH BANDED CORAL SHRIMP PEPPERMINT SHRIMP BLUE LEGGED HERMIT CRAB SCARLET HERMIT CRAB EMERALD CRAB ARROW CRAB TURBAN SNAIL DWARF CERITH SNAIL STOCKY CERITH SNAIL CHECKERED NERITE SNAIL



Shallow Reef

03

INVERT TOUCH



COMMON SEA STAR SERPENT STAR BAHAMA SEA STAR PENCIL URCHIN PIN CUSHION URCHIN ROCK URCHIN CONDY ANEMONE



SCARLET STRIPED CLEANER SHRIMP COWRIE DECORATOR CRAB BLUE LEGGED HERMIT CRAB SCARLET HERMIT CRAB TURBAN SNAIL

04

LOBSTER



FLORIDA SPINY LOBSTER BLACKBAR SOLDIERFISH

05

LOBSTER



SPOTTED SPINY LOBSTER SPANISH SLIPPER LOBSTER DUSKY SQUIRRELFISH

MARINE SPECIES



06

STINGRAY TOUCH



COWNOSE RAY SOUTHERN STINGRAY DOCTORFISH YELLOW GOATFISH HORSESHOE CRAB

07

OCEAN TANK



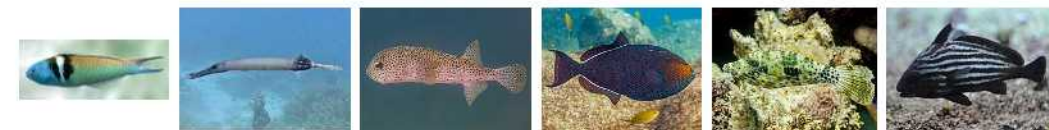
BONNETHEAD SHARK NURSE SHARK FRENCH ANGEFISH GREY ANGEFISH BLUE TANG



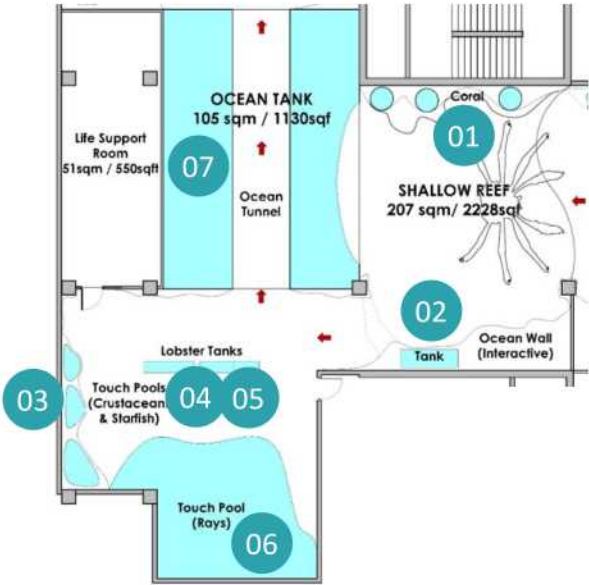
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BLUEHEAD WASSE TRUMPETFISH PORCUPINE FISH BLACK DURGON SCRAWLED FILEFISH HIGH-HAT



Mid Reef

MARINE SPECIES



01

SARGASSUM



SARGASSUM FISH



SARGASSUM PIPEFISH



FRINGED FILEFISH



SARGASSUM TRIGGERFISH



FOUREYE BUTTERFLYFISH



SPOTTIN BUTTERFLYFISH



TOMTATE



BLUE TANG (JUVELINE)

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LIONFISH



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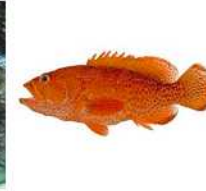
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QUEEN ANGELFISH



BLUE HAMLET



CONEY



PRINCESS PARROTFISH



SPANISH HOGFISH

04

EELS



GREEN MORAY EEL



GLASSEYE SNAPPER



SPOTTED SCORPIONFISH



SCRAWLED COWFISH



QUEEN TRIGGERFISH



BLUEHEAD WASSE



Deep Reef

MARINE SPECIES



01



MOON JELLIES

02



GARDEN EELS

04



BLUE SPOTTED SEAROBIN



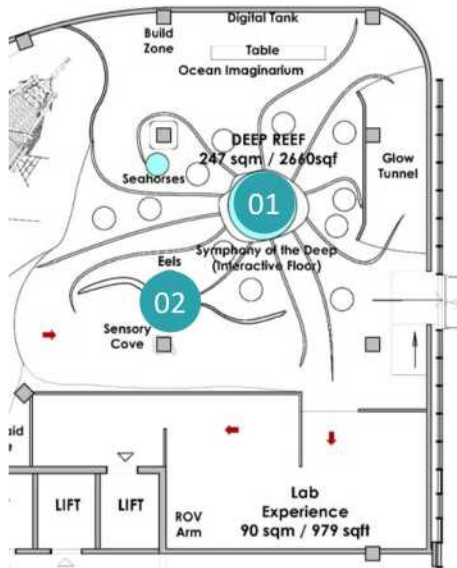
DEEP SEA ISOPOD

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FLASHLIGHT FISH

03



WRASSE BASSLET



CANDY BASSLET



BLACKCAP BASSLET



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TATTLER BASS



SPANISH FLAG



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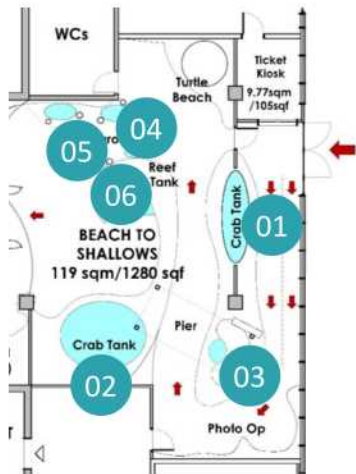


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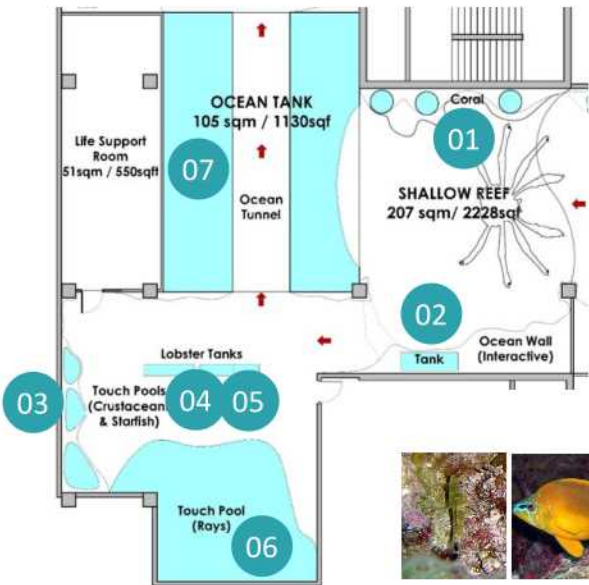
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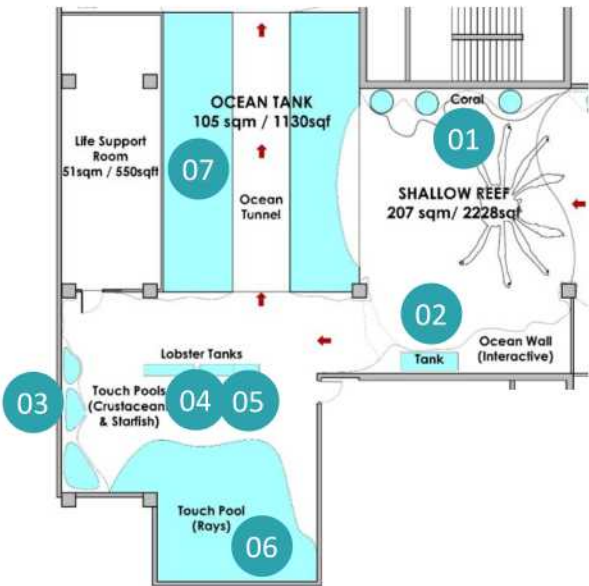
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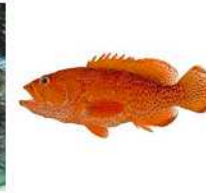
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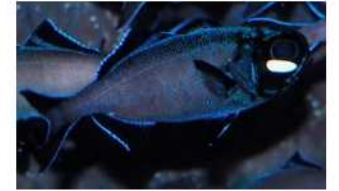


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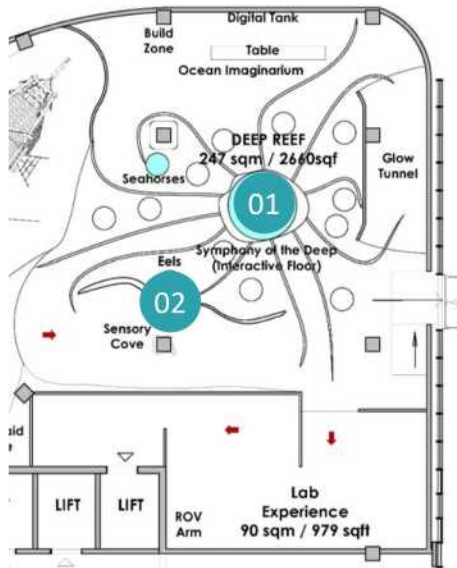
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FLASHLIGHT FISH

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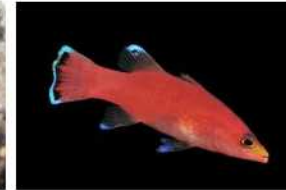
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BLACKCAP BASSLET



CAVE BASSLET



TATTLER BASS



SPANISH FLAG



BANK BUTTERFLYFISH



SPOTFIN HOGFISH



TWO-SPOT CARDINALFISH

CALL TO ORDER

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

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Vice Mayor John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Ben Sorensen, 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

[25-1115](#)

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

Two or more members of the Planning and Zoning Board may be present and participate in the discussion of this item at this meeting.

*Planning and Zoning Board
October 15, 2025*

Communication to City Commission (Communication)

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Patrick McTigue, Planning and Zoning Board (P&Z Board) Chair. Chair McTigue provided an overview of this Communication that relates to the rezoning for a sixty-seven (67) unit townhouse development and remarked on related concerns.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jacquelyn Scott, 1626 SE 1st Street, P&Z Board Member. Ms. Scott discussed the limited scope of P&Z Board rezoning reviews and explained the frustrations of residents that attend P&Z Board Meetings to express concerns about a project and are advised by staff that those items could not be addressed.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions about the process and project

issues that the P&Z Board could consider, as well as areas where residents could provide input, Ms. Scott explained that only the rezoning could be considered. She emphasized the importance of revising the Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDRs) to allow for greater public review and more opportunities for residents to comment on proposed projects before any rezoning decisions are made.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the impact of State preemption and the Live Local Act that inhibits transparent processes. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Chair McTigue commented on establishing a threshold for townhome development projects with a significant magnitude so that both the P&Z Board and the public can provide their input to improve the project for the benefit of the community.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Assistant City Manager. Mr. Cooper said based on Commission direction, staff can evaluate criteria for expanded review of larger townhome developments, to establish an appropriate threshold that would trigger a more formal review process. Mayor Trantalis said that should be part of a broader, city-wide update of the ULDR and noted related examples. Mayor Trantalis commented on the Commission working with residents towards reconsideration for current ULDR standards for height, setbacks, and compatibility to better align development with the evolving character of the City. Mayor Trantalis expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on an Agenda item at tonight's Regular Meeting related to this topic and discussed positive interaction with Edgewood neighbors and the developer. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Ella Parker, Development Services Department Deputy Director, explained the differences in P&Z Board review of townhome and cluster home developments. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman concurred on the need for a higher level of review, cited examples, and expounded on his viewpoint.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding establishing a unit threshold for townhome developments, Ms. Parker confirmed staff will research and present best practices of other municipalities.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding what

a higher level of review would include, Ms. Parker explained staff would develop specific criteria. Further comment and discussion ensued.

*Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)
October 27, 2025*

Communication to City Commission (Communication)

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

Mayor Trantalis remarked on tree canopy sustainability goals of the SAB.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Sara Rahmankhah, SAB Board Member. Ms. Rahmankhah discussed fourteen (14) action areas and components of the City's Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) for protecting trees and remarked on related details.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Glen Hadwen, Public Works Department Sustainability Manager. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Mr. Hadwen explained details of the SAB's support of the UFMP and confirmed their positive feedback regarding the recently adopted Tree Ordinance. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [25-1149](#)

Discuss the Proposal to Rename Broward County to Lauderdale County - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis provided an overview of this Agenda item, his reasoning for scheduling this topic for Commission discussion, and remarked on related information included in the Agenda item backup.

Vice Mayor Herbst noted that the Broward County Commission declined to advance this proposal, cited a public statement from Florida House of Representatives Member Chip LaMarca, said the topic is now moot, and expounded on his perspective. Mayor Trantalis acknowledged that the proposal may be dormant for now, but cautioned that similar efforts have resurfaced repeatedly in the past and may do so again.

Commissioner Glassman concurred with Vice Mayor Herbst's comments and noted the opposition from other stakeholders. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sorensen agreed and cited essential

items the Commission should focus on.

Commissioner Glassman said that Fort Lauderdale is a globally recognized brand and remarked on the need for the Commission to remain focused on leveraging the City's strong identity to aggressively market the City to attract business, and expounded on his perspective.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman said that continuing the debate over county identity seemed unnecessary and explained her perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis acknowledged ongoing efforts of staff to successfully market the City and its identity and expounded on his perspective.

Commissioner Sorensen suggested that the City could benefit from a more proactive and City-specific tourism and marketing strategy. He pointed out that there is no dedicated entity focused solely on advocating for the City. Commissioner Sorensen recommended that the Commission consider establishing such a role to strengthen the City's brand and promote local economic vitality.

Mayor Trantalis agreed that direct marketing for the City could be improved and should be explored and remarked on the City's investments in infrastructure, schools, and overall quality of life. Mayor Trantalis emphasized that the City should aim for incremental growth rather than rapid expansion to prevent undue strain on matters such as infrastructure. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding whether the City could continue to explore strategies for targeted branding and marketing of Fort Lauderdale, City Manager Rickelle Williams confirmed that staff can continue developing a stronger brand identity for the City.

Vice Mayor Herbst raised a concern regarding potential duplication of efforts, noting that the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau (GFLCVB) is already tasked with promoting tourism throughout Broward County. He pointed out that the City generates the largest share of tourist development (bed) tax revenue and questioned how those funds are currently being used to directly support the City's marketing interests.

Vice Mayor Herbst noted that Mayor Trantalis sits on the GFLCVB Board and inquired if City generated tourism dollars could be used. Mayor Trantalis noted that a significant amount of City tourism dollars is used for debt service of Amerant Bank Arena located in the City of Sunrise.

Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Herbst remarked that the newly expanded Broward County Convention Center and adjoining hotel represent a significant County investment in the City and is motivation for the County and the GFLCVB to increase marketing efforts focused on the City. He expounded on the likelihood that County marketing dollars would shift more directly to the City.

Mayor Trantalis agreed and noted that the cruise industry continues to expand in Port Everglades, underscoring the City as the primary driver of regional tourism and will likely reinforce the City's value within countywide marketing strategies.

Vice Mayor Herbst expressed caution about creating new staff positions to market the City and reiterated his previous comments regarding the GFLCVB taking a more active role in marketing the City. Vice Mayor Herbst recommended monitoring those efforts over the next one (1) to two (2) years before considering additional City staffing and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman discussed increases in cruise-driven tourism, citing a recent example that caused heavy congestion along SE 17th Street. Commissioner Sorensen noted that traffic challenges on that day were caused by a malfunctioning traffic signal. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Williams said that there were a combination of factors related to that traffic congestion and explained that the Police Department has met with the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) to mitigate and improve traffic coordination and management. Staff will also partner with Broward County to ensure timely awareness of port schedules and major vessel movements. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Williams acknowledged that the GFLCVB provides a marketing resource and discussed related information and leveraging efforts.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman emphasized that the expanding tourism economy should translate into local resident employment opportunities. She encouraged the City to actively engage hospitality and tourism sector employers to expand workforce training and job placement programs to ensure meaningful employment pathways for the community.

Commissioner Sorensen agreed with Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's comments highlighting the importance of partnerships that strengthen local talent pipelines and connect residents to hospitality and tourism jobs, and expounded on his perspective.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, confirmed a malfunctioning traffic light on SE 17th Street caused the traffic congestion, explained related information, and commented on utilizing Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Broward County technology for coordination, collaboration and incident response in this area.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding staff having a plan to address future traffic congestion in this area, Mr. Majstorovic explained contributing factors, confirmed upcoming meetings with stakeholders responsible for traffic management and discussed related information. Mr. Majstorovic said there will be coordinated efforts by traffic management stakeholders to address similar situations in the future. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Peterson, 920 SW 18th Street. Ms. Peterson spoke in opposition to renaming Broward County to Fort Lauderdale County and explained related history.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. King discussed his support of renaming Broward County to Fort Lauderdale County. Further comment and discussion ensued.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [25-1066](#)

Presentation - Fortify Lauderdale Phase II - Application of Qualitative Criteria - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Brad Kaine, Public Works Department Director. Mr. Kaine provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a presentation entitled *Fortify Lauderdale Status Update and Final Recommendations Presentation*.

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

Mr. Kaine explained that reordering the neighborhood rankings was based on qualitative factors, and only one adjustment was identified as potentially justified. Mayor Trantalis remarked that adjusting one

neighborhood's position shifts others downward, reinforcing the need for caution when considering changes to established priorities. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Kaine explained the projects would be addressed in sections and the adjustment would only reorder the sixth (6th) and seventh (7th) projects.

Commissioner Sorensen reviewed the project rankings and scoring. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Roberto Betancourt, Public Works Department Division Manager, explained information associated with scoring and ranking that involves low-level elevation and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) calculations and determinations, and expounded on related details. Commissioner Sorensen remarked on his understanding of the quantitative analysis of the Shady Banks and Tarpon River neighborhoods . Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Kaine said that the main reason for this adjustment is due to proximity and road impact criteria. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sorensen requested the original ranking be maintained and explained his reasoning. City Manager Williams confirmed. Mr. Kaine concurred.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding progress on Phase One and an update on the design status and next steps, Mr. Betancourt said that Phase One is a very large undertaking due to the area lacking necessary infrastructure. Phase One design plans are approximately ninety percent (90%) complete, with final details being coordinated. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question whether staff is actively exploring all project delivery methods, City Manager Williams responded that staff is now looking to improve and expedite delivery by modifying processes. Staff is actively reviewing multiple delivery methods as they work to complete Phase One and advance to Phase Two. Commissioner Sorensen noted that P3s have worked well historically for infrastructure projects. City Manager Williams expressed concern about large-scale P3s for Fortify Lauderdale due to complexity and financial size.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Yvette Matthews, Assistant City Manager. Ms. Matthews reviewed the funding for the phases which are funded by rate increases. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ms. Matthews said that the anticipated completion is fifteen (15) years. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his perspective on this project and its history, and remarked on related information. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about a future rate reduction after debt funding is completed, Ms. Matthews said that rates are not expected to decrease, but would not rise as steeply. The financial modeling includes long-term operations and maintenance costs, as well as the staffing necessary to support the systems.

Commissioner Sorensen said that the City must accelerate these infrastructure improvements, noting that a projected fifteen (15) year timeline is too long and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Williams clarified that funding availability impacts the speed of the project, noted related details, and said that the project must align with the City's revenue schedule. Mayor Trantalis noted that accelerating the project schedule from fifteen (15) to ten (10) years would require even higher rate increases.

Mayor Trantalis recognized James LaBrie, 1514 NE 20th Street, Poinsettia Heights Civic Association Board Vice President. Mr. LaBrie inquired about specific information in the presentation and aspects of the project related to neighborhood scheduling and sequencing. Mr. Betancourt and Mr. Kaine explained related information.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about specific areas of Poinsettia Heights that lack adequate stormwater infrastructure, Mr. LaBrie clarified drainage infrastructure exists in some places but is undersized and ineffective, particularly along NE 15th Avenue, Poinsettia Drive, NE 17th Avenue, and NE 17th Terrace. Mr. LaBrie expounded on his concerns regarding the revised stormwater project schedule for the Poinsettia Heights neighborhood. Mr. Kaine explained that previous expectations for Poinsettia Heights stormwater improvements were before *Fortify Lauderdale* was fully established.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street, River Oaks Civic Association President. Mr. Inserra said that the River Oaks stormwater infrastructure should not be considered complete. Mr. Inserra explained several needed improvements remain unaddressed and explained that during recent storms, water pumped into the canal returned over seawalls, causing renewed flooding. Mr. Inserra requested the River Oaks neighborhood remain on the active project list until outstanding stormwater issues are resolved.

BUS-2 [25-0970](#)

The City of Fort Lauderdale Urban Forestry Master Plan -
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dr. Nancy Gassman, Parks and Recreation Department Deputy Director. Dr. Gassman provided an overview of this Agenda item and introduced Justin Freedman, Project Manager, Arborist, RES. Mr. Freedman narrated a presentation entitled *City of Fort Lauderdale Urban Forestry Master Plan (Plan)*.

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

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the limited space in the public realm for new tree plantings and that most capacity lies on private property. In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding the feasibility of the Plan's target to plant 160,000 trees by 2040, Mr. Freedman confirmed the need to ensure proper tree planning, planting and preservation, and incentivizing private property owners.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Larson McBride RES Arborist, explained the method for calculating tree planting in private areas to meet Plan goals derived from the 2023 statewide tree canopy assessment (canopy assessment) conducted by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDCAS). Mr. McBride expounded on additional information included in the canopy assessment.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. McBride confirmed existing strategies used to generate revenue to support tree preservation and noted the need to review and update related fee and penalty amounts to build a sustainable funding source for Plan goals.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. McBride confirmed that the canopy assessment includes all zoning categories except for ball fields, parks, and utility rights-of-way that are not viable planting areas, and explained related information.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions regarding costs and maintenance responsibilities to address overgrown tree canopies, Mr. McBride explained maintenance is addressed within the Plan recommendations and noted that the current level of staffing will need to increase for the City to reach recommended goals. Mr. McBride confirmed costs for each Plan recommendation are included in the presentation.

City Manager Williams noted that the Plan is aspirational. Staff would use the Plan as a framework and foundation to identify opportunities to promote tree canopy growth, would include tree maintenance activities, and would be reviewed annually to determine whether initiatives can move forward based on funding and Commission direction.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding how the City's seventy-eight percent (78%) Tree Equity Score compares to other cities in Broward County, Mr. McBride explained that comparisons are difficult because Tree Equity Scores vary based on numerous factors and cited examples. Mr. McBride said a seventy-eight percent (78%) score is considered reasonably good, with room for improvement.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Williams explained that staff's approach will focus on tree-canopy improvements in areas with the greatest need. During the annual budget process, staff will identify and present citywide opportunities for canopy enhancement.

Dr. Gassman said that the Plan includes sixty-two (62) action items across three (3) categories: maintenance, preservation, and planting. Over the next four (4) to six (6) weeks, staff will prioritize these items by evaluating cost, potential impact, and opportunities. Staff will also identify recommendations that may require Commission consideration for Fiscal Year 2027. Dr. Gassman commented on current available funding.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on several Plan recommendations, including a homeowner rebate program for planting trees or utility-based rebate program for planting shade trees that reduce energy costs. Dr. Gassman explained that any rebate program with a fiscal impact would require Commission approval and dedicated funding, either through a budget amendment or as part of the annual budget development process. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Williams noted the possibility of implementing related pilot programs and said all recommendations would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the impact and financial viability.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman expressed concern that District 3 continues to lag behind the east side of the City in tree canopy coverage, noting the historical loss of trees in those neighborhoods. She asked how the City will ensure that the west side receives related equitable attention and opportunities. City Manager Williams acknowledged those concerns

and explained that staff's primary strategy will be to focus on tree investment in areas with the lowest canopy coverage, aligning with a city-wide needs-based approach. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis suggested exploring a pilot project to address expanding the tree canopy, particularly in areas of District 3, expounded on his perspective regarding related incentives for neighborhoods, and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding ways to engage private property owners and the financial feasibility of attaining goals included in the Plan recommendations. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman said that all Plan recommendations discussed could form the foundation of a pilot program, remarked on community-level engagement and expounded on related opportunities, maintenance and costs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman discussed a primary concern in District 2 is the ease with which mature trees are removed during redevelopment, cited examples, and emphasized the need to strengthen related consequences.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Dr. Gassman said that the updated Tree Preservation Ordinance increases fines and adds new disincentives for tree removal. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman remarked on his perspective regarding the use of the Tree Trust Fund (Fund).

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding the Fund, Dr. Gassman explained Fund activities permitted under the Tree Ordinance and the process required for use of the Funds.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. King discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Doug Coolman, 1911 Bayview Drive. Mr. Coolman spoke in support of this Agenda item and expounded on related recommendations.

BUS-3 [25-1136](#)

International Swimming Hall of Fame Project Updates - (Commission District 2)

City Manager Williams provided an overview of recent negotiations

regarding mitigating the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) project's financial risk to the City.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Grant, Special Advisor to the City Manager. Ms. Grant provided background and context about this Agenda item and narrated a presentation entitled *International Swimming Hall of Fame Project Updates November 18, 2025*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Grant explained Hall of Fame Partners, LLC (HOFP) profit information under the revised proposed lease structure. HOFP profits will be derived from the business operations on the site, including the aquarium, and expounded on related details.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Stephanie Toothaker, Esq., 901 Ponce de Leon Drive, on behalf of HOFP. Ms. Toothaker remarked on the positive perspective of her client.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mario Caprini, HOFP Manager, Capital Group P3 Developments of Florida. Mr. Caprini discussed negotiations with staff.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Richard Waltzer, 2880 NW 26th Place on behalf of ISHOF's planned aquarium. Mr. Waltzer discussed plans for the ISHOF aquarium illustrated in the presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Waltzer said the aquarium is planned to be approximately twenty thousand square feet and explained its features and educational components for children.

Mr. Caprini discussed aspects of ISHOF's business plan and the Comprehensive Agreement with the City. He remarked on anticipated aquarium attendance, ISHOF's positive economic impact to the City, and expounded on related details.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Peterson, 920 SW 18th Street. Ms. Peterson discussed the history of the ISHOF, and noted several concerns related to the ISHOF project. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Peterson cited concerns with the existing pool and locker rooms.

Mayor Trantalis recognized John Burns, 1 Las Olas Circle, Venetian Condominium President. Mr. Burns discussed concerns regarding business plans for future ISHOF tenants, requested additional information and commented on potential financial risk to the City.

Commissioner Glassman requested Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence to prepare a Walk-On Agenda item to approve the amended Comprehensive Agreement with HOFP at tonight's Regular Meeting. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the short window of time.

Interim City Attorney Spence explained that the Office of the City Attorney can adopt a general term sheet by motion, which the Office will draft for Commission consideration at tonight's Regular Meeting. Commissioner Glassman agreed. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his support. Vice Mayor Herbst concurred. Mayor Trantalis confirmed a consensus.

Mayor Trantalis suggested Ms. Grant confer with Ms. Toothaker to answer outstanding questions.

CITY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

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

Vice Mayor Herbst discussed a recent meeting with City Manager Williams and staff regarding the design status of Lockhart Park, remarked on progress made both before and after mediation with Inter Miami, and remarked that full design completion is at least a year away. Vice Mayor Herbst shared a conversation with Brian Smith, a partner in *The Fort* pickleball complex at Snyder Park. Mr. Smith expressed concern that the pickleball courts proposed for Lockhart Park would compete with *The Fort*. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Herbst raised concerns about the current redesign of Lockhart Park that removed multipurpose playing fields used by children to add parking. He is open to removing the pickleball courts from the Lockhart Park design if the City restored the multipurpose playing fields and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding this modification. Vice Mayor Herbst remarked that multipurpose playing fields at Lockhart Park should be placed within the safest possible location and remarked on his recommendation.

Mayor Trantalis noted an open grassy area at Lockhart Park. Vice Mayor Herbst said that area is not configured as formal fields. If that open area were converted into a defined multipurpose field, it would better meet

community needs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Stephanie Toothaker, Esq., 901 Ponce de Leon Drive, on behalf of Inter Miami, confirmed she would discuss this design work request with her client. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on her attendance at an Oasis of Hope event providing a new single-family home in District 3.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the recent unveiling of a historical marker honoring Diana Nyad at the corner of Las Olas Boulevard and State Road A1A. Commissioner Glassman noted his presentation of a Proclamation in recognition of the newly launched cruise ship, *Celebrity Excel*, in Port Everglades and remarked on the positive economic impact Port Everglades provides.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the need for adequate lighting along State Road A1A, Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Department Director, confirmed staff would address lighting adjustments now that sea turtle season has concluded.

Commissioner Glassman reported on a long-standing problem located at 213 Royal Palm Drive, a vacant and severely deteriorated single-family property with numerous Code violations and fines that is set for a Special Magistrate hearing. Resident concerns relate to the owner of the property renting dock space and the electricity remaining active. Commissioner Glassman urged the City to take a more aggressive approach to enforcement.

Chris Cooper, Assistant City Manager, explained this is an active building enforcement case, and staff will review the case history and violations prior to the Special Magistrate hearing. He discussed information related to the ability to shut off electricity to this property. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Cooper confirmed the ability for neighbors to speak and provide input at Special Magistrate hearings.

Porshia Garcia, Community Services Department Director, explained staff will work with the Office of the City Attorney to request that the Special Magistrate issue an order to appear for the property owner and remarked on related details.

Commissioner Sorensen revisited the earlier discussion regarding traffic

issues at the intersection of SE 17th Street and Eisenhower Boulevard. He emphasized the need for staff to meet and assess, in coordination with Broward County, the Spangler Road connection to the Broward County bypass road (bypass), as well as bypass ingress and egress near the Convention Center and surrounding areas. Commissioner Sorensen requested that staff keep nearby neighborhoods updated. City Manager Williams confirmed.

Commissioner Sorensen noted strong concerns from District 4 residents about the proposed relocation of the beach basketball courts and said that the earlier decision to relocate them was a mistake. He requested this topic be a future Conference Agenda item to ensure residents are fully informed as alternatives are evaluated.

City Manager Williams explained that staff and AECOM have been reviewing all related feedback received on relocating and spacing of the two (2) proposed basketball courts at the southern end of Fort Lauderdale Beach Park, and the number of pickleball courts planned for the current site. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sorensen reiterated his viewpoint that the basketball courts should remain at their current location.

Commissioner Glassman questioned whether Commissioner Sorensen's recommendation would violate the City's Interlocal Agreement with Bahia Mar Community Development District and discussed his recollection of a Commission consensus to move forward with alternative 1A presented at a previous Commission Meeting. City Manager Williams discussed her understanding of direction to move forward with alternative 1A. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman discussed his recollection of a consensus and direction to staff. Commissioner Sorensen recalled his recollection, noted that the Commission did not vote on alternative 1A, and discussed community input since the Commission's previous discussion. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen acknowledged the collective efforts of staff, members of the Marine Advisory Board, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to reduce the speed limit and establish a slow-speed/no-wake zone in a section of the Intracoastal Waterway where a death occurred. Police Department Chief William Schultz clarified that while FWC has voted to approve the change, it is not yet official or enforceable until the final written rule is issued.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on his tour of a 3D-printed living

seawall facility in Miami and commented that the City is developing an ordinance to incentivize living seawalls. Commissioner Sorensen thanked all veterans for their service and were recognized at a Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Sandy Nininger statue. Commissioner Sorensen commented on his tour of the Prospect Lake Clean Water Plant and expounded on his positive viewpoint.

MAYOR'S REPORT

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

Mayor Trantalis acknowledged the School Board of Broward County (School Board) and School Board Member Allen Zeman for securing funding to improve the athletic field at Sunrise Middle School and expounded on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding other School Board members who contributed to that effort.

Mayor Trantalis remarked that the Museum of Discovery and Science (Museum) opened the new HoloTheater, a holographic, science-focused experience, designed for children and discussed his positive perspective regarding the Museum's achievements.

Mayor Trantalis commented on upcoming Holiday Season events.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

MGR-1 [25-1132](#)

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

City Manager Williams discussed the process and structure for the December 2, 2025, Conference Meeting when the four (4) City Hall project proposers will present to the Commission. The Commission will deliberate and identify the first and second-ranked proposals at the Regular Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued on the process.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Interim City Attorney Spence provided an update regarding First Responder communication issues in condominium buildings. He clarified that Building Fund fees cannot be used to assist private condominium associations with obtaining bi-directional amplifiers (BDAs). State law restricts the use of these fees exclusively to activities directly related to

enforcing the Florida Building Code, and BDAs do not fall within those allowable uses.

Interim City Attorney Spence discussed a matter related to a 2005 settlement agreement (agreement) allowing a business to operate in a B-1 zoning district on Federal Highway after being denied an occupational license. The business moved to 1263 E. Las Olas Boulevard, where they were again cited by Code Enforcement for operating outside the permitted zoning. The business has filed suit seeking authorization to operate at the new location. Interim City Attorney Spence recommended amending the agreement to allow the business to operate at the Las Olas location under the same agreement conditions. Staff can bring a related Agenda item forward at the December 2, 2025, Regular Meeting for Commission approval. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Interim City Attorney Spence requested an Executive Closed-Door Session at the December 2, 2025, Commission Meeting to discuss settlement authority in the case of *Paula Rand v. City of Fort Lauderdale*, as mediation is set for December 9, 2025, and settlement authority needed is above the Risk Management threshold. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding scheduling, noting conflicts with the City Hall presentations scheduled for December 2, 2025 and upcoming City-sponsored Holiday Season events.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk David Soloman announced that there were no Advisory Board and Committee Members nominations submitted for appointment for tonight's Regular Meeting Agenda.

City Clerk Soloman read Advisory Board and Committee nominations for appointment and/or reappointment for the December 2, 2025, Regular Commission Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.