

# City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)*



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, February 21, 2017**

**6:00 PM**

**City Commission Chambers**

### **City Commission Regular Meeting**

***FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION***

***JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER Mayor - Commissioner  
DEAN J. TRANTALIS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II  
BRUCE G. ROBERTS Commissioner - District I  
ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III  
ROMNEY ROGERS Commissioner - District IV***

***LEE R. FELDMAN, City Manager  
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor  
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk  
CYNTHIA A. EVERETT, City Attorney***

**Invocation**

Dr. Phillip Hall, The Lighthouse Worship Center Church of God in Christ

**Moment of Silence**

Mayor Seiler requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Leanore "Lu" Deaner.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Student Council, Bayview Elementary School

Mayor Seiler acknowledged and thanked Ms. Tonya Frost, Principal Bayview Elementary School. Ms. Frost thanked and acknowledged Mr. Hinely, Student Council Coordinator and Fifth Grade Teacher at Bayview Elementary who arranged tonight's visit and acknowledged and thanked those parents in attendance. Ms. Frost also thanked the Commission, and specifically Mayor Seiler for the time he has donated to Bayview Elementary.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, Commissioner Romney Rogers, Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts, Vice Mayor Dean J. Trantalis and Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

**QUORUM ESTABLISHED**

Also Present: City Manager Lee R. Feldman, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Cynthia A. Everett, City Auditor John Herbst, Assistant City Attorney Cole Copertino, and Sergeant at Arms Jaime Costas

**No public e-comments were submitted for this meeting.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Seiler called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Mayor Seiler invited the students from Bayview Elementary School to the dais to experience and gain first-hand knowledge of how the Commission functions. The Student Council participated with the Commission during the Presentation portion of the Agenda.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Seiler announced the following WALK-ON Motion:

WALK-ON - Motion to Approve an Event Agreement with Florida Panthers Hockey Club, LTD for Florida Panthers NHL Hockey Celebration

Mayor Seiler announced the following revisions to the noted Agenda items:

CM-3 - Page 3, Section E Revised

CR-1 - Change to Section 4 of the Resolution

CR-6 - Changes to Memo in the Background and Resource Impact

Mayor Seiler announced the following items had been pulled from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion by members of the Commission:

CR-3

PUR-5

### 17-0289

WALK ON - Motion to Approve an Event Agreement with Florida Panthers Hockey Club, LTD for Florida Panthers NHL Hockey Celebration

Vice Mayor Trantalis made a motion to add the Walk-On Motion to Approve an Event Agreement with Florida Panthers Hockey Club, LTD for Florida Panthers NHL Hockey Celebration to the Agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Roberts.

**APPROVED - Motion to add Walk-On Item to Agenda**

## PRESENTATIONS

Members of the Bayview Elementary School Student Council assisted Mayor Seiler in announcing each of the following presentations.

### **PRES-** 17-0276 1

Proclamation declaring March 10, 2017 as Chen Moore and Associates Appreciation Day in the City of Fort Lauderdale

Commissioner Roberts, with the assistance of members of the Bayview Elementary School Student Council, presented the Proclamation declaring March 10, 2017 as "Chen Moore and Associates Appreciation Day". The Proclamation acknowledged Chen Moore and Associates high-quality engineering and landscape

architecture service on projects throughout the City, in addition to their extensive community service efforts. Commissioner Roberts read the Proclamation in its entirety. It was accepted by Jose L. Acosta, P.E., Vice President of Chen Moore and Associates who thanked the City Commission for this recognition on behalf of Dr. Chen Moore and his firm.

**PRESENTED**

**PRES- [17-0256](#)**

**2**

**Recognition of Pine Crest Girls Cross Country Team - Winners of the Florida High School Athletic Association State Championships**

Commissioner Roberts, assisted by members of the Bayview Elementary Student Council, presented the Certificate of Recognition to the Pine Crest School Girls Varsity Cross Country Team - Winners of the FHSA State Championship. The Certificate of Recognition was accepted by team members and Coach Paul Baur. Coach Baur introduced members of the Coaching Staff, thanking Pinecrest School Athletic Director Jeff Johnson. He introduced each member of the Cross Country Team and thanked the Commission for the Certificate of Recognition. Senior Simone Vreeland from the Cross Country Team described what it took for the team to accomplish their dream of becoming State Champions. Ms. Vreeland described the hard work and efforts of all who contributed to the Cross Country Team becoming State Champions, thanking everyone for celebrating this accomplishment.

Commissioner Rogers thanked Coach Paul Baur and his coaching staff for their hard work and contributions to the Pinecrest School Girls Varsity Cross Country Team.

**PRESENTED**

**PRES- [17-0275](#)**

**3**

**Proclamation declaring March 4, 2017 as Marine Industries Association of South Florida 40th Annual Waterway Cleanup Day in the City of Fort Lauderdale**

Vice Mayor Trantalis, with the assistance of two members of the Bayview Elementary Student Council, presented the Proclamation declaring March 4, 2017 Marine Industries Association of South Florida 40th Annual Waterway Cleanup Day. Vice Mayor Trantalis discussed the details and location of the clean-up event, reading the proclamation in its entirety. The Proclamation was accepted by Nicole Hoekstra, Events Coordinator of the Marine Industries Association, who thanked the Commission for their long-standing support of this event.

Ms. Hoekstra invited all those in attendance to go to [waterway cleanup.org](#) and find a site to participate in this waterway clean-up



event, noting the time contributed counts towards community service hours. Ms. Hoeskstra also noted the clean-up is followed by the *Trash Bash*, a fun event for those who participate.

PRESENTED

PRES- [17-0281](#)  
4

Community Appearance Board WOW Awards for Districts III and IV

Commissioner McKinzie welcomed Community Appearance Board members, Ayisha Gordon and Kenneth Green to the podium. Commissioner McKinzie presented the Wow Award Award to Barbara and Walter Roberts, affectionately known by their neighbors as Nana and Uncle Walt, who contribute to their Dorsey-Riverbend neighborhood community. Commissioner McKinzie discussed the details of the Roberts home and the hard work that contributed to making their home the Wow Award Winner for District III.

***A detailed description of the Roberts property is attached to these minutes along with photos.***

Commissioner McKinzie welcomed Susan Jorge to the podium for the Wow Award for District IV. Commissioner Roberts read the detailed description of the Jorge property and awarded the WOW Award for District IV to Ms. Jorge. Ms. Jorge thanked the Commission for this recognition.

***A detailed description of the Roberts property is attached to these minutes along with photos.***

PRESENTED

## Approval of MINUTES and Agenda

[17-0272](#)

Minutes for January 11, 2017 MPO Workshop Meeting, January 11, 2017 Galleria Community Meeting, January 18, 2017 City Commission Conference Meeting and January 18, 2017 City Commission Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve the meeting minutes listed in item 17-072 and was seconded by Vice Mayor Trantalis.

APPROVED

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

## CONSENT AGENDA

The procedures for public comment on items on the Agenda are noted below:

Any member of the public will be allowed the opportunity to speak for three (3) minutes on all Consent Agenda items not pulled by a member of the Commission.

For any items pulled by a member of the Commission, a member of the public will be allowed the opportunity to speak on that specific item for three (3) minutes.

Each member of the public wishing to address the Commission as noted above must submit a completed speaker card to the City Clerk's representative so Mayor Seiler may announce the speaker and recognize them at the podium.

## **CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following speakers signed up to address the items on the Consent Agenda:

Mayor Seiler recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road, who requested information on item CM-5 regarding a settlement with the City. Mr. King also requested information from City Attorney Everett regarding payments for remediation of sewer main breaks and impact on future liability regarding its sovereign immunity. Mr. King also asked for information on the Police Body Camera Program.

## **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Vice Mayor Trantalis made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Roberts.

### **Approve the Consent Agenda**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

## **CONSENT MOTION**

### **CM-1    [17-0161](#)**

Motion to Approve Event Agreements: Hilton Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort 10-Year Anniversary Celebration, Street Revival, 40th Annual Waterway Cleanup, Walk MS Fort Lauderdale, Fort Lauderdale Spring Fine Art Festival and Clueless on Las Olas

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CM-2**    [17-0162](#)

Motion to Approve Event Agreements and Related Road Closings: Duck Fest Derby, Fort Lauderdale St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival, Downtown Himmarshee Village Celebrates St. Patrick's Day, Sistrunk 5k and Fort Laudi Gras

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CM-3**    [17-0016](#)

Motion to Approve Beach Business Improvement District (BID) Funding for the 2017 Fort Lauderdale Airshow in the Amount of \$100,000, and to Approve BID Funding After the Fact for the 2016 Fort Lauderdale Air Show in the Amount of \$100,000

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CM-4**    [17-0073](#)

Motion Approving the Acceptance of Equipment from the Broward County Healthcare Coalition - \$9,490

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CM-5**    [17-0238](#)

Motion Authorizing Settlement of Auto Liability Claim in the Matter of Judith Donato v. City of Fort Lauderdale, et al. Case No. CACE 14-02440 (18) - \$92,500.00

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CM-6**    [17-0265](#)

Motion Authorizing Payment of Environmental Cleaning Costs and Settlement of All Potential Liability Claims of Jeffrey Parkes - \$28,318

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CM-7**    [17-0075](#)

Motion to Approve Sovereignty Submerged Land Lease Renewal/Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida/ BOT File No. 061391506 - Cooley's Landing



Marina

APPROVED

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

CM-8 [17-0172](#)

Motion Approving an Application for a Temporary Beach License and Outdoor Event Agreement with Exclusive Sports Marketing, Inc. for a Volleyball Competition

APPROVED

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

## CONSENT RESOLUTION

CR-1 [17-0270](#)

A Resolution Authorizing the City Attorney or the City Attorney's Designee to Initiate the Foreclosure of Code Enforcement and Other Municipal Liens, Bid on the Foreclosed Properties at Foreclosure Sales, and Seek Deficiency Judgments

ADOPTED

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

CR-2 [17-0202](#)

Resolution Approving an Extension of a Temporary Moratorium on the Installation of Communication Facilities and Distributed Antenna Systems within the Public Rights-of-Way through April 19, 2017

ADOPTED

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

CR-3 [17-0207](#)

Resolution Extending the Date for Consideration of Lease Approval for the Las Olas Marina Site to April 19, 2017

Vice Mayor Trantalis addressed City Manager Feldman about the lease involved in this item and the amount paid to CBRE for the Las Olas Marina. City Manager Feldman stated the final number would be provided when the lease is presented to the Commission for approval. Alternatively, he could send it to the Commission by memorandum. Vice Mayor Trantalis requested City Manager Feldman email it to him or have it available at the next Commission Meeting.

City Auditor Herbst handed City Manager Feldman a document from the Request for Proposal (RFP). After review of the document, City Manager Feldman stated based on the calculations by Suntex, the commission paid to CBRE by Suntex will be \$1,300,000.



Commissioner Rogers introduced this resolution which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CR-4**     [17-0237](#)

Resolution Approving the Consolidated Budget Amendment to Fiscal Year 2017 - Appropriation

**ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CR-5**     [17-0141](#)

Resolution to Adopt a Debt Management Policy

**ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CR-6**     [17-0236](#)

Resolution Waiving Division 2, Purchasing, of Chapter 2, Article V of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida to Approve Amendment to Contract for Additional Expenditures for Water Extraction and Remediation of Water Damage and Mold Impact Services - Decon Environmental & Engineering, Inc. - \$300,000

**ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CR-7**     [17-0241](#)

Resolution Waiving Division 2, Purchasing, of Chapter 2, Article V of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida to Approve Contract and Business Associate Agreement for Employee Health Center Professional Medical Services - Marathon Health, LLC - \$3,409,549 (three-year total)

**ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CR-8**     [17-0137](#)

Resolution Approving the Submittal of a Grant Application to the Florida Inland Navigation District for Bill Keith Preserve Shoreline Stabilization Phase I Design and Permitting

**ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CR-9**    [17-0138](#)

Resolution Approving the Submittal of a Grant Application to the Florida Inland Navigation District for George English Park Boat Ramp Renovations Phase II Construction

**ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CR-10**    [17-0052](#)

Resolution Approving a Locally Funded Agreement and an Escrow Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the Tunnel Pedestrian Plaza Project

**ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**CR-11**    [17-0129](#)

Resolution Approving the Conversion of NW 13 Terrace and NW 14 Avenue between NW 7 Street and NW 8 Street to One-Way Streets

**ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**PURCHASING AGENDA**

**PUR-1**    [17-0029](#)

Motion to Approve the Purchase of Vehicles, Buses and Proprietary Options - Multiple Vendors - \$382,950.48

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**PUR-2**    [17-0053](#)

Motion to Approve Purchase of Office Furniture, Citywide - Various Vendors - \$475,000

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**PUR-3**    [17-0154](#)

Motion to Approve Purchase of Hardware and Software for the Testing and Development of Information Technology Infrastructure Components for the Enterprise Resource Planning System - Various Vendors - \$259,407.67

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**PUR-4** [17-0155](#)

Motion to Approve Final Ranking and Commencement of Contract Negotiations for Integrated Body Worn Cameras and Digital Evidence Management System

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**PUR-5** [17-0175](#)

Motion to Approve Contract for Transportation and Mobility Community Investment Projects - Sun-Up Enterprises Inc. - \$2,733,061 (two-year total)

Mayor Seiler recognized former Commissioner Charlotte Rodstrom who addressed the Commission. Ms. Rodstrom discussed the information provided in the backup of this item, stating density is being increased but the streets are being narrowed, questioning how this will improve transportation and mobility in the City. Ms. Rodstrom stated for the record that she recommended the mobility study be more long ranged, taking into consideration the future increased density.

Mayor Seiler recognized Paul Chettle, 200 S. Birch Road, who addressed the Commission in opposition to this item as it relates to the multi-modal aspects of the Las Olas Boulevard and SE 15th Street traffic patterns. He submitted information from Broward County Transit illustrating a decline in ridership for buses and the Sun Trolley in the 2015-2016 timeframe in that area.

In response to Vice Mayor Trantalis's question, Mr. Chettle confirmed the amount of car and truck traffic, and traffic patterns at the Las Olas Boulevard and SE 15th Avenue intersection. Mr. Chettle asked the Commission to consider the request from local neighborhoods for a regional plan affecting the 2.5 miles of Las Olas Boulevard from the ocean to the riverfront, taking into consideration future development.

***A copy of Mr. Chettle's submission to the Commission is attached to these minutes.***

Mayor Seiler recognized Mary Fertig, President of the Idelwyld Improvement Association, who addressed the Commission, giving a history of the neighborhood meetings of the communities located along East Las Olas to address traffic concerns. She noted their requests for a regional plan for the 2.5 miles of Las Olas Boulevard from the ocean to the river front. Ms. Fertig also discussed the history of meetings with Staff regarding consultant plans for portions of the

2.5 miles and the neighborhood concerns about the lack of addressing future growth. She also addressed specific aspects of the current plan and its costs. Ms. Fertig requested the Commission not move forward with the Las Olas portion of the plan until a comprehensive plan is developed for the Las Olas region.

***A copy of Ms. Fertig's submission to the Commission is attached to these minutes.***

Mayor Seiler recognized Trisha Halliday, 60 Nurmi Drive, who addressed the Commission in opposition to this item, asking if the Commission has studied the back-up information to this item. Mayor Seiler confirmed. Ms. Halliday discussed the truck route on SE 15th Street not being wide enough, noting emergency vehicles also travel on that roadway. She requested the Commission seriously consider Ms. Fertig and Mr. Chettle's comments and defer this item.

Mayor Seiler requested Diane Alarcon, Director of Transportation and Mobility, come to the podium to address the speakers concerns. Ms. Alarcon confirmed that her department has had and will continue to have meetings with the affected neighborhood communities to discuss their concerns. She discussed the left turn lane recommendation from the consultant, stating the low number of turns being made was the basis for suggesting its elimination. However, after hearing from the neighborhoods, Staff is looking at putting the left turn lane back into the design.

Mayor Seiler asked why the plans are based on numbers from a 2013 study. Ms. Alarcon stated Staff is reviewing this and will refresh the study's calculations. She stated seasonal adjustments were made, similar to what was done in the 17th Street Master Plan. Ms. Alarcon discussed other aspects of traffic flow in the City.

Commissioner Roberts stated the importance of addressing future traffic projections on Las Olas Boulevard to prepare for the future and the need for a current study that takes future growth into consideration. In response to Commissioner Roberts question, Ms. Alarcon stated Colee Hammock and Beverly Heights have approved this experimental plan. At the request of Commissioner Rogers, Ms. Alarcon confirmed the duration of the pilot program would be one year.

Mayor Seiler stated for the record that any permanent changes must come back to the Commission for a vote. Ms. Alarcon confirmed. Ms. Alarcon also confirmed that traffic counts could be done during the pilot program.



Vice Mayor Trantalis gave his comments on this issue, stating a road diet between SE12th Avenue and SE 15th Avenue is not appropriate, recommending a current traffic study be done in season. He also commented on *Complete Streets* goals and the impacted neighborhoods. Vice Mayor Trantalis requested the Las Olas Boulevard portion of this plan be removed from the project and be studied separately to ensure its success.

Commissioner Rogers commented on traffic from Himmarshee Bridge to SE 15th Street. Vice Mayor Trantalis responded and discussions ensued on the history of this area of Las Olas Boulevard.

In response to Commissioner Roberts question about Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) dollars being available for this project, Ms. Alarcon stated "no" but there were MPO dollars programmed for the area of Himmarshee River moving west for the connection of the bicycle lanes and pedestrian improvements.

Discussions ensued on the timeline involved in getting a current study to include future projected growth. Ms. Alarcon discussed the costs associated with "paint on the ground" for this area Las Olas Boulevard, traffic calming improvements for Colee Hammock and improvements to SE 15th Avenue and Second Street intersection, which were part of the overall study. Ms. Alarcon stated she would provide the Commission with the amount for only the "paint on the ground" portion of this items cost.

City Manager Feldman commented on his conversations with business owners in the area from Himmarshee Bridge to SE 15th Street on Las Olas Boulevard who are in favor of the proposed changes and allowing for the creation of a north south pedestrian flow.

Ms. Alarcon committed to bringing this back to the Commission six months after the paint is on the ground for the Las Olas Boulevard portion of this project. She also confirmed she would provide the exact dates to the Commission and the effected neighborhoods.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve this item as amended, bringing this item back before the Commission six months following the painting of the streets, and was seconded by Commissioner Roberts.

**APPROVED AS AMENDED**

**Aye:** 4 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts and Mayor Seiler

Nay: 1 - Vice Mayor Trantalis

**PUR-6** [17-0185](#)

Motion to Approve Increase in Funds for Architectural Consulting Services Contracts - Various Consultants - \$337,538

**APPROVED**

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**PUR-7** [17-0231](#)

Motion to Approve Change Order No. 6 for South Side School Restoration Project - DiPompeo Construction Corporation - \$228,186.47

**APPROVED**

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**PUR-8** [17-0240](#)

Motion to Approve Contract and Business Associate Agreement for Comprehensive Medical Evaluations for Fort Lauderdale Fire and Ocean Rescue Personnel - Life Extension Clinics, Inc. d/b/a Life Scan Wellness Centers - \$469,117

**APPROVED**

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

## MOTIONS

**M-1** [17-0173](#)

Motion to Approve an Event Agreement with Historic Downtowner, LLC for St. Patty's Day Party

Vice Mayor Trantalis asked City Manager Feldman why this was a separate item and not part of the Consent Agenda. City Manager Feldman stated it was due to the request for additional hours of amplified music.

Commissioner Rogers made a motion to approve this item and was seconded by Vice Mayor Trantalis.

**APPROVED**

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**M-2** [17-0174](#)

Motion to Approve an Event Agreement with Waxy O'Conner's, Inc. for Waxy O'Connor's St. Pats Day

The Commission discussed the dates and hours of this event request.

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve this item and was seconded by Vice Mayor Trantalis.

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**M-3**      [17-0232](#)

Motion to Approve an Event Agreement with Multirace, LLC for the Las Olas International Triathlon

Commissioner Rogers asked about the parking issues related to this event.

Mayor Seiler recognized, Cristian Anderson, Vice President and Certified Race Director, Multirace, LLC, and Aleck DaGrosa, Vice President of Operations of Multirace, LLC, who addressed the Commission outlining the portions of the South Beach Parking Lot they will use on Saturday, March 11, 2017 and Sunday, March 12, 2017 to allow parking for race participants. Discussions continued on sharing the South Beach parking lot with the volleyball event, other aspects of parking, and the event's history. Mr. Anderson expounded on the proactive measure they will be taking to manage both the event and traffic, including hiring police to direct traffic.

Vice Mayor Trantalis voiced his concern about the ability of residents in this area being able to travel. Mr. Anderson commented that they will be sending an impact notice to area residents. At the request of Mayor Seiler, he specifically reviewed and outlined the details of the event, stating the last cone on the roadway is expected to be removed by 10:30 a.m. and the parking lot will be reopened by noon.

Vice Mayor Trantalis discussed the impact of local hotels selling their parking spaces for the event, stating it impacts traffic congestion in the area.

Vice Mayor Trantalis made a motion to approve this item and was seconded by Commissioner Rogers.

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**M-4**      [17-0282](#)

Motion to Approve an Event Agreement with Shuck N Dive, Inc. for Mardi Gras

Vice Mayor Trantalis made a motion to approve this item and was seconded by Commissioner Rogers.

**APPROVED**

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

17-0289

WALK ON - Motion to Approve an Event Agreement with Florida Panthers Hockey Club, LTD for Florida Panthers NHL Hockey Celebration

Vice Mayor Trantalis made a motion to approve this item and was seconded by Commissioner Roberts.

**APPROVED**

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

## **RESOLUTIONS**

R-1     17-0242

Appointment of Board and Committee Members

The Commission discussed and confirmed with City Clerk Modarelli the upcoming appointments for the next resolution at the Regular City Commission Meeting of February 21, 2017, Meeting.

City Clerk Modarelli read the board and committee member appointments for Resolution R-1 as noted below:

### **AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Thomas Moody is appointed to the Aviation Advisory Board for a one year term beginning March 4, 2017 and ending March 3, 2018 or until his successor has been appointed.

### **BEACH REDEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Jason Hughes is appointed to the Beach Redevelopment Board for a one year term beginning February 21, 2017 and ending February 20, 2018 or until his successor has been appointed.

Thomas McManus is appointed to the Beach Redevelopment Board for a one year term beginning April 1, 2017 and ending March 31, 2018 or until his successor has been appointed.

### **COMMUNITY APPEARANCE BOARD**

Ismail Uzun is appointed to the Community Appearance Board for a one year term beginning February 21, 2017 and ending February 20, 2018 or until his successor has been appointed.



Caroline Nutt is appointed to the Community Appearance Board for a one year term beginning March 4, 2017 and ending March 3, 2018 or until her successor has been appointed.

Alissa Ayden is appointed to the Community Appearance Board for a one year term beginning March 15, 2017 and ending March 14, 2018 or until her successor has been appointed.

#### **EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Natasha Wilson has been appointed to the Education Advisory Board for a one year term beginning February 21, 2017 and ending February 20, 2018 or until her successor has been appointed.

#### **NUISANCE ABATEMENT BOARD**

John Forman (Alternate Member), Donald Karney, Lorraine Saunders, Cindy Smith, Gustav Schmidt and Robert Wolfe have been appointed to the to the Nuisance Abatement Board for one year terms beginning February 21, 2017 and ending February 20, 2018 or until their successors have been appointed.

#### **PARKS, RECREATION AND BEACHES BOARD**

Dermott McQuarrie, Darin Lentner, Karen Povlika and James Jordan have been appointed to the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Board for one year terms beginning February 21, 2017 and ending February 20, 2018 or until their successors have been appointed.

Commissioner Rogers introduced this resolution which was read by title only.

#### **ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

#### **R-2      [17-0206](#)**

Resolution Approving Sale of City Owned Property Located on NW 13 Street between NW 1 Avenue and North Andrews Avenue to Thomas Allen and Nathapob Kattiengkit

Vice Mayor Trantalis introduced this resolution which was read by title only.

#### **ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**PH-1**    [17-0156](#)

Public Hearing to Transfer City Owned Residential Lots in the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Area to the Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency

Mayor Seiler opened the public hearing.

Mayor Seiler recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road, who addressed the Commission. He asked why these properties are transferred to the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

Mayor Seiler recognized Count Rosenthal, 1237 NW 4th Avenue, who commented on his reasoning as to why these properties are transferred to the CRA, stating it allows working class middle and lower income residents an opportunity to reside in the City. He also discussed the history of the founders of the City.

There being no one else wishing to speak on this item, Commissioner Roberts made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner McKinzie. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Vice Mayor Trantalis introduced the resolution declaring its intent to convey property to the CRA with purchase price, other terms, and set a date for a public hearing not less than thirty (30) days after the adoption of the resolution, which was read by title only.

City Manager Lee Feldman read the Public Notice stating this transfer is for the purpose of expanding the Affordable Housing Program.

**ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**ORDINANCE FIRST READING**

**OFR-1**    [17-0033](#)

Ordinance Amending Article III - Development Requirements, of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Unified Land Development Regulations, Creating New Subsections and Amending Existing Subsections to Revise Neighborhood Design Criteria / Case T16005

Mayor Seiler recognized Ella Parker, Urban Design & Development Manager for the Department of Sustainable Development, who addressed the Commission. In response Vice Mayor Trantalis's question about the installation of fences in the front yards of homes that give a stockade like appearance, Ms. Parker stated Staff is

discussing a reduction in height. She then requested Eric Engmann, Urban Planner III Urban Design & Development Department of Sustainable Development, to further expound on this topic.

Mayor Seiler recognized Eric Engmann, Urban Planner III for the Department of Sustainable Development, who stated any new residences, other than multifamily or single family, cannot have a solid wall fence in front of their homes and must remain 75 percent open.

Vice Mayor Trantalis commented on this issue in his neighborhood that take away the curb appeal of properties and the history of this topic in the City. Mr. Engmann noted Staff would follow any recommended changes of the Commission.

Commissioner McKinzie gave his perspective on this issue, recommending investigating this issue prior to making changes. City Manager Feldman commented on the need for the Commission to prioritize its requests. Mr. Engmann expounded on the procedure for researching this issue.

Commissioner Rogers discussed the need for flexibility and his concern over the practicality of this item on a major roadway as noted in Exhibit 4 in the backup. He gave examples of vacant parcels located on SW 4th Avenue and parcels on State Road 84, noting they have a different dynamic. He noted the need for flexibility to let the lot itself dictate the design criteria.

Mr. Engmann commented that when cluster projects are required they are in an RD-15 District and other aspects of the ordinance. Additional discussions ensued on RD-15 areas in the City.

Commissioner Rogers requested Mr. Engmann investigate and get back to him what areas from 7th Street to 17th Street along the east side of 4th Avenue are zoned RD-15. Mr. Engmann also noted numerous meetings with developers in the City on this issue.

Vice Mayor Trantalis introduced this Ordinance on First Reading, which was read by title only.

**PASSED FIRST READING**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**OFR-2** [17-0123](#)

Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Creating a New Article Entitled Communications Facilities in the Public Rights-of-Way

Mayor Seiler recognized Tony McDowell on behalf of T-Mobile who stated he had two areas of objection:

the 350 foot setback

the "Atlas Map" due to its violation of the Federal Communication Cyber Security Act.

Mr. McDowell suggested a secure third party have access to the "Atlas Map" information to confirm an inventory for the City.

In response to Mayor Seiler's question, Mr. McDowell stated other municipalities have removed the "Atlas Map" requirement from their Ordinances. Mayor Seiler stated the need to know the inventory. City Attorney Everett deferred to Special Counsel for the City, Keith Davis, Esq.

Mayor Seiler recognized Keith Davis, Esq., Special Counsel Corbett, White, Davis, and Ashton, P.A., who addressed the Commission stating he would explore this security issue and come back to the Commission before the Ordinance Second Reading.

Mayor Seiler stated he would not alter the 350 foot setback in order to protect the interests of the residents.

Mr. McDowell thanked the Commission for their work on this issue.

Mayor Seiler recognized Janna Lhota, Esq., Holland and Knight and on behalf of Verizon Wireless, who addressed the Commission, thanking Staff and the Commission for their work on this item.

Ms. Lhota expounded on the requirement of a 350 foot distance separation within the right-of-way of new facilities, stating this could prohibit a new provider from coming in, and is a clear violation of State and Federal law. Ms. Lhota stated she would work with Staff to address the remaining issues of her client and, if necessary, would come back to the Commission prior to the Ordinance Second Reading.

Commissioner Rogers introduced this item on First Reading, recognizing changes would be made to the Ordinance prior to the Second Reading as noted by Mayor Seiler. The Ordinance was read by title only.

**PASSED FIRST READING**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler



**RESOLUTIONS****R-3      [17-0099](#)**

Quasi-Judicial - Resolution Approving a Landmark Designation - Commonly Known as the First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fort Lauderdale and the Property Listed in the Legal Description, Located at 441 NE Third Avenue - HPB Case H16016

Anyone wishing to speak must be sworn in. Commission will announce any site visits, communications or expert opinions received and make them part of the record.

Each City Commission member disclosed their verbal and written communications, site visits, and expert opinions received.

Mayor Seiler and the Commission welcomed newly hired Trisha Logan, Planner III for the Department of Sustainable Development, and the City Historic Preservation Officer. Ms. Logan who gave her educational background in historic preservation and experience with municipalities, stating she has not had an opportunity to participate with this item.

Mayor Seiler recognized Robin Merrill, 300 SW 1st Avenue, who addressed the Commission in support of this item and thanked the Commission for hiring a Historic Preservation Officer. She stated the Flagler Village Association voted unanimously for the proposal approving the Landmark Designation for the First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fort Lauderdale (Church) located at 441 NE Third Avenue - HPB Case H16016.

Ms. Merrill discussed the voting record of the Historic Preservation Board on December 5, 2016 stating the vote was unanimous as the Church met five criteria, noting only meeting one criteria was necessary. Ms. Merrill expounded on the five criteria as noted in her PowerPoint presentation.

***A copy of Ms. Merrill's PowerPoint presentation is attached to these minutes.***

Mayor Seiler recognized Paul Pfadenhauer, 1842 Coral Ridge Drive, who addressed the Commission in support of the preservation of the Church. Pastor Pfadenhauer expounded on his pastoral work, his support of the landmark designation for the Church and past development proposals. At the request of Vice Mayor Trantalis, Pastor Pfadenhauer confirmed that he was not requesting the Commission to negotiate with the current developer on the Church's behalf.

Mayor Seiler recognized Rosalyn Scherf, 1060 Tyler Street and a member of the congregation, who addressed the Commission in support of the preservation of the Church, reiterating its history and service to the community. Ms. Scherf urged the Commission to make a decision soon.

Mayor Seiler recognized Sara Randel, 816 NE 816 17th Avenue, who addressed the Commission, supporting preservation and historic designation of the Church in order to assist in balancing progress and growth, and preserving historic aspects of the area to maintain the character of the community.

Mayor Seiler recognized Michelle Nunziata, 315 NE 3rd Avenue and on behalf of the Flagler Village Civic Association, who addressed the Commission in support of this item. Ms. Nunziata also commented on meetings with the developer. In response to Mayor Seiler's question, Ms. Nunziata confirmed the Flagler Village Civic Association voted unanimously to designate the Church as a historic landmark.

Mayor Seiler recognized former Commissioner John Aurelius, 2864 NE 24th Court, who addressed the Commission in support of designating the Church as a historic landmark, commenting on his experience with the City when requesting assistance on other historic projects. Mr. Aurelius made recommendations on how the Commission should proceed to allow the public to gain a better understanding of the issue and available options.

Vice Mayor Trantalis commented that there have been discussions with the proposed developer about repurposing the building, preserving the façade and other aspects that will be dependent on the decision made by the Commission. Mr. Aurelius commented on the costs to preserve the building and who would pay those costs.

Mayor Seiler recognized Judy Sommers, 400 N.E. 17th Way, who addressed the Commission, stating her history in the City and with the Church. Ms. Sommers thanked the Commission for hiring a Historic Preservation Officer to address the numerous historic properties in the City. She asked the Commission to work towards preserving other historic buildings.

Mayor Seiler recognized Christopher Brennan, 2721 NE 14th Street, who addressed the Commission in support of this item, noting his close personal and family ties with the Church and recognizing its historical significance. Mr. Brennan suggested listening to the developer to understand his plans to preserve the historical areas of

the property.

Mayor Seiler recognized Nancy DeMartini, 3900 NE 18th Avenue, who addressed the Commission, commenting on her personal history with the Church. She supported the historic designation of the Church, stating the need to strike a balance between respect for both the past and the present.

Mayor Seiler recognized Count Rosenthal, 1237 NW 4th Avenue, who addressed the Commission and commented on his research into this issue. He discussed the responsibility of those in favor of the historic designation of buildings to have a plan to fund the associated costs. He recommended the Commission defer this item to allow the developer to present a plan that would preserve the historic parts of the property.

Mayor Seiler recognized former Commissioner Tim Smith, 1720 NE 9th Avenue, who addressed the Commission in support of this item. Mr. Smith thanked the Commission for their many hours of hard work. He noted the importance of preserving the major buildings enumerated in the Historic Preservation Board's list of historic buildings. He suggested the Commission have this as a Conference Meeting item in order to address funding issues. Mr. Smith stated the Church is one of those on the Historic Preservation Board's list of unique, historic properties that should be saved and designated as a historic landmark. He recommended the Commission approve this item.

Mayor Seiler recognized Richard Rubin, 720 NE 4th Avenue and past President of the Council at the First Lutheran Church, who addressed the Commission in support of this item, commenting on the history and details of past negotiations with a developer. He commented that the Church could pay for the costs associated with its historic designation, stating he Church can be self-supporting through its work with organizations it has worked with in the past.

Mayor Seiler recognized Michaela Conca, 907 N. Federal Highway, who addressed the Commission in support of this item. She commented on why the Church should be designated a historic landmark, noting the Church could be included as part of the City's Annual Historic Homes Tour during the holiday season.

Mayor Seiler recognized Pastor Brad Schmidt, 700 SE 8th Street and Pastor of City Church of Fort Lauderdale, who addressed the Commission in support of this item. He stated what a City values can be evidenced by its great buildings, stating it is a great building with

historic significance. Pastor Schmidt gave a brief historic overview of the Church's community service, stating as a citizen he felt it should not be converted into commercial space, but instead be used as a place for the community to use for the common good, reflecting the City's values. For the record, Pastor Schmidt submitted a petition signed by over 430 people in support of historic designation.

***A copy of the petition submitted by Pastor Schmidt is attached to these minutes.***

Vice Mayor Trantalis asked Pastor Schmidt if the congregation grew to the point of needing to expand to another facility, who would maintain the Church. Pastor Schmidt acknowledged the growing congregation and popularity of the Church, stating there is room to expand the congregation in the sanctuary in addition to the option of having additional services throughout the day. Pastor Schmidt stated his congregation has a long-term commitment to the Church.

Mayor Seiler recognized Johnny Contini, 888 Spoonbill Circle and member of the theatrical group New City Players, who addressed the Commission in support of this item. Mr. Contini stated he was also representing Joanna Peterson who could not be present. He read a statement from Ms. Peterson in support of the Church being designated as a historic landmark, stating it will uphold the spiritual, emotional and communal needs of the neighborhood with the goal of providing care and support for everyone in the community. Her letter urged the Commission to support this designation. Mr. Contini noted Ms. Peterson's letter appeared in the February 21, 2017 edition of the *Sun Sentinel Newspaper*.

Mayor Seiler recognized Ryan Maloney, 1858 NE 33rd Street and member of the theatrical group New City Players, who addressed the Commission in support of this preserving the Church. Mr. Maloney expounded on his reasons for his family relocating from Indianapolis to Fort Lauderdale, noting their commitment to the area. He noted the litany of community and neighborhood services provided by the Church, commenting on its ability to assist the downtown area in flourishing.

Mayor Seiler recognized Eric Anderson, 888 SW 21st Street, Boca Raton, who addressed the Commission, stating he grew up in the City and his father was the minister of this Church from 1960 until 1985. Mr. Anderson gave an overview of the Church, noting its long history as an outreach church feeding the homeless, embracing the Haitian community by having services in Creole, and welcoming the repatriated South Vietnamese in the 1970's, noting they all became



part of the Church's family. Mr. Anderson stated that as an architect, he feels the developer and their design professionals could come up with a viable solution to maintain the structure and its viability.

Mayor Seiler recognized Tim Davis, 3212 Comoly Club Road and member of New City Players theatre group, who addressed the Commission in support of this item. He stated the New City Players has utilized the Church for performances with the goal of promoting the City through a celebration of the arts. He noted that young people in the City appreciate the appeal of historic buildings and the culture they represent. Mr. Davis commented the Church serves the community and fosters the greater good of the people. He requested the Commission to designate the Church as a historic site.

Mayor Seiler recognized Steve Glassman, designated representative for the Broward Trust for Historic Preservation (Trust), who addressed the Commission in support of historic designation of the Church. Mr. Glassman gave an historic overview of the Trust's meetings and voting record on designating this Church as a historic landmark, stating this issue deserves the Commission's serious consideration. He commented on the Trust and the community concern over the removal of the Church's stained glass windows as well as the possible demolition of the Church, similar to what has happened with other historic structures.

The Trust urges the Commission to make changes to its Code of Ordinances whereby permits are not issued for structures that are in the process of being considered for historic landmark preservation and the requirement for an approved site plan prior to any demolition permits being issued. He noted designating this Church a historic building does not preclude making changes to its structure, stating that the developer can propose any site plan for adaptive reuse and return to the Trust for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Glassman also discussed the developer's ability to apply for grants and federal tax credits for commercial use. The Trust urged the Commission to uphold its Advisory Board's unanimous vote for historic landmark designation.

Mayor Seiler recognized Marla Sherman Dumas, 1145 Harrison Street, who addressed the Commission in support of this item. Ms. Dumas discussed the appropriateness of the adaptive reuse of this property, citing examples of Cinema Paradiso, a former church, and its history in the downtown area and the Abreu Building in the Sailboat Bend area now actively used as a museum. She cited other examples of adaptive reuse in South Florida. She discussed the importance of the City's history tied to the Church, recommending adaptive reuse as

an option.

***A copy of Ms. Dumas submission to the Commission is attached to these minutes.***

Mayor Seiler recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road, who addressed the Commission in support of this item. He acknowledged the rarity of this Church, commenting on its value and recommending the historic landmark designation. Mr. King also discussed the Church's recent history in the neighborhood and other historic designations.

Mayor Seiler recognized former City Commissioner Charlotte Rodstrom, 66 Nurmi Drive, who addressed the Commission in support of this item. She acknowledged the positive diversity of advocates who spoke tonight in support of designating the Church as a historic landmark. Ms. Rodstrom stated her concerns with the Commission's process, stating the developer and architect should have addressed the Commission prior to getting the public's input. She also stated an outstanding architect can work with this building, design something to preserve it and making it something magnificent for the community.

Mayor Seiler recognized Merrillyn Rathbun, City Consultant, who addressed the Commission. Ms. Rathbun spoke on the ability to make changes to buildings with historic designation, noting changes can be made and discussing the procedures and requirements involved with the Historic Preservation Board to receive a Certificate of Appropriateness. She also commented on the preferred ways of making changes to historic landmarks.

Vice Mayor Trantalis commented on his experience with historic landmark buildings in the Sailboat Bend area, noting the contentiousness and onerous nature of the process due to the uniqueness of each building.

Vice Mayor Trantalis stated his desire to preserve the Church building along with the need ensure the process is less burdensome, which would allow for repurposing or enhancing its current purpose without incurring excessive costs.

Ms. Rathbun stated that the new Historic Preservation Officer will be able to assist applicants through the process along with design guidelines, commenting on the necessity of extra oversight and the additional layer of governance.

Mayor Seiler recognized Pastor William Knott on behalf of First

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Inc., who addressed the Commission clarifying aspects of the Church congregation's determination to sell their building and invest the proceeds into the City's underserved populations. He shared his history with the Church, his additional cleric responsibilities and duties, stating fifteen congregations are now working now together to serve community needs in areas such as the arts for youth and campus ministry. He stated this work is being done in lieu of the congregation paying for a building it cannot afford.

Pastor Knott noted the financial circumstances involved in the offers received and rejected, noting the Church's revenue stream from rentals was not adequate to sustain the \$50,000 annual costs of the building.

Pastor Knott stated neither the Church nor any of its congregation's officers were contacted by any Staff regarding the details of the decision to sell the Church. Additionally, no members of the Historic Preservation Board or the Trust have been active supporting members of the Church's congregation. The congregation made a choice to sell the building to a responsible party. Pastor Knott gave an overview of the offers made to the Church, commenting on its mission and ministry to serve the community's needs. He also stated it is the Commission's responsibility to determine the historic designation and its scope. He commented on the ability and willingness of the developer to understand, maintain and preserve the value of the building's history. He commented on the building's deteriorating condition due to age and its cinderblock construction, with a stone façade that came from the former Saint Anthony Church building. Pastor Knott recommended the Commission look at the developers plans to ascertain what he proposes.

At the request of Commissioner Roberts, Pastor Knott reiterated and clarified that the façade is historic but the building itself was not moved block by block, rather it is a cinderblock building with an applied historic façade. Additionally, Pastor Knott stated the stained glass windows were not part of the original façade and the Church no longer retains ownership of the stained glass windows. Pastor Knott stated that Father Plunkett did not design the First Church building. Father Plunkett designed the Saint Anthony Church building.

Mayor Seiler recognized Courtney Crush, Esq., on behalf the developer, Itay Avital of the Tahoe Group, who addressed the Commission. Ms. Crush stated Mr. Avital owns all of the south side of the entire block and the Church property is under contract for a proposed mixed use community development. Ms. Crush discussed the history, efforts and commitment to integrate the Church into the

development of this mixed use residential community. She requested the Commission defer a decision on this item to request and allow for the adaptive reuse of the Church in the developer's project. The developer would then present the Commission with a conceptual site plan that would be a prime example of incorporating adaptive use of the Church in this community.

Mayor Seiler recognized Itay Avital, Developer for Tahoe Investment Group, who addressed the Commission, commenting on the history and progress of the contract and negotiations with the community. Mr. Avital acknowledged the desired changes, stating they are willing to make those changes to preserve the sanctuary building in its entirety. If the Church is designated tonight as historic landmark, it will impede the efforts incorporate the sanctuary with an adaptive use. They will work quickly and efficiently to present a site plan to the Commission that incorporates the Church and creates something very unique and a gem for the community. He committed to not requesting any type of building or demolition permits prior to making this presentation to the Commission.

Mayor Seiler recognized Assistant City Attorney D'Wayne Spence who addressed the Commission stating if the Commission is considering deferring this item, he recommended keeping the Public Hearing open as it is the evidentiary part of the hearing. Mayor Seiler acknowledged that this is good advice and kept the Public Hearing open.

Mayor Seiler stated he would like to see this building preserved and recommended continuing this Public Hearing to give the developer an opportunity to come up with an adaptive use site plan. He recommended putting conditions in place that would prevent any work being done that would impact the structural and historic elements of the building.

Commissioner Rogers was concerned in the interim about maintenance of the property. Pastor Knott confirmed that the Church continues to maintain the property and will continue to do so. Pastor Knott stated the Church took their stained glass windows for their new building and they are not using the money from the sale for a new building. He commented on their future plans for the stained glass windows.

Commissioner Roberts commented that the end goal is similar to that of the Fort Lauderdale Beach Hotel.

Discussions continued on the good faith required by all parties. Pastor Knott confirmed that no further items would be removed from the



building or anything altered in any manner until a decision is made by the Commission. Mayor Seiler requested Staff to video tape both the inside outside the Church to confirm its current condition and confirmed the only alterations would be landscaping, upkeep and maintenance. Pastor Knott agreed to Mayor Seiler's request.

Ms. Crush confirmed the video tape would be provided to the City Clerk tomorrow, February 22, 2017. Assistant City Attorney D'Wayne Spence confirmed the appropriateness of the video tape.

Commissioner Rogers asked Mr. Avital for confirmation of his agreement to preserve the main sanctuary of the Church. Ms. Crush responded for Mr. Avital confirming the new design will keep the entire sanctuary area of the Church. Ms. Crush pointed out the portion of the illustration containing the sanctuary that would remain, which she submitted for the record.

***A copy of Ms. Crush's submission is attached to these minutes.***

Vice Mayor Trantalis commented on additional considerations as a result of preserving the main sanctuary. The structure will be taller and the developer may be applying for Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funds, all of which will be part of the conversation with the CRA Advisory Board. As such, he stated a deferral on this item is appropriate.

Mayor Seiler requested Ms. Logan be at the video taping of the Church. Ms. Logan confirmed.

Assistant City Attorney Spence stated his concern about the conditions that the Commission is requesting and the submission of a site plan as evidence for the record at the Public Hearing which is not part of this item's review for the Church's historic designation application.

Mr. Spence stated evidence cannot be accepted that is not relevant to the historic designation, recommended the following:

- The Commission can continue the Public Hearing to a date certain and continue to consider evidence presented toward the criteria for historic preservation designation; or
- The Commission can close the Public Hearing and vote for approval or denial of the application.

Mayor Seiler recommended continuing the Public Hearing to a date

certain and the designation will be deferred to that date. He confirmed the Commission's request for a video tape to be submitted as part of the ongoing Public Hearing and supervised by Ms. Logan. During this continuance, the only alterations to the Church will be maintenance, landscaping and upkeep. Pastor Knott confirmed. Ms. Crush confirmed. Ms. Merrill confirmed. Mayor Seiler confirmed the Public Hearing remains open and the continuance will not affect any timelines.

Vice Mayor Trantalis commented on the benefits of having a Historic Preservation Officer that will assist in the development process by allowing the business community to know in advance properties designated as historic. He also expounded on the need for an ordinance to address the transfer of development rights, recommending to City Manager Feldman bring this forward to the Commission.

Commissioner Rogers made a motion to continue this Public Hearing until May 2, 2017 as set forth in this record and agreed to by the applicant, the developer, and the property owner. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion.

**CONTINUED to May 2, 2017**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner Roberts, Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Seiler

**Mayor Seiler recessed the Regular Meeting at 10:23 p.m.**

**Mayor Seiler reconvened the Regular Meeting at 11:13 p.m.**

**Request for Executive Closed Door Session on March 7, 2017**

City Attorney Everett announced her request for an Executive Closed Door Session on March 7, 2017 as noted below:

The City Commission shall meet privately to conduct discussions between the City Manager, the City Attorney and the City Commission relative to pending litigation pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, in connection with the following cases:

Blake Wakeman v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Case No. CACE  
15-007786 (09)

Walter Hinton, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Case No. CACE  
07-030358 (26)

Tiffany Denmark v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Case No. CACE  
14-016830 (09)

Persons in attendance will be:

Mayor, John P. "Jack" Seiler  
Vice Mayor, Dean J. Trantalis  
Commissioner, Robert L. McKinzie  
Commissioner, Bruce G. Roberts  
Commissioner, Romney Rogers  
City Manager, Lee R. Feldman  
City Attorney, Cynthia A. Everett

Re.: Blake Wakeman v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Counsel will be  
Assistant City Attorney Alain E. Boileau;

Re.: Walter Hinton, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Outside Counsel  
will be William M. Droze, Esq., of Troutman Sanders, LLP; and  
Assistant City Attorney Alain E. Boileau;

Re.: Tiffany Denmark v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Outside Counsel will  
be Jeffery R. Lawley, Esq. of Billing, Cochran, Lyles, Mauro &  
Ramsey, P.A.; and a Certified Court Reporter with Daughters  
Reporting, Inc.


The estimated length of the attorney-client session is approximately  
one (1) hour.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Commission at the Regular Meeting of February 21, 2017, Mayor Seiler adjourned the meeting at 11:15 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John P. "Jack" Seiler  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey A. Modarelli  
City Clerk





**City of Fort Lauderdale Community Appearance Board**

**WOW AWARD WINNER – OCTOBER 2016**

**Walter and Barbara Roberts**

**1105 NW 5 Street | Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311**

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***Dorsey Riverbend Civic Association – Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie***

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***Please welcome Community Appearance Board Members Ayisha Gordon and Ken Green***

Walter and Barbara Roberts were married 33 years ago. They have two sons and three grandchildren, and a neighborhood full of kids who know them affectionately as “Nana” and “Uncle Walt.”

Mr. Roberts and his two sons all attended Walker Elementary School and their home currently sits on the north side of the school’s campus. On any given day, “Uncle Walt” can be found helping youngsters with blowing up basketballs, fixing bikes, purchasing school supplies, or rewarding them when they receive good grades. On Thanksgiving, Mrs. Roberts is well known for cooking up a huge feast, opening their doors and inviting everyone from the neighborhood to stop in for a meal and fellowship.

It was nearly 10 years ago that the Roberts’ decided to build their lovely home in the Dorsey-Riverbend neighborhood of Fort Lauderdale and continue to be a positive influence on youngsters in the community. Since the construction of their new home, the Roberts have added an eye-catching, two-tone diamond patterned decorative driveway that accentuates the home’s architectural design while complimenting its rich color scheme.

Mr. Roberts, who was employed at Publix for 40 years, is now retired and has found more time to focus on other home improvements. Three years ago, he envisioned a new landscape design for the property and, working alongside his brother, the two installed the vibrant Adonidia or Manila Palm trees that highlight

the home's front yard. They also added colorful paver rings around the bottom of each planting to enhance the appearance of the palms and add a tropical flare of elegance to the property's overall landscape design.

The Roberts' not only have a beautiful home that stands out in the neighborhood, they also have generations of strong ties to the City of Fort Lauderdale. This family should not only be recognized for their lovely home, but also for their tremendous contributions to our community which speak volumes to the caliber of their family values.

It is with great pleasure and admiration that the Fort Lauderdale City Commission and the Community Appearance Board proudly present the monthly WOW Award to Walter and Barbara Roberts and we thank them for enhancing the Dorsey-Riverbend neighborhood and the City of Fort Lauderdale.

We are pleased to present you with a certificate of appreciation from the City Commission, a gift certificate from P.F. Chang's restaurant, and an orchid donated by Home Depot to celebrate the recognition. Congratulations!





**City of Fort Lauderdale Community Appearance Board**

**WOW AWARD WINNER – NOVEMBER 2016**

**Susan Jorge**

**900 Ponce de Leon | Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311**

***Rio Vista Civic Association – Commissioner Romney Rogers***

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***Please welcome Community Appearance Board Vice Chair David Bowles***

When Susan Jorge sold her riverfront property in Las Olas Isles and her oceanfront property on Las Olas beach, she was looking for a change. Relocating to a beautiful home in the City's Rio Vista neighborhood, brings her new adventures each and every day.

What attracted Susan to the home was its fantastic location. The lovely two-story property is situated on the most picturesque street in arguably one of the best neighborhoods in the City. Outside the green iron gates, the property is surrounded by majestic trees, which are intriguing in their own right, as many experts Susan has consulted with can't seem to determine their exact species.

Inside the gates lies a lush, green landscaped yard that is practically self-sustaining. Featuring a variety of succulents, native trees, and flowering plants, it resembles a miniature tropical resort. The home also features oversized windows on three sides that bring the outdoors in. Plus, there is a personal playground, equipped with a swing set and a miniature gymnasium, a resort-style pool and hot tub, and outdoor dining space which makes for a comfortable environment whether Susan is gardening, dining outdoors, spending time with her children, or playing with her grandchildren.

What Susan didn't realize when she became the owner of this grand home was how the Rio Vistans, both young and old, are friendly, neighborly, and a true breath of fresh air amid the hustle and bustle of Fort Lauderdale.

Susan truly enjoys engaging, interacting and participating in the pace and lifestyle of the Rio Vista neighborhood and appreciates everyone and everything it has to offer.

The Fort Lauderdale City Commission and the Community Appearance Board proudly present the monthly WOW Award to Susan Jorge and we thank her for enhancing the Rio Vista neighborhood and the City of Fort Lauderdale.

We are pleased to present you with a certificate of appreciation from the City Commission, a gift certificate from P.F. Chang's restaurant, and an orchid donated by Home Depot to celebrate the recognition. Congratulations!







CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

COMMUNITY  
APPEARANCE  
BOARD

WOW AWARD

# The Roberts' Residence

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**Walter and Barbara Roberts**

1105 NW 5 Street | Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

*Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie – District III*



# WOW AWARD





03.25.2010 07:53



11/15/2013 08:58 AM













03.17.2016 09

# The Jorge Residence

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**Susan Jorge**

900 Ponce de Leon Drive  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

*Commissioner Romney Rogers – District IV*



# WOW AWARD





900  
PRINCE OF LACON





900  
PONCE DE LEON

10/04/2013 08:47



10/03/2013 11:48













CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

COMMUNITY  
APPEARANCE  
BOARD

THANK YOU!



2/21/2017 Pur 5 -

Provided by  
Paul Chettle

Purchasing - 5 (2/21/2017)



## Reports and Data

- Comprehensive Operational Analysis
- COA Process
- Transit Development Plan
- South US 1 Transit Improvements Study

## Bus Facts

- BCT Fact Sheet (PDF)
- Community Bus Fact Sheet (PDF)
- 2011 NABI Articulated Bus Fact Sheet (PDF)
- Paratransit Propane Vehicle Fact Sheet (PDF)

## Program of Projects

- FY2017 Transit Capital Program of Projects (POP) (PDF)

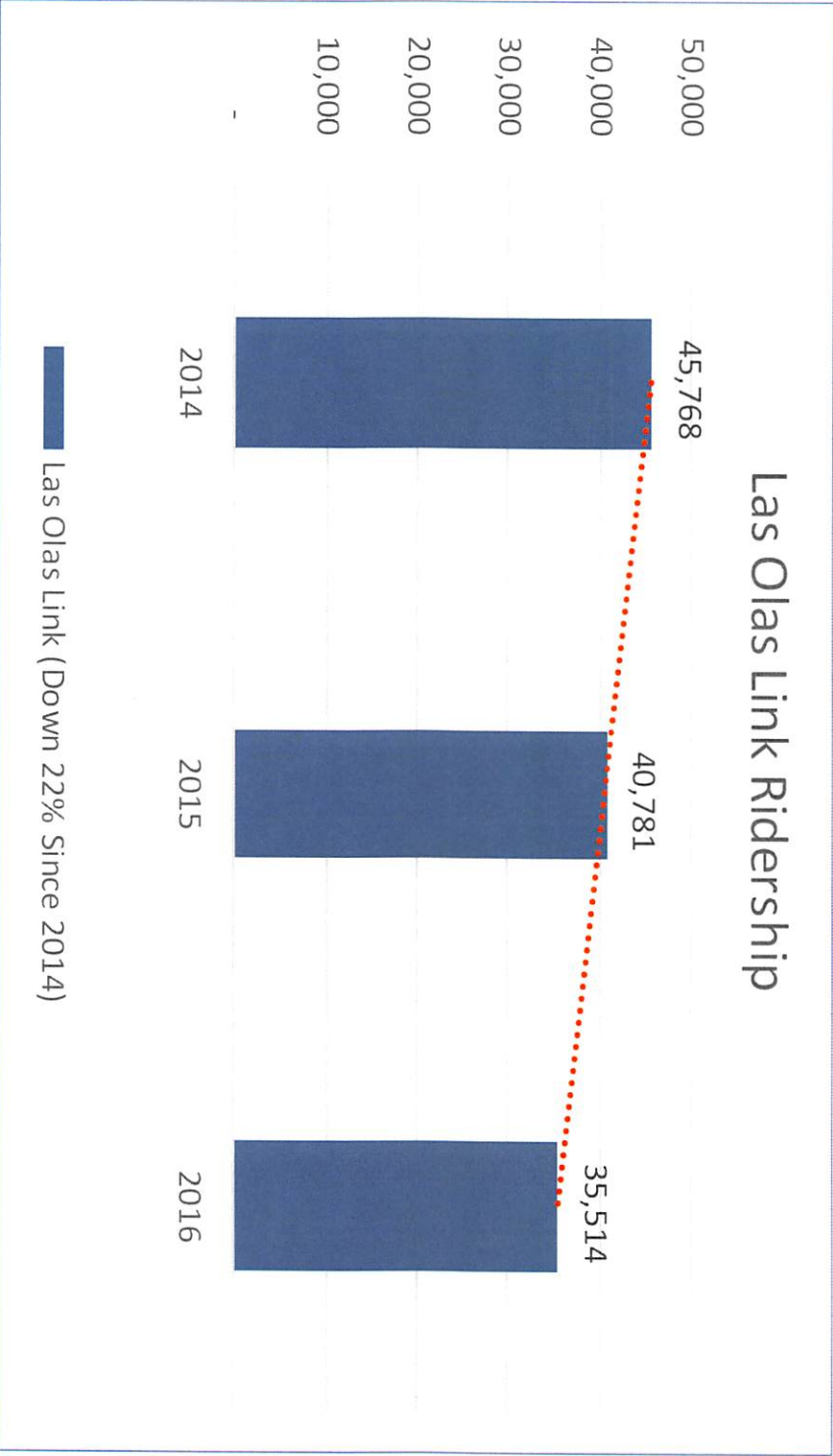
## Ridership Reports

### 2016

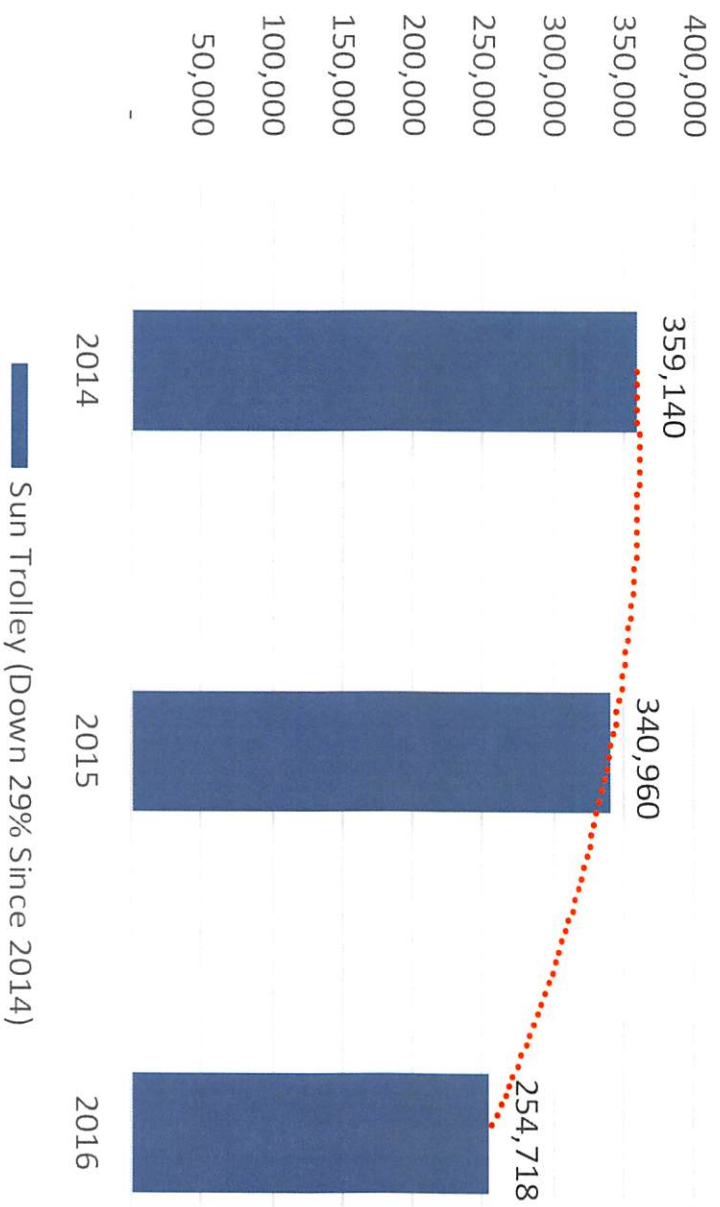
- December 2016 (PDF)
- November 2016 (PDF)
- October 2016 (PDF)
- September 2016 (PDF)

### 2015

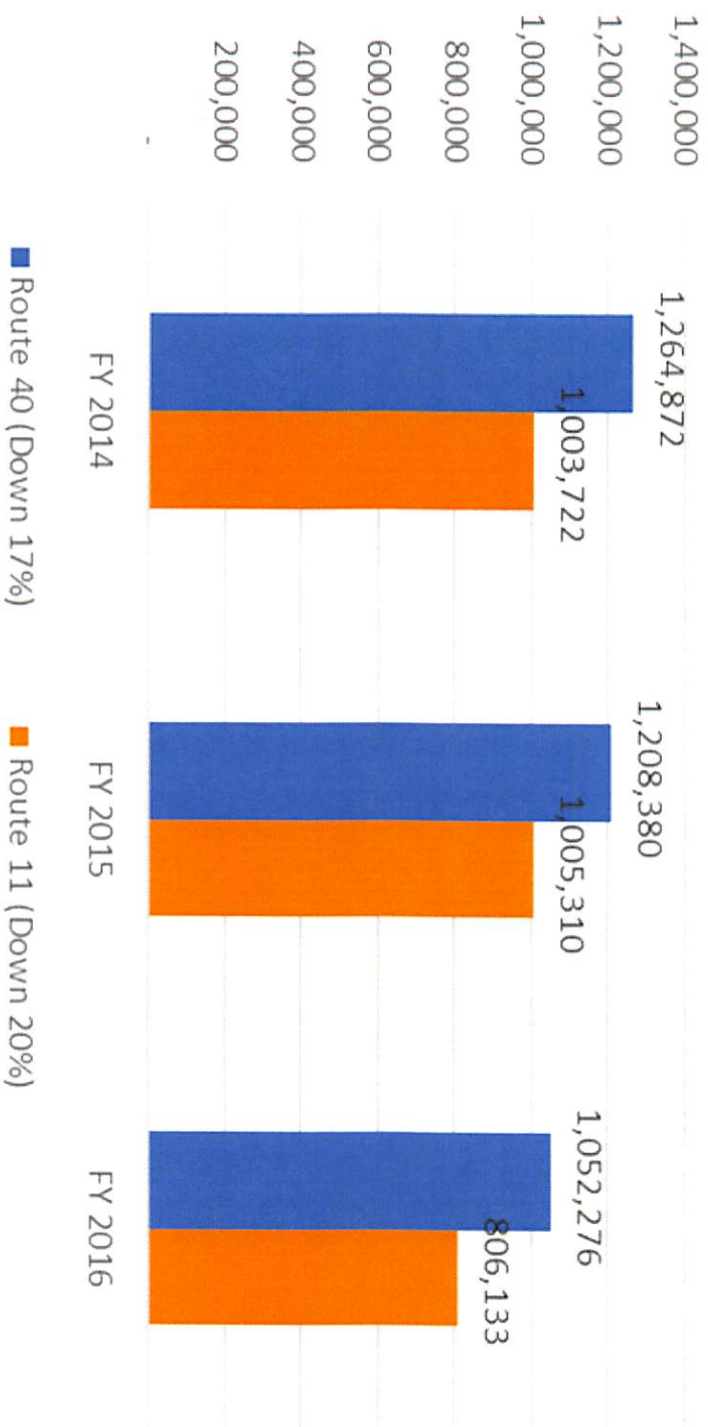
- December 2015 (PDF)
- November 2015 (PDF)
- October 2015 (PDF)
- September 2015 (PDF)



## Sun Trolley Ridership

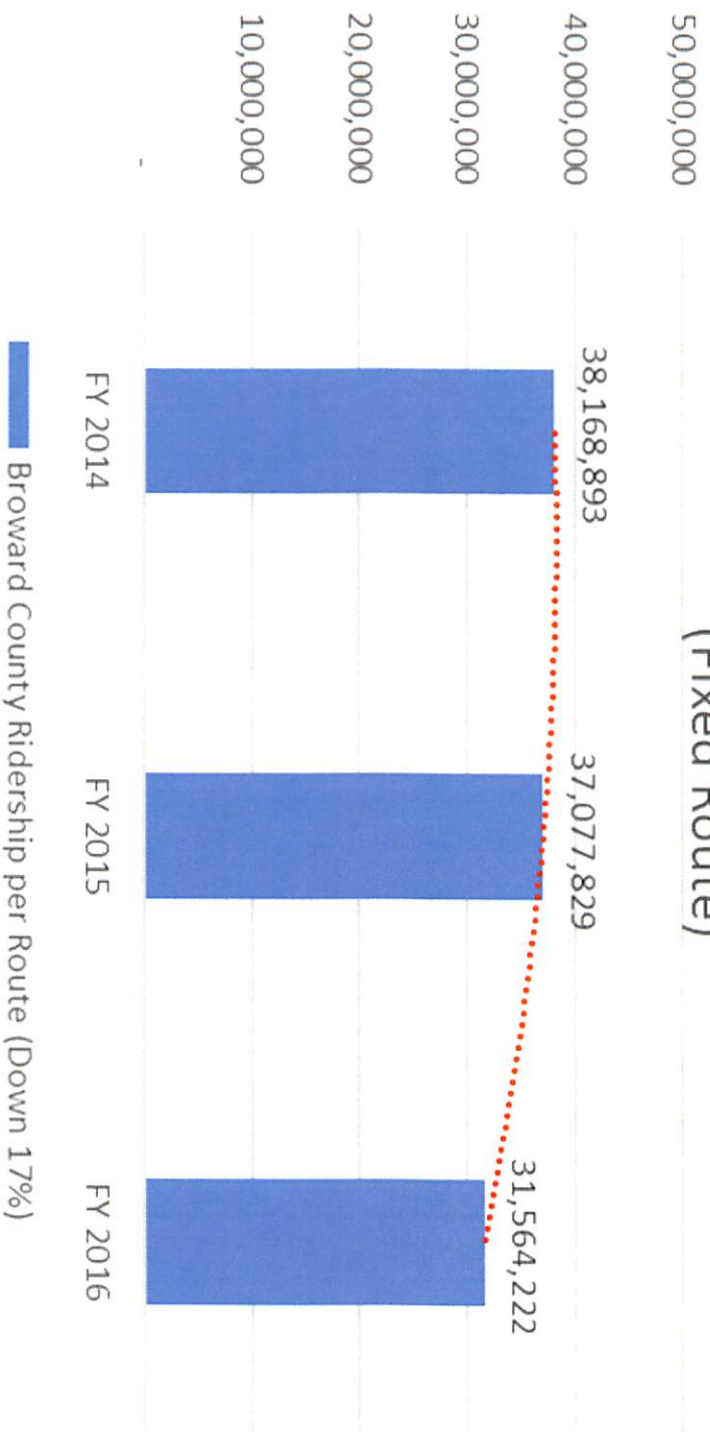


## Beach Bus Ridership



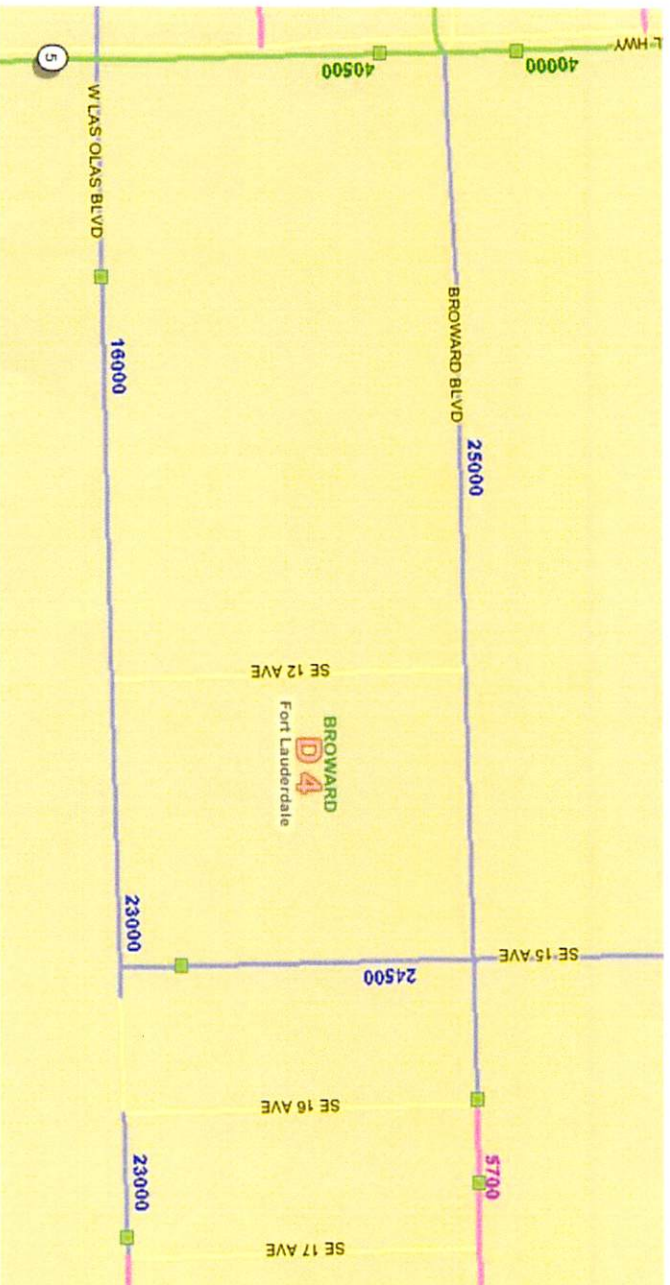


## Broward County Ridership per Route (Fixed Route)





## FDOT Florida Traffic Online (2015)



<http://flto.dot.state.fl.us/website/FloridaTrafficOnline/viewer.html>

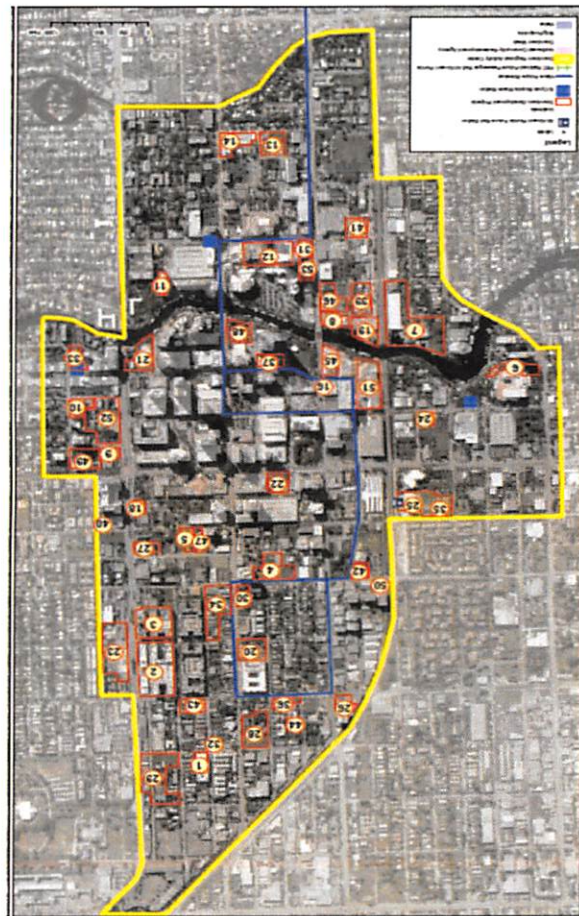




9 of 12



10 of 12



<b>Completed since 2012</b> Total Development (Built and approved Projects) Residential Units: 14,362 Commercial Square Ft.: 2,093,846 Retail Square Ft.: 1,261				<b>Under Construction</b> Residential Units: 10,425 Commercial Square Ft.: 1,042,500 Retail Square Ft.: 1,042,500				<b>Approved</b> Residential Units: 1,144 Commercial Square Ft.: 1,144 Retail Square Ft.: 1,144				<b>In Review</b> Residential Units: 1,144 Commercial Square Ft.: 1,144 Retail Square Ft.: 1,144			

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**Downtown Development Projects**  
Updated January 2017



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## Please Consider:

- Support the request by local neighborhoods for a “Regional Plan”
- 2.5 Miles of Las Olas from the Ocean to the Riverfront
- Take current and future development into consideration



**“The five new high-rises, along with the proposed 25-story 4 West Las Olas apartment building, will add almost 1,900 apartments, 400 condo units and 238 hotel rooms downtown.”**

***Sun Sentinel, January 20, 2017***

# Study Process

- Review Prior Public Meeting Comments
- Review and Analyze Traffic Data
  - Traffic volumes, speeds, and turning movements
  - Intersection operations (level-of-service)
- Field Review (August 7-9, 2013)
- Review Preliminary Findings with City Staff
- Transmit Draft and Final Reports to Staff



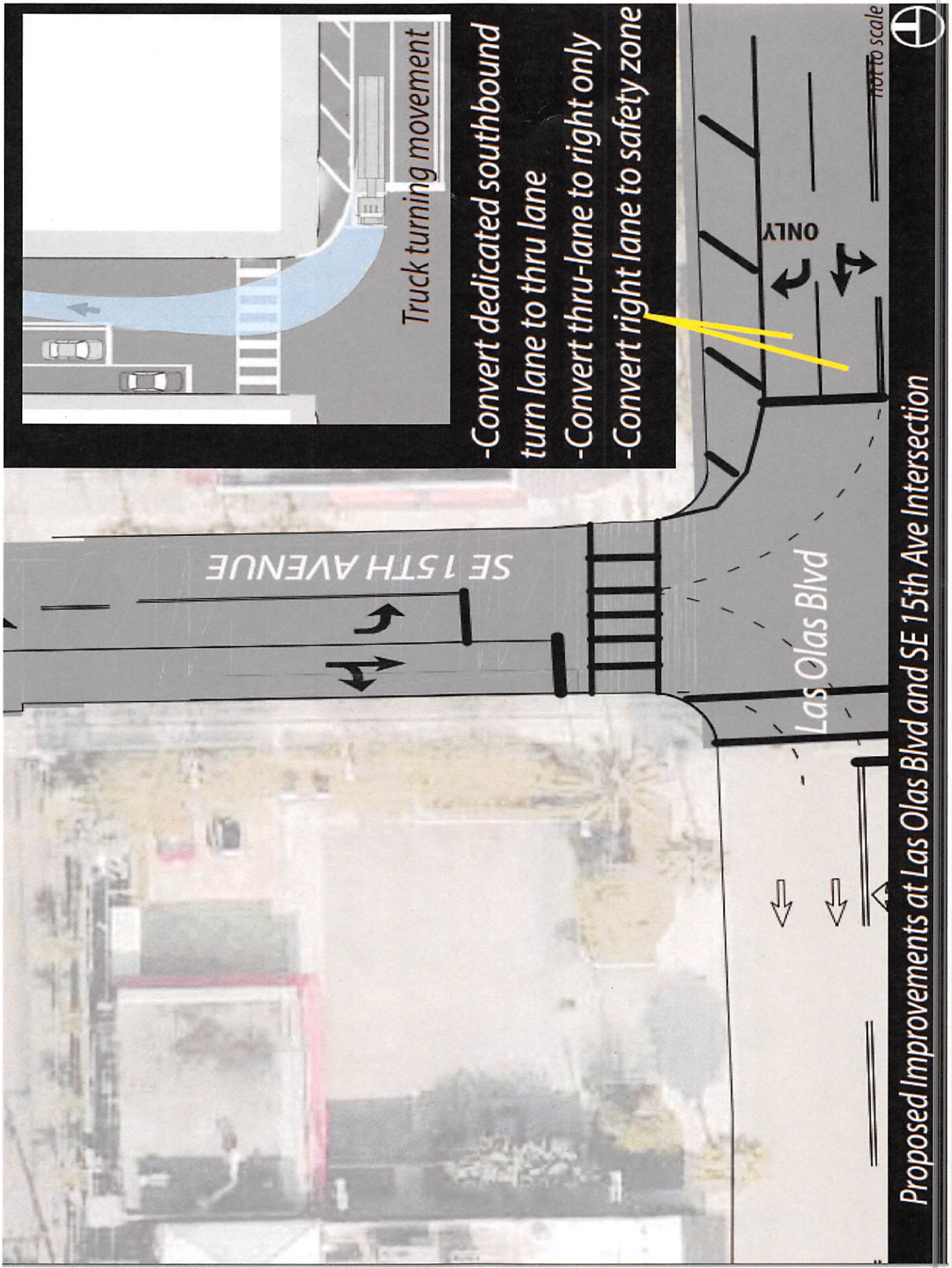


## At the other end...

“It's carrying thousands of new residents who will be calling downtown home as new construction is completed and additional projects get underway. The downtown's estimated population of 8,200 based on 2010 Census data could grow eventually to more than 45,000, according to city estimates.

Right now, the approved projects alone could almost double the downtown population.” *Sun Sentinel*, March 25, 2013



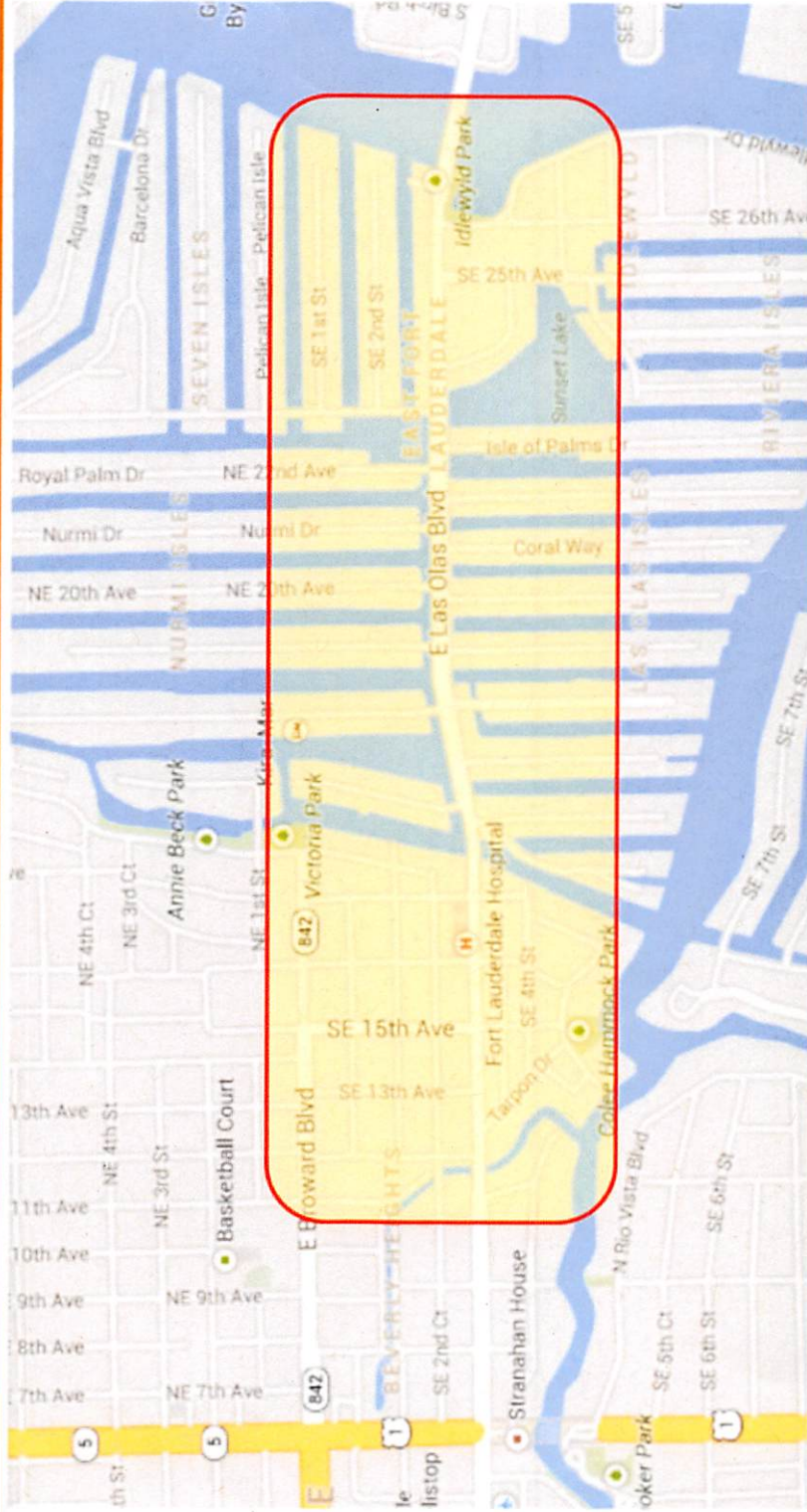


- Convert dedicated southbound turn lane to thru lane
- Convert thru-lane to right only
- Convert right lane to safety zone



# Las Olas Mobility Study

## Study Area



Tindale-Oliver  
&  
Associates, Inc.  
Planning and Engineering

CAM-14-0010  
Exhibit 2  
Page 4 of 39

4 of 5





Photo courtesy of Art Seitz

Purchasing – 5 (2/21/2017)





Broward County

► Broward County Transit

## Reports and Data

Comprehensive  
Operational Analysis

COA Process

Transit Development Plan

South US 1 Transit  
Improvements Study

### Bus Facts

- [BCT Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Community Bus Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [2011 NABI Articulated Bus Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Paratransit Propane Vehicle Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

### Program of Projects

- [FY2017 Transit Capital Program of Projects \(POP\) \(PDF\)](#)

### Ridership Reports

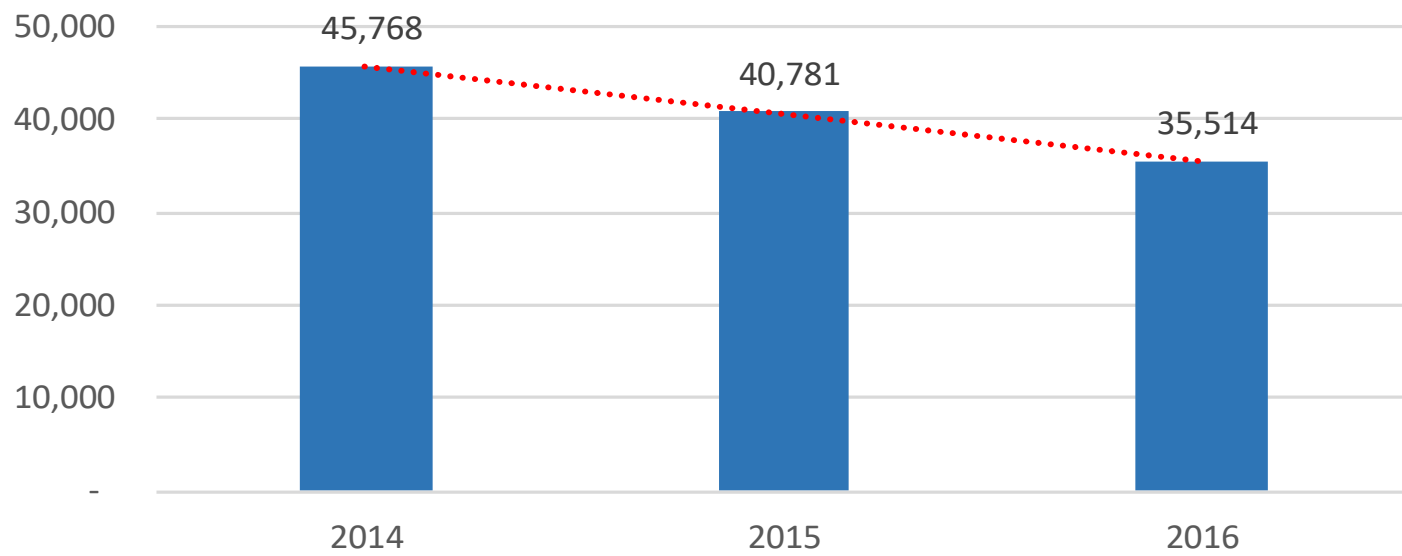
#### 2016

- [December 2016 \(PDF\)](#)
- [November 2016 \(PDF\)](#)
- [October 2016 \(PDF\)](#)
- [September 2016 \(PDF\)](#)

#### 2015

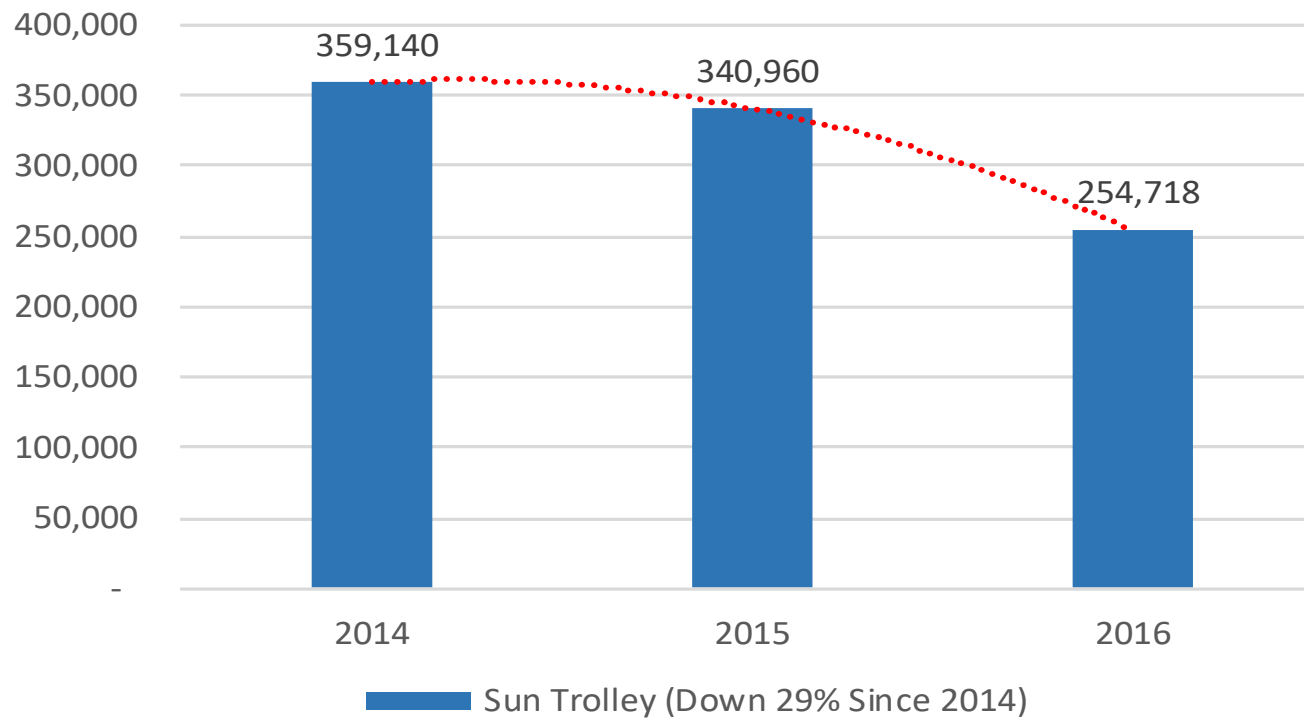
- [December 2015 \(PDF\)](#)
- [November 2015 \(PDF\)](#)
- [October 2015 \(PDF\)](#)
- [September 2015 \(PDF\)](#)

## Las Olas Link Ridership



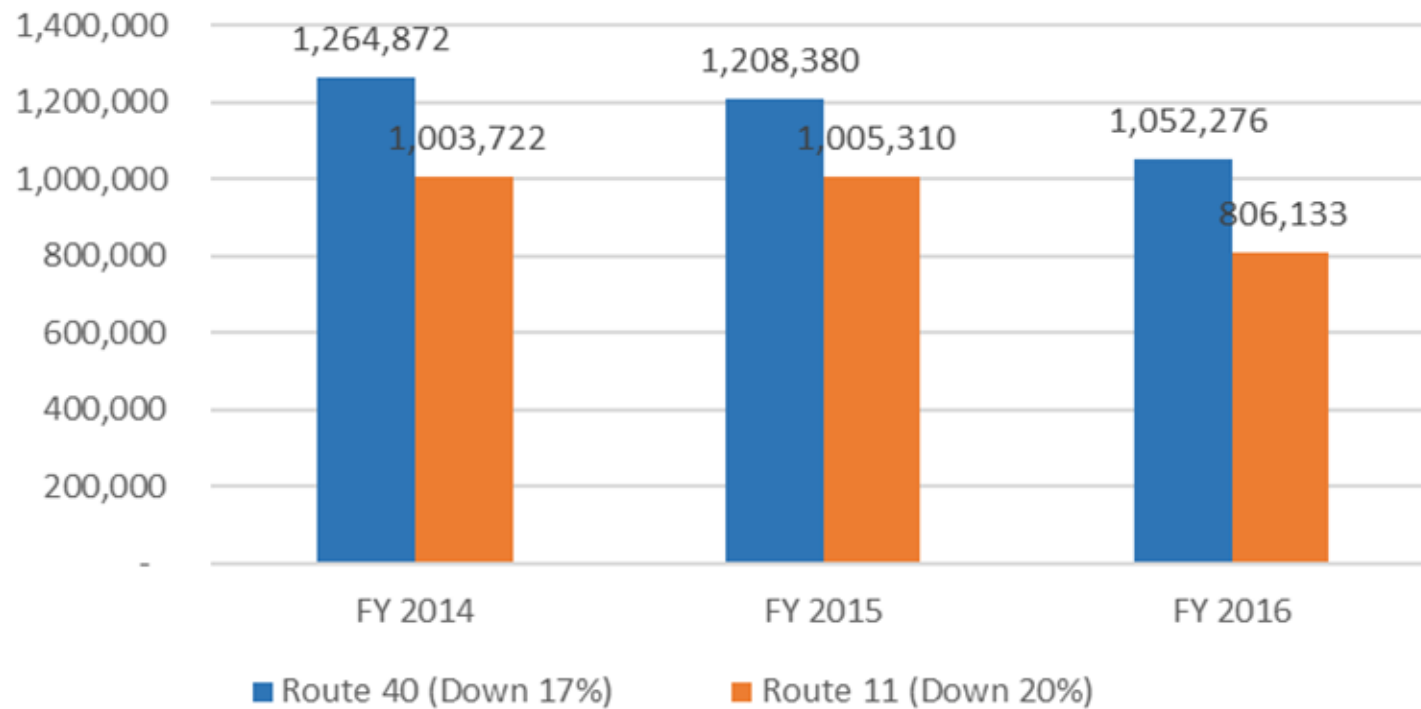
Las Olas Link (Down 22% Since 2014)

## Sun Trolley Ridership

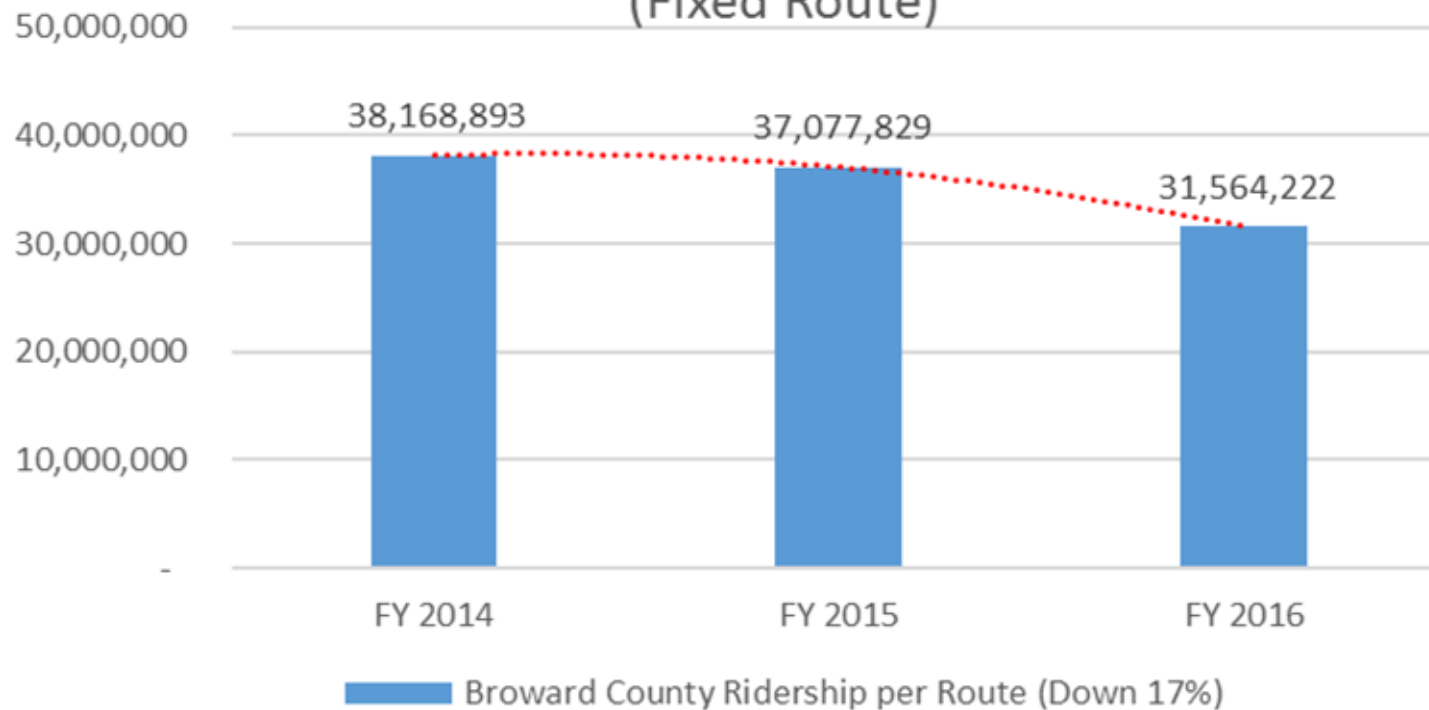




## Beach Bus Ridership



### Broward County Ridership per Route (Fixed Route)





## FDOT Florida Traffic Online (2015)

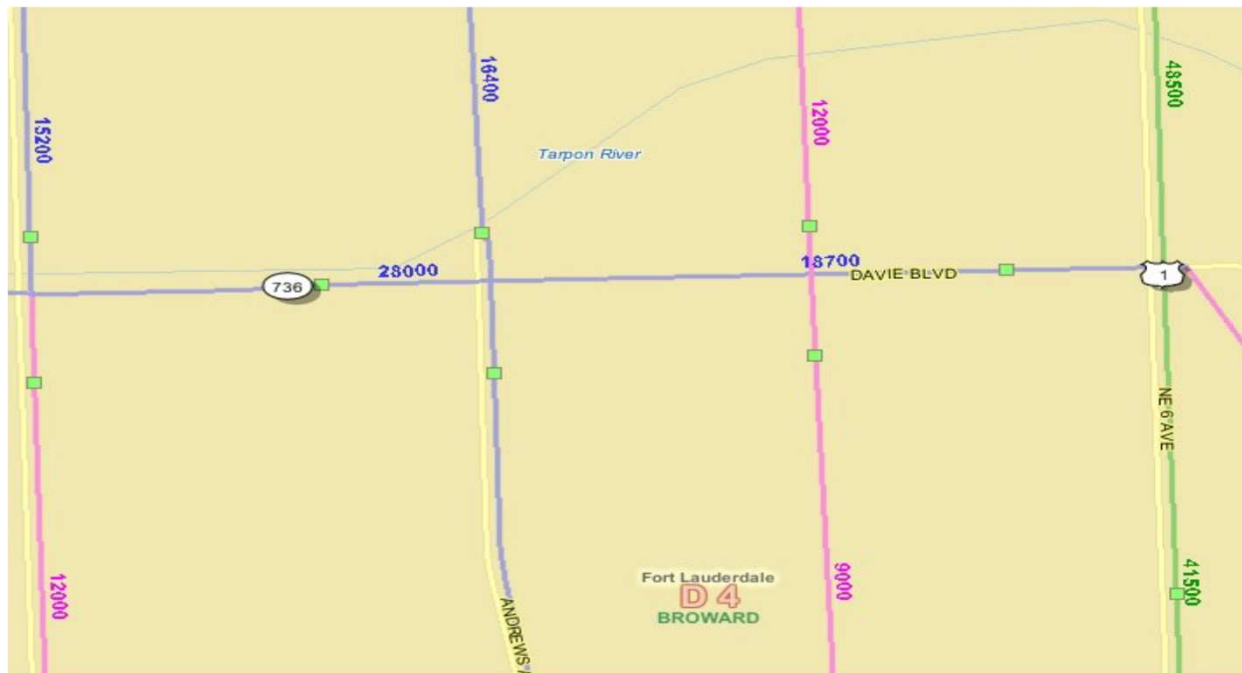


<http://flto.dot.state.fl.us/website/FloridaTrafficOnline/viewer.html>





## FDOT Florida Traffic Online (2015)



<http://flto.dot.state.fl.us/website/FloridaTrafficOnline/viewer.html>



## FDOT Florida Traffic Online (2015)



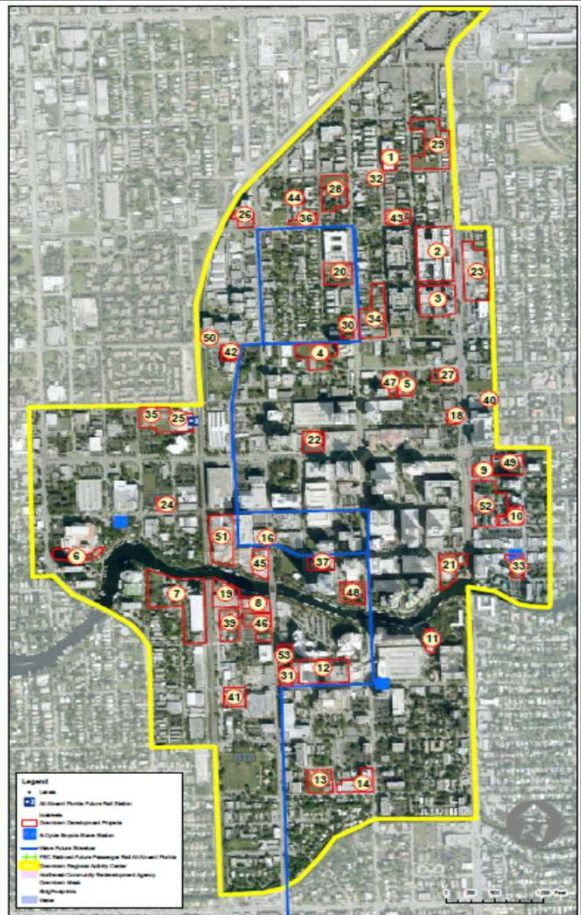
<http://flto.dot.state.fl.us/website/FloridaTrafficOnline/viewer.html>

## Updated 4 January 2017

**Under Construction**  
Residential Units - 1,786  
Retail Square Ft. - 110,480  
Office Square Ft. - 43,425  
Hotel Units - 105

Total Development (Built and Approved Projects)	
Residential Units	14,362
Commercial Square Ft	2,630,848
Office Square Ft	4,093,130
Hotel Rooms	1,241

**Completed since 2012**  
Residential Units - 1,763  
Retail Square Ft. - 39,175  
Office Square Ft. - 1,540,380



## Please Consider:

- Support the request by local neighborhoods for a “Regional Plan”
- 2.5 Miles of Las Olas from the Ocean to the Riverfront
- Take current and future development into consideration





**“The five new high-rises, along with the proposed 25-story 4 West Las Olas apartment building, will add almost 1,900 apartments, 400 condo units and 238 hotel rooms downtown.”**

***Sun Sentinel, January 20, 2017***

Recipient: Fort Lauderdale City Commission, Romney Rogers, Dean Trantalis, Bruce Roberts, and Robert McKinzie

Letter: Greetings,

Save Historic First Lutheran Church Building, Fort Lauderdale Florida

# Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Alyssa Forman	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	Ever since I was a little girl I passed by this church & planned that one day I would have my wedding there. It's so beautiful & has been ingrained in our community like pinpoint on a map. I pass it almost every week & love the fact that we still have such a gorgeous, historic church in our midst. Don't let that fact disappear.
James Letizia	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	Because I love this church building.
Javier Chia	Sunrise, FL	2016-10-03	This church was a vital part of our communities life. It is a rare find in ft Lauderdale something from the past it adds culture it enriches our city
Gustavo Cruz	Hollywood, FL	2016-10-03	We need to keep historic buildings
Beverley Dowling	Fort Wayne, IN	2016-10-03	Someone I love cares.
Page Guardabassi	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	I believe beautiful, useful, historical and sacred places should be preserved.
Florence Miner	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	It is one of very few historical buildings in Fr Lauderdale and one that should be saved.
Brian Pagliaro	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	For its historical value.
David Franklin	Boca Raton, FL	2016-10-03	This is one of the only truly historical buildings left in Fort Lauderdale.
Jack Richardson Jr	Tallahassee, FL	2016-10-03	I'm signing this petition because sacred places should be revered not razed.
Michael Allen	Oviedo, FL	2016-10-03	I've benefitted from this remarkable building myself and am struck by the wonderful gift it has been to the neighborhood, to multiple congregations of various traditions, and to innumerable individuals.
Vanessa Thompsons	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-10-03	As a native who's family helped build Oakland Park and Fort Lauderdale, I've watched as too many of these structures are destroyed. I'd love to see this place continue to be an outreach to the community!
TJ Campo	Hollywood, FL	2016-10-03	I value heritage and sacred space.
Kevin Worden	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-10-03	This historic and beautiful church building is a place that has also been used by CityChurch Ft. Lauderdale over the last several years. They are willing purchase the property, although not at the same price as the big corporation. CityChurch has been a major influence in my life and continues to be a positive light in the community. By saving this site the city would benefit from both its beauty and potentially its continued use by a group of people that loves the city and wants it to see it succeed.
Nancy Adams	Miami, FL	2016-10-03	historic buildings should be preserved not demolished especially a church
Victor Labrada	Miami, FL	2016-10-03	The 500 year anniversary of The Reformation is October 2017. What a beautiful thing to revere history and the continuing impact of The Reformation rather than dispose of it in the interest the mad cash grab that South Florida has become.
Pamela Rainbow	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	Keep this historic building as is. Or move it elsewhere. Do not demolish history
Tim Davis	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-10-03	This is a historic landmark that has been an artistic and spiritual haven for New City Players (a FTL theatre company) and CityChurch.
Thomas Shelton	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	Preserve this building for it's historical significance in Fort Lauderdale
Sam Horovitz	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	Beautiful church and building with beautiful history. Let's not sell away the beauty and history left in this world.
Pat Lallande	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	This city has so few historical structures! This one needs to be saved.
William Flett	Hollywood, FL	2016-10-03	Save this historic building.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Laura Clovis	Albuquerque, NM	2016-10-03	Such a sad story! This makes me ashamed of my Lutheran heritage. Especially in these times, we should be preserving and building up churches, not tearing them down.
Daniel Franklin	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	Our city needs to save more historic buildings!
Chad Scott	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	We have so few opportunities to preserve the brief history of Fort Lauderdale. Let's not lose this treasure of our downtown.
Eve Bradshaw	Chicago, IL	2016-10-03	Why would anyone want to tear down this beautiful, historic building.
Luis Taboada	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	This neighborhood needs diversity in land use. This is the oldest church building in Broward and the only "sacred" place in FAT Village
Rebecca Bradley	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	Because I am a business owner and care about this City. I am also a Landscape Architect and know that there are creative ways for progress and history to work in a united and inspirational way that connects community. There are creative ways for the facade and development to co-exist. It will just take thought, design, and a little extra effort.
Brenden Hojara	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	We don't have many historic buildings left in Broward. We MUST protect our history and heritage.
BRIAN DOUGLAS	BOISE, ID	2016-10-03	This is one of the most important historical buildings in Broward County!
Brad Edwards	Westminster, CO	2016-10-03	This is a piece of history that needs to be preserved!
Adam Pallesen	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	This building means more to the community than new condos will
Andy Hagen	Boca Raton, FL	2016-10-03	My parents attended this church for a number of years. I went recently and a wonderful ministry called City Church was filling the place with young families from the city. They were asked to move for this sale. I know that it is a challenge to maintain historical churches but their locations are prime for reaching the next generations of Christians, especially ones who want to go to a church with time worn character and witness.
Ashley Turner	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	to SAVE what very little Fort Lauderdale history we have left.
Mary B Douglas	Wellington, FL	2016-10-03	History should be preserved & respected
Lydia Barber	Shreveport, LA	2016-10-03	Could be a beautiful, part of Lutheran and Catholic history in Ft. Lauderdale.
Joe Zelinski	Hollywood, FL	2016-10-03	I am supporting the efforts to thwart the demolition of this historic Church. The First Evangelical Lutheran Church on NE Third Avenue.
Carson Pedraza	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	the church matters. history matters. let's keep some things sacred.
Tom Nelson	Lake Worth, FL	2016-10-03	I grew up in this church, my mom and dad met and married here..
Chuck Ryor	Duarte, CA	2016-10-03	Because I want to believe that there are churches in the area who would be glad to purchase it from a non-profit organization like the ELCA. sort of like the Roman Catholic Church did for them back in the day.
stephen Jones	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	It's a beautiful building and a historic part of our community.
Renee Pechonis	Deerfield Beach, FL	2016-10-03	I was married there 30 years ago! Grew up in this beautiful church!
Johnny Contini	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	Johnny Contini
Charles dougherty	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	It plays SN important role in our community.
Todd Bowe	Pembroke Pines, FL	2016-10-03	The historic buildings of Fort Lauderdale need to be preserved for future generations of residents.
Janet Riley	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-10-03	Our history should be preserved. Especially an historic church.
Karen Fanazick	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	Ft Lauderdale has so so little beauty & history left. We went to church there when we lived there. Adds charm to a sterile neighborhood



Name	Location	Date	Comment
Dolored Moss	Davie, FL	2016-10-03	Because history is like our memories like cultural Alzheimer's if you get rid of the memories there's nothing left
Paula Revene	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	We should treasure the very few historical buildings still standing in Ft. Lauderdale.
Tammy Di Leo	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-03	We cannot destroy a building of this caliber - what it's made of and what it stands for means too much to just throw it all away. And then there is the historical landmark factor which apparently is of no value as nothing's seems to matter anymore?
Lisa Friesecke	Wilson, WY	2016-10-03	To save what is left in Fort Lauderdale This is the oldest Church building in Ft. Laud - how can it be torn down!!!!
Cherie Merrick	Asheville, NC	2016-10-03	I grew up in this beautiful church since 1955. My children also were members until 1989 when we moved to N.C,
Dominique McPherson	Gainesville, FL	2016-10-03	This is where I got married to the love of my life!
RICCINA STAFFLINGER	ihb, FL	2016-10-03	stupid to tear this beautiful building down
Courtney Stanford	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	I believe historic preservation is critical to the character of a community.
Mike Smarro	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	I love that building , it's beautiful
Kim Halliday	Marietta, GA	2016-10-04	This is part of history that should be preserved if possible.
Patrick Morey	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	We need more churches and less condos
Michael Meridionale	Hollywood, FL	2016-10-04	This is a historic building that means a lot to the community and needs to stay.
Jim Lyndon	Charlotte, NC	2016-10-04	Historic, keep it!
Chase Bryant	Sunderland, MD	2016-10-04	I feel it is important to retain historically and architecturally significant structures especially those in South Florida which predate the post war boom.
Robin Haines Merrill	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-10-04	Shame on the Lutheran Church for selling it to be demolished, instead of selling it to another church! And shame on the developers who think they can come into town and tear down a structure like this. But there IS "Repentance" possible for both, and a chance to turn things around and do the right thing. I sure hope they do!
Darlene Smith	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-10-04	I care,about saving First Lutheran Church in Fort Lauderdale.
Barbara Ingram	Wilmington, NC	2016-10-04	This historic building should be saved!
Jorge Reynardus	Miami, FL	2016-10-04	We need to preserve our history
eddy gervais	Miami, FL	2016-10-04	I'm signing this on behalf keeping this historic building as a historic monument to the city and for the church to continue its services. Such as St. Patrick Catholic Church in NY city.
Kristin Kallioinen	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-10-04	I don't want to see a beautiful historic building torn down and be replaced by condominiums.
Sarah Deering	Denver, CO	2016-10-04	It's a beautiful building that deserves to have its integrity upheld. It offers so much to our neighborhood!
Jessica Josselyn	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-10-04	We need to keep the history of our cities!!
Suzanne Southwell	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-10-04	Need to keep some of our history in tact. Sick to death of new condos everywhere!!!
n r Von Staden	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-10-04	We must save some history....not just wall to wall condos
bradley haring	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	we do not have a lot of historical buildings in fort lauderdale and think it is very important we know and keep our fort lauderdale history.
Gina Sacasan	Deerfield Beach, FL	2016-10-04	Save the history!!!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Tammi Maloney	Upland, IN	2016-10-04	I have worshipped in this lovely church while visiting my son and daughter in law who are members of that congregation. It is a beautiful and sacred place that ought to remain as a symbol of God's love to its congregation and the surrounding community. Thank you.
Jeffry Smith	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	This is a historic church that needs to be saved. The ongoing goodness of God to Fort Lauderdale can be seen in this building. I'm sure another church body could use it for His purposes. Let's save it!
Marilyn Lateulade	Hialeah, FL	2016-10-04	It's a shame that history is being replaced with condos that most people will probably not be able to afford to live in !!
Kathy Davis	Clover, SC	2016-10-04	History should be preserved in Ft. Lauderdale.
Clay Wieland	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	TOO much development people, come on? we need park space downtown NOT more condos!
Patricia Houchens	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	History should have a place in Fort Lauderdale!
Cynthia Thompson	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	Fort Lauderdale has so few historical buildings or landmark churches. When I moved to Broward county, I felt the lack of history preserved here. Tearing down this building would be another loss of history and spiritual significance to our county. Please make certain that this church is preserved in the development of Flagler Village. FV deserves to have its roots preserved and to be enriched by more than shiny, modern, overcrowded spaces.
Jim Letizia	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-10-04	I love that old historic church building. Need to preserve it if possible
Katie Campbell	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	I think the building is beautiful, has charm, and needs some love. I went to church there and love the building's character.
Lillian Ledegang	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	A house of worship is not a profit center.
Nancy Meegan	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	There is so little history and so few historic buildings In this area, it is a shame to loss any more.
jaime stepp	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	I am protesting & willing to do what ever to help. I am a Ft Lauderdale native, my parents were married at this church & St. Anthonys is my church.
Joyce Beaudoin	Middle Village, NY	2016-10-04	We should never let a church go down.This is part of Christian Heritage.
Kerry Ross	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	The stained glass windows within this building were made by famous Philadelphian. Few churches, synagogues nor temples are lucky enough to be able to say this, especially in Fort Lauderdale. Please think , there are so many uses for a building with this beauty.
Juan Gallo	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-04	i care
Michael Zulinke	Inverness, FL	2016-10-04	No church should be demolished.
Ronald Halpin	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-05	we need to save our history. Ft Lauderdale has far too many high rises already.
Amy Daumit	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-05	This is a beautiful church. We are seeing too many old structures torn down for new condos. We do not need more condos.
Damaris Nevitt	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-05	Save our history!
Jesse Veliz	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-10-05	I've been to church here.
estera john	hampton, GA	2016-10-05	I want send to leave in south Florida and I still have a strong connection with Florida!!!!
Mark Hofmann	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-05	We need history not ugly development. I am abusiness owner. No more destruction of our past, we have so little.
Rebecca Joyce	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-05	I care about preservation of our city.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Zachary Rebert	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-06	I believe the church should be saved from destruction.
Rey Delgado	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-11	This is wrong, this church helps people. Its story and history is wonderful! Leave it alone!
Steven Lindsey	Keene, NH	2016-10-13	This building lends itself for repurposing.... The developer needs to exhibit some imagination in this matter.
Rosalyn Scherf	Hollywood, FL	2016-10-14	I voted not to sell the church and lost.
Maureen Kaelbel	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-15	I believe this beautiful building is part of our history and should be preserved.
Deborah Burns	Deerfield Beach, FL	2016-10-16	This beautiful church and its history is part of Fort Lauderdale's history and must remain in tact.
AIMEE DUNN	FL, FL	2016-10-18	The church needs to stay! It is beautiful!!! The last thing we need is more condos!!
Bruce Walther	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-21	This Historic church should be saved
Bill James	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-10-24	We need to save one of most significant Fort Lauderdale's historical buildings. We must preserve our history.
Shari Storey	Greenville, FL	2016-12-02	I have very fond memories of going to this church as a child and young adult in the 1960's. We had so much fun exploring the church in places we weren't supposed to go. But Paster Anderson was so kind and forgiving towards those of us who loved exploring the church. My sister's and I did enjoy our bible studies and singing too. It would be a shame to destroy a house of God that can give so much to the local community.
Cynthia Hunter	Greenville, FL	2016-12-03	My parents were married in this church. I was baptized , had my conformation there was a member for 18 years and was married in this church. Such a shame to not honour the history of this church. I know from Growing up there that preserving history was not a strong priority.
Carole Steffes	Evans, GA	2016-12-04	Used to live there. You need to preserve or repurpose the building.
Kristen Maus	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-05	Please save this historic church.
joe maus	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-05	preserve history
veronica sazera	fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-05	I can't believe this is even being considered!?
Jane Maus Hearne	Traverse City, MI	2016-12-05	I made my first communion in St. Anthony's On Las Olas Blvd and remember later when it was sold!
Dawn Reeves	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	2016-12-06	It is ridiculous to even consider his nonsense!
Mary Forman	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-06	I grew up here and I think it's important to save historic structures in our city.
Judy White	Fayetteville, GA	2016-12-06	We need to save our historic churches.
Deborah Clay	Kennesaw, GA	2016-12-06	History should not be replaced with high rises which will be obsolete in 25 years.
Alfredo Pena	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-06	I own the building across the street since 1971, 444 NE 3rd Ave. I have seen Ft Lauderdale grow around me. I hoped to always have this beautiful view from my front door.
Alfredo Pena	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-06	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10209732769028981&aset=a.1087307075908.13676.1623386566&type=3" rel="nofollow">https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10209732769028981&set=a.1087307075908.13676.1623386566&type=3</a>

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Peter Trias	Amherst, MA	2016-12-06	Because I've been a Florida resident for over 45 yrs. and I still frwuently visit during winter months. I grew up in Ft.Lauderdale and I think it would be tragic to destroy such an important historical building.
Chris Brennan	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-16	It should be a historic landmark.
Jenny Mudgett	Bartow, FL	2016-12-16	I grew up in this church. Front doors were designed and made by my dad in memory of my sister. The historical value is immeasurable. There are many options for a historical building such as this.
Christine Mathison	Port St. Lucie, FL	2016-12-16	My husband's family was baptized, married, memorialized there. My husband's grandfather built the doors to the building.
Valerie Kooyker	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-16	Seriously we need to preserve this historic building from demolition with the resulting condos we absolutely do not need...this city is losing its character with all the condo development! Part of the charm and success of Delray Beach is that it values and makes good re-use of its lovely historic buildings, keeping its distinct personality intact...why cant we do that in Ft Lauderdale!
jordan bellus	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-16	we dont need anymore condos
Melissa Shaw	Coconute Creek, FL	2016-12-16	It's such a shame to tear down beautiful buildings....what , for more shopping or apartments!
Andrew Leshin	fort lauderdale, FL	2016-12-16	Enough condos already!
Chris Bellus	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-16	Fort Lauderdale needs more history preservation and less condos.
Steven Perry	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-17	We should take all possible steps to preserve the small amount of historical locations that remain here in South Florida.
Leslie Adams	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-17	This is criminal! Shame on the pastor & others involved.
S Hartley	Saint Augustine, FL	2016-12-17	I'm an original from Florida. Unfortunately Ft. lauderdale and developers don't have a sense of history. Please save this church. Move it again or deem it an historic building.
Theresa Tipton	Pompano Beach, FL	2016-12-17	The church is very special to me as my childhood neighbors grew up, got confirmed, married in this church. We need to save SOME history of old Fort Lauderdale!!!
Matthew Lohse	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-17	In the hope that there is still some things worth holding onto in a city void of history that sells its soul to the highest bidder...
Kenneth Hurley	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-17	We need to preserve something around this city.. don't loose your roots
Lyle Mathison	The Villages, FL	2016-12-17	I'm signing because I was a member there for 50 years and my children were all confirmed and married in this beautiful church! I designed and donated the entrance doors in memory of my daughter, Cheri.
Paul Mudgett	Bartow, FL	2016-12-17	There is significant historic benefit to the community in saving this landmark.
Karen Darby	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-18	this historic church should be SAVED!!!
monica avendano	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2016-12-18	We need to preserve historical buildings in our city.
Marcia Hanson	Austin, MN	2016-12-25	I have attended this beautiful church with my family and we need this building as a reminder of the goodness of both old memories and making new ones. Keep the love going and growing as generations create their own history and save this part of their heritage.
Cheryl Kayes	Boca Raton, FL	2017-02-15	Our history and amazing architecture are being lost to high rise, condo and retail development. If this Church is razed for this development, Ft. Lauderdale cannot recapture this significant piece of history and humanity.



Name	Location	Date	Comment
Renee Ezell	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2017-02-15	I grew up at this church. My family was very active with First Lutheran Church. I was confirmed there, married there, and both of my parents had there funeral services there. I would hate to see it go.
Sara Randel	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2017-02-18	I love living in east FTL and part of what I enjoy the most is the history!!!
Joanna Petersen	Nottingham, United Kingdom	2017-02-19	<p>Dear all,</p> <p>Forgive the group email, but I felt you should all be aware of the strength of feeling regarding the proposed demolition of this building.</p> <p>As a member of City Church, I worshipped in First Lutheran church, my church offered to buy the building but the offer was turned down in favor of developers. You now have the chance to set this decision straight, to go against the trend and stand up for what is right. Visit the building, imagine walking or cycling there from the local neighborhood, as my daughter and I did every Sunday morning. Yes, we need housing too, but housing will always be supplied in this location and this current financial climate. We also need to uphold the spiritual, emotional and communal needs of our neighborhoods.</p> <p>As a public school teacher, I am well aware of the needs of the people in our beautiful city. Our city needs more centers of charity and care, not fewer. More places to go and receive help, not fewer. More care for our young people, not fewer. The building also provided affordable, downtown office space for secular organizations which provide direct advocacy and practical help for people in need.</p> <p>I urge you to support the designation of the church as a historic building in Fort Lauderdale, make this part of your legacy so that you can look back and be proud to have preserved this beautiful landmark. Not just as a relic of the past, but as a living monument to the service of people in this city. As public servants, I am sure that you appreciate and empathize with the time given up by other citizens who seek to serve.</p> <p>Yours truly,</p> <p>Joanna Petersen</p>
Denise Nonamaker	Fort Lauderdale, FL	2017-02-19	ATTENDED THIS CHURCH YEARS AGO AND LOVED HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS. ALSO SUPPORTING A FRIEND IT MEANS VERY MUCH TO. DON'T NEED ANOTHER CONDO OR MARKET. BEAUTY IN THIS PLACE
michaela conca	Palm City, FL	2017-02-21	I believe in historic preservation of sacred grounds especially when the structure has significant history behind it,

## Chapter Two

2/21/2017 R-3  
Provided by Marla Dumas

# In the Beginning

**E**arly South Florida may have been an outpost of Dixie, but a Catholic presence was always here too. In 1894, Fr. Ambrose Fontan, traveling by stagecoach from Palm Beach to the Jesuit Mission Station in Miami, stopped for the night at Frank Stranahan's New River Camp, where he said the first Catholic Mass on record in what would become Fort Lauderdale. Fittingly enough, it was December 25, although according to the scanty accounts of that time, most of the worshippers were passengers of the Bay Biscayne Stage line and visiting sportsmen.

Were there any Catholics in the crowd, apart from Father Fontan, who went on to serve as the founding pastor of Gesu Catholic Church, South Florida's first Catholic church? Not many. Lucy Bryan and her husband, Philemon, were the first documented Catholics in Fort Lauderdale, moving here from Volusia County in 1895 after the "great freeze" wiped out his groves and ruined his packing business. Lucy had been educated at a convent school in Saint Augustine. Though the Bryan family, with its Midwestern roots, was Methodist, Philemon converted to Catholicism when he married Lucy. He was acquainted with railway magnate Henry Flagler, who hired him to build the roadbed from the New River north to Pompano. The Bryan family figured large in Florida affairs. Philemon's brother Frank, for example, became chairman of

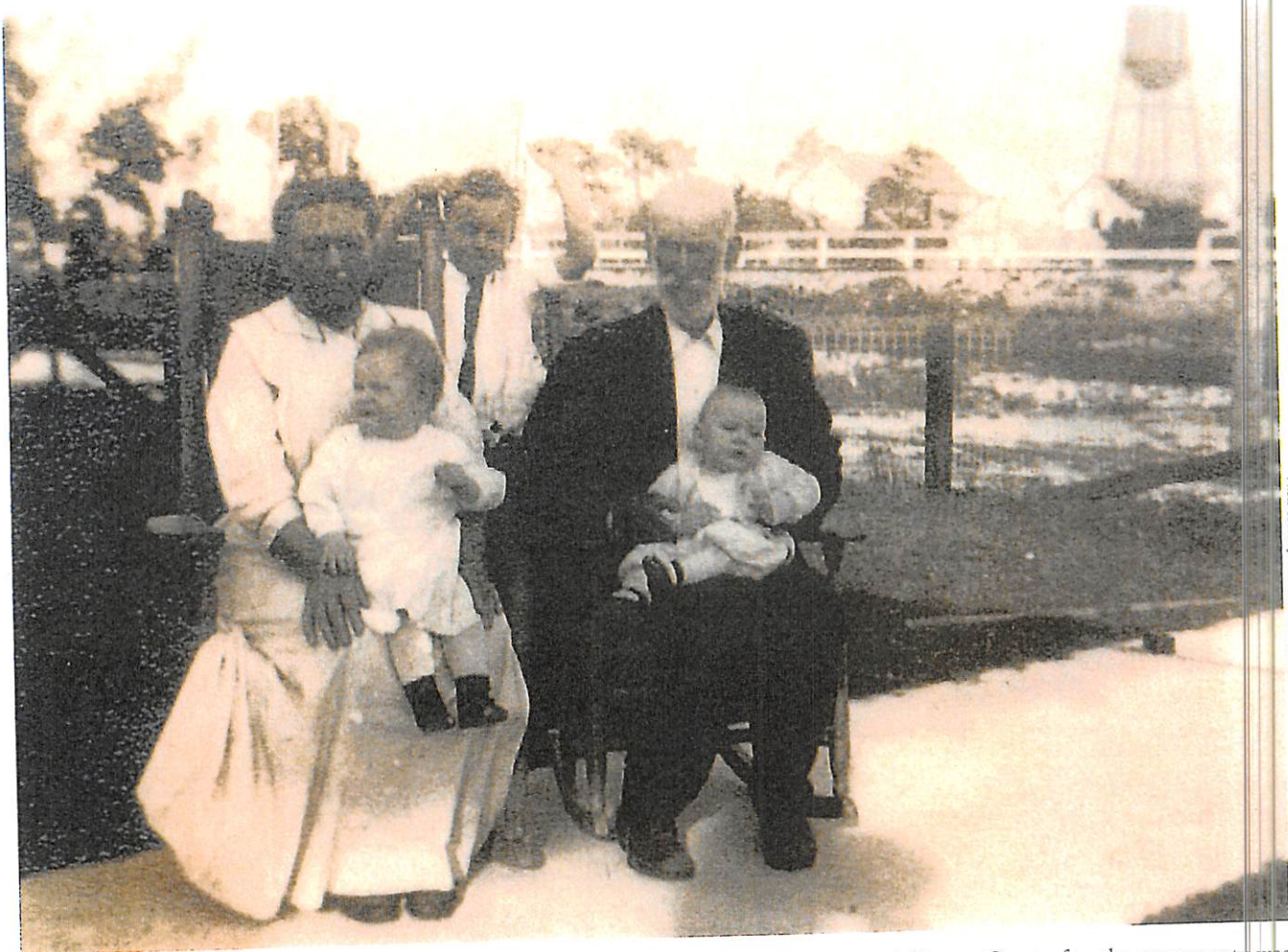


Photo courtesy of the Broward County Historical Commission Bryan Family Collection

Lucy and Philemon Bryan in front of the New River Inn, circa 1918, with their grandchildren. They were the first documented Catholics in Fort Lauderdale.

the Dade County Commission and the first clerk of the Broward County Court after the new county was founded in 1915.

In 1910, the year before Fort Lauderdale incorporated as a town, the population numbered 143 and growing. Only three Catholic churches existed in South Florida: Saint Ann's in West Palm Beach, largely funded by the Presbyterian industrialist Flagler, who viewed churches in general as stabilizing and good for

development; Saint Mary, Star of the Sea, in Key West; and Gesu, Church of the Holy Name, built in Miami in 1897, also with help from Flagler. Fort Lauderdale's small Catholic congregation of about two dozen families met in private homes.

Regular Masses were not celebrated in Fort Lauderdale until 1913, when Celia Dodge opened her cottage at Valentine and South Third Street (later Southeast Third Avenue and Southeast Seventh Street) as a permanent location for services. Once a month, Fr. Clifford McLoughlin traveled from Miami to say Mass. In 1915, a group of fifteen ladies formed an Altar Society to pay off the \$96 mortgage on the house by holding bake sales and bazaars and, on Thursdays, by selling lunches to beachgoers. At that time, the only way to get to the beach was by boat. The first bridge across the Intracoastal wasn't constructed until 1917.

Despite the anti-Catholic nativism rampant in Florida between 1910 and the First World War, Catholics joined the growing population of Fort Lauderdale, which reached almost two thousand in 1915. Saint Anthony Parish was established in 1921. Bishop Michael Joseph Curley, who had fought nativism with considerable success in the state legislature, paid a visit to the town, during which he announced the time had come for Fort Lauderdale to build its own church. Two women, Frances Heimberger and Corrine Cheadle, were assigned the task of finding a suitable site for the new church and rectory. They chose a vacant lot at the northeast corner of Las Olas Boulevard and Valentine Avenue, now Las Olas and Third Avenue.

Fort Lauderdale already had its first resident priest, Fr. E. F. Callahan, who had arrived a year earlier. Fr. G. J. Plunkett, a noted "builder priest," arrived in January 1922, having just finished developing a church building in Ocala and, before that, supervising the construction of a \$60,000 church for the African American community in Jacksonville. With fourteen years of church building projects behind him, Plunkett became the parish's first pastor, with Callahan serving as his assistant. Prior to their arrival, South Florida belonged to the Jesuits, but through a series of agreements forged by Bishop Curley, the region was opened to diocesan priests such as Plunkett and Callahan.

Plunkett said the nine o'clock Mass his first Sunday in Fort Lauderdale. The congregation had outgrown the Celia Dodge cottage by then, meeting instead at the Elks Club building or the New River Inn. An evening service was added so parishioners could examine plans for the new church. Plunkett proved adept at winning the support of local powers. He let it be known he liked to fish, which went over well with the men in town, almost all of whom were outdoorsmen. His Southern roots helped, too—Plunkett and Callahan both hailed from Tennessee. By trading his collar for overalls and working the site alongside his suppliers, he showed himself as a regular fellow not afraid to get his hands dirty. He supervised the unloading of supplies at the railroad station, and he bargained hard for the best prices with a building



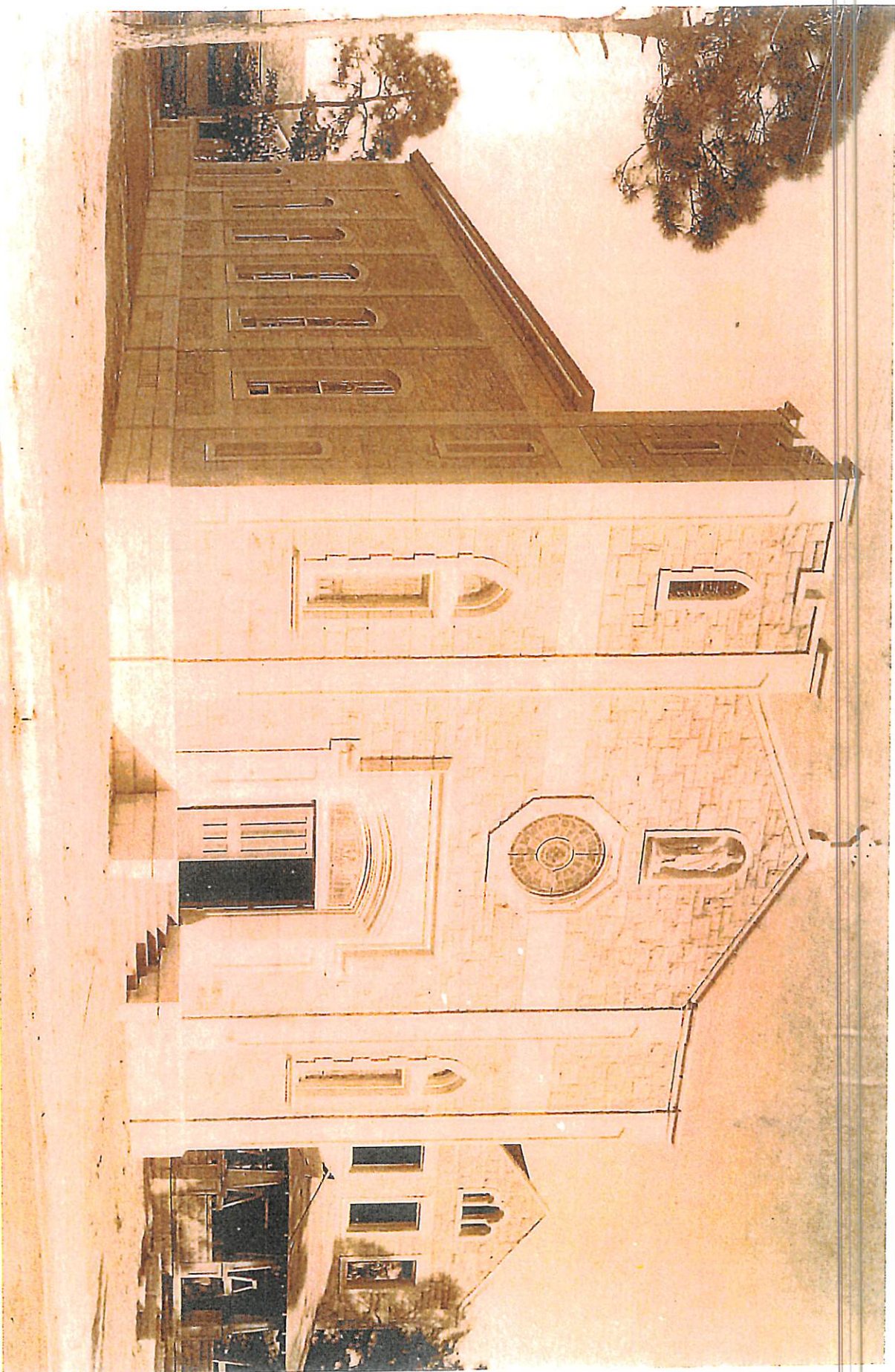


Photo courtesy of the Saint Anthony Archive

One of the earliest photos of Saint Anthony's original church on Las Olas and Third Avenue. The rectory is to the right.

materials supplier. All these things earned the respect of the building contractor, a strict Lutheran named John Olson, and went a long way toward calming potential anti-Catholic sentiments in Fort Lauderdale as the church was being constructed.

Built of nonnative rusticated stone, the finished Saint Anthony was a beautiful structure, tidy and elegant. Work on the church and rectory—at a total cost of \$10,000—ended in October 1922, but the dedication was put off until December so Bishop Patrick Barry of Saint Augustine could participate in the

ceremony



## Dedicating Saint Anthony Church

The congregation of about sixty-five families began the day with a parade around the new church property, led by the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters of America. Four small boys carried a large American flag. A choir from Miami provided music, with Juliette Lange, a local soprano, as soloist. Bishop Barry conducted the dedication ceremony, while Father Plunkett said Mass and Fr. I. O. O'Sullivan of Miami preached the dedicatory sermon. All three sounded a conciliatory note. O'Sullivan noted the sectarian friction of the not-so-distant past but assured his audience—which included a large number of non-Catholics—that bigotry had been overcome. He went out of his way to say that while Catholics looked to Rome for religious leadership, “their first allegiance was to America.”

By all accounts, Saint Anthony's dedication was a great success. Plunkett had even won over the anti-Catholic editor of the *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, George Mathews, who wrote, “During his stay here, Father Plunkett has made many friends.” No significant sectarian strife has occurred in Fort Lauderdale in the many decades since.

About 150 of the town's leading citizens attended a dinner at Philemon Bryan's New River Inn following the service. There, Bishop Barry gave a talk in which he promised “the people of Fort Lauderdale they would be proud of the class of tourists the new church would attract to this city in the future.” It was a prophecy that came true many times over.

By the time Saint Anthony was dedicated, the resort character of Fort Lauderdale had already taken hold, and despite Prohibition, drunken, rowdy, and licentious behavior was not uncommon. South Florida instantly became a center of liquor smuggling, as rumrunners made midnight crossings from the Bahamas. In Davie, the wife of a storekeeper implored the Fort Lauderdale police to assign an officer to her neighborhood, writing, “I cannot put up with the drunkenness, cursing, and bad conduct.” Meanwhile, emboldened by motion picture images, women wore revealing bathing costumes to the beach, which was now easily accessible thanks to the new hand-cranked Las Olas Boulevard Bridge. Flappers danced the night away in opulent speakeasies.



The clergy of the Saint Augustine Diocese at Jacksonville, Florida, November 16, 1921, gathered for a farewell reception to Archbishop-elect Michael Joseph Curley. Top row, left to right: Frs. Sullivan, Comber, Mullaly, W. Barry, Lyons, Meehan, Monahan, Clasby, Brennan, and O'Keefe. Middle row, left to right: Frs. Albert, Francis, Bresnahan, Conoley, Nevin, Farley, Fennell, Roche, Callahan, and Linton. Bottom row, left to right: Frs. Nolan, Nunan, Golden, Tyrrell, P. Barry, Bishop Curley, Fathers Maher, Gabriel, Plunkett (the “builder priest”), and Gumbleton.

# ST. ANTHONY

## CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

by Merrillyn C. Rathbun

### I. Early Days and Settlers 1893 to 1910

The first recorded Catholic mass in the Fort Lauderdale area was said by the Reverend Father A. M. Fontan at Frank Stranahan's New River Camp on December 25, 1894. It was said to a congregation of Bay Biscayne Stage Line transit passengers, visiting sportsmen and one or two local people. Probably few, if any,

of the congregants were Catholic.<sup>1</sup>

The first known Catholics to reside in Fort Lauderdale were Philemon and Lucy (Louisa Catherine)(Murray) Bryan. The Bryans, with their children and collateral relatives, were among Fort Lauderdale and Broward County's earliest families. The large Bryan family had migrated from Georgia to north Florida in the 1820s, settling

first in Hamilton County and later dispersing to Volusia and other central Florida counties.<sup>2</sup>

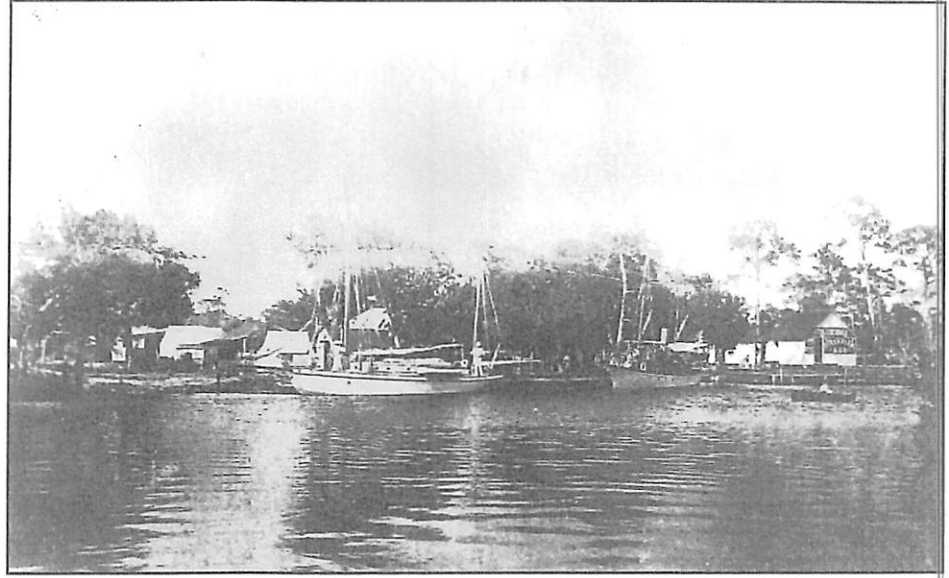
Philemon N. Bryan was a businessman, first mayor of the town of New Smyrna and grovesman in Volusia County. The great freeze of 1895 wiped out all seven of his orange groves and put his four packing houses out of business. Bryan, through his work as an orange grower, was acquainted with oilman and hotel and railroad magnate Henry Flagler, who was then extending his Florida East Coast Railway to south Florida. Flagler asked Philemon Bryan to undertake the job of building the roadbed north from the New River to Pompano.<sup>3</sup> Philemon and his two sons, nineteen-year-old Reed Asa and seventeen-year-old Thomas Murray, brought four hundred black workmen, hired in Volusia County, down to the New River site by sailboat.<sup>4</sup>

Other Bryan family members followed Philemon to the district. Franklin Americus Bryan, Philemon's half brother, began farming in the Snake Creek region near Hallandale; eventually, Frank Bryan

*Fort Lauderdale's and Broward County's oldest Catholic church, St. Anthony, was officially established as a parish in 1921. The parish school — also the city's and county's oldest — opened five years later. The story of Fort Lauderdale's Catholic institutions, however, reaches even further into the region's past, to the first recorded religious service on the banks of New River in 1894 and the creation of a congregation as a mission from Miami's Church of the Holy Name in 1913. From the beginning, St. Anthony's history has been tightly intertwined with that of the surrounding community and has included such figures as members of the pioneer Bryan family, boomtime architect Francis Abreu and several of southeast Florida's most noted early priests.*

*Author Merrillyn C. Rathbun has had a longtime interest in the architectural history of Fort Lauderdale. A graduate of Cornell University, she is currently employed as Research Assistant at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. This article is adapted from her successful nomination of St. Anthony School to the National Register of Historic Places. She continues to work on all facets of historic preservation.*





**Father Ambrose Fontan, S.J. (left), founding pastor of the Church of the Holy Name (later GESU) in Miami, celebrated the first mass in Fort Lauderdale at the Stranahan camp (right) in 1894 (Fontan photo courtesy of GESU Catholic Church; Stranahan camp photo courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society).**

became chairman of the Dade County Commission and, later, first Clerk of the Broward County Court. Philemon and Frank's cousin, John Milton Bryan, Sr., and his sons, John M., Jr. and Nathan, set about farming in the Big City Island area west of Dania. Nathan P. Bryan moved to Jacksonville and later became a United States Senator from Florida; as chairman of the first State Board of Control, he was instrumental in fixing Gainesville as the site for the University of Florida. In 1920 he was appointed Circuit Judge of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Woodrow Wilson.<sup>5</sup>

The Bryan family was largely Methodist in religious persuasion. However, when Philemon married Lucy, the convent-bred daughter of the Catholic Murray family of New Smyrna, he apparently converted to her faith.<sup>6</sup> There was also a marriage connection between Murrys and the John Milton branch of the Bryan family—Guilda Rose Murray, daughter of Lucy's brother Thomas Jefferson Murray of Volusia County, married John Milton Bryan, Jr.<sup>7</sup>

After completing his work for Flagler, Philemon Bryan began farming near Fort Lauderdale. By 1897 he owned 120 acres in the New River vicinity; six acres were planted with orange trees and four and one half acres were given over to tomato

crops. Both of Philemon Bryan's sons farmed with him, but it was the elder, Reed Asa, who was to make agriculture and the development of farm lands his life's work.

In 1900 Philemon Bryan purchased Block C of Fort Lauderdale's fledgling downtown, where he built a small hotel. This was the impetus for younger son Tom's career; he began to look for ways to promote the urban expansion of the region. In time, Tom built the first ice plant, started the electric company and discovered that he could have telephone lines strung on his electric poles for the first phone company.<sup>8</sup>

## **II. Political and Economic Development 1911 to 1920**

By 1910 Fort Lauderdale's population had reached 143.<sup>9</sup> Stranahan's one-story trading post had been replaced by a handsome two-story Bahamian-style house built by another former Volusia County man, E.T. King. The trading post business had evolved into Stranahan and Company; it was now located on Brickell Avenue, the town's small, thriving business district. The Florida East Coast Railway docks at the foot of Brickell were shipping a growing volume of farm produce from the area. The Fort Lauderdale State Bank, with Frank Stranahan, who had acted as town banker in the old trad-

ing post days, as president, had received its charter in 1910; Tom Bryan was a bank board member. In 1908, Philemon Bryan had replaced his earlier hotel with the New River Inn, also built by Ed King. Andrews Avenue, which had been bridged in 1904, was becoming a major thoroughfare.<sup>10</sup>

The spur for all of this development was Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward's championship of Everglades drainage, a major plank of his 1904 gubernatorial campaign. Once the project was authorized by the state legislature, Broward, who was distantly related to the John Milton Bryan family, hired Reed Bryan, as a man who knew the locality, to superintend the work.<sup>11</sup> Reed directed the construction of two steam-operated dredges across the New River from his father's hotel; then he started work on the North New River Canal.<sup>12</sup>

A direct result of the drainage project was the 1911 land lottery at Progresso, Richard Bolles' Florida Fruit Lands Company's development, which drew national attention to Fort Lauderdale. By 1911 the town had two newspapers, William Heine's *Fort Lauderdale Herald* and George Mathews' *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*. Incorporation of the town was the most significant event of the year; the little burg now had a mayor, a town



council and embraced one and one-half square miles of land. William H. Marshall served as the first mayor; Ed King, W.O. Berryhill, W.H. Covington, W.C. Kyle and Tom Bryan were elected as town councilmen.<sup>13</sup>

Residents of outlying districts have always been convinced that their interests are neglected by those at the center; Fort Lauderdale civic leaders, being no exception, started a drive to separate from Dade County. A committee comprised of M.A. Marshall of Dania, and W.O. Berryhill, Reed Bryan and George Mathews of Fort Lauderdale was in Tallahassee in May 1913 lobbying for the county division.<sup>14</sup>

Committee member Mathews, the *Sentinel* publisher, had just run for the office of mayor against the incumbent W.H. Marshall.<sup>15</sup> An experienced journalist who had owned two newspapers prior to his purchase of the *Sentinel*, Mathews clearly understood the value of media ownership in a political fight; the mayoral campaign was largely conducted in the pages of the *Sentinel*.

Colonel Mathews was an admirer of Thomas E. Watson, the Georgia populist politician and editor who, at



Colonel George G. Mathews (courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society).



Lucy and Philemon Bryan in front of the New River Inn, ca. 1918, with grandchildren (left to right) Reed A. Bryan, Jr., Perry N. Bryan and James H. Bryan.

that time, had a winter home in Fort Lauderdale. One of Mathews' campaign arguments was "...the injustice of private ownership of public utilities."<sup>16</sup> Councilman Tom Bryan had just sold his ice and electric plant to Southern Utilities. Bryan protested Mathews' criticism of the sale in a letter to the newspaper, which Mathews published and answered at length in his editorial column. Colonel Mathews, the populist, the outsider, won the election, becoming the town's second mayor.<sup>17</sup>

After some delay, the house and senate of the state legislature approved the county division in May and June 1913; now all that was left was ratification by the voters. Dania and Hallandale were considered to be crucial to the success of the plan. The committeemen were confident that they had the support of the voters of both communities. They were wrong; the vote failed in both towns.<sup>18</sup>

Other blows struck the community. In 1912 the Brickell Avenue business district had largely burned; in 1913 the town's largest hotel, which had escaped the previous year's fire, went up in smoke. These hurdles, however, did little to dampen the sense of optimism enjoyed by Fort Lauderdale's civic leaders. Between 1914 and 1916, the town argued, and eventually won, its first court case, a suit to gain ripar-

ian rights from Mary Brickell, who had retained the rights as she sold her riverfront property in Fort Lauderdale.<sup>19</sup> The town fathers also contracted with the Champion Bridge Company of Wilmington, Ohio, for a new bridge on Andrews Avenue, which was completed in December 1915.<sup>20</sup>

By April of 1915 Fort Lauderdale leaders made another—this time successful—attempt at county division. On April 30 the *Sentinel* announced that Fort Lauderdale was the new county seat. In the same issue Mathews commended the work of Tom and Frank Bryan; the Bryans had used their influence in Dania and Hallandale where the vote was again crucial.<sup>21</sup> The Colonel was no longer mayor; the term was for one year.

Before the new county went into effect on October 1, a religious controversy engulfed the Fort Lauderdale school. The new county had named a Superintendent of Public Instruction and a school board, and each town had elected a slate of school trustees.<sup>22</sup> Among the new teachers the Dade County School Board assigned to Fort Lauderdale was Julia Murphy. The Fort Lauderdale school trustees refused to accept Miss Murphy as a teacher after discovering that she was Catholic.<sup>23</sup> A public meeting, chaired by editor Mathews, was called to consider the

trustees' refusal of Miss Murphy. The assembly voted 181 to seven to uphold the trustees' refusal.<sup>24</sup>

Miss Murphy's pastor in Miami, Father Clifford McLaughlin, then approached Frank Stoneman, editor of the *Miami Herald*, who roundly condemned the Fort Lauderdale action in a series of articles in his newspaper. Father McLaughlin also apprised the recently-installed Bishop of Saint Augustine, Michael J. Curley, of the situation. The bishop sent copies of Stoneman's articles to every newspaper in Florida and not a few outside the state. Curley also wrote a letter of protest that was widely printed.<sup>25</sup> The school trustees' action drew severe criticism from across the state. In the *Sentinel*, editor Mathews reproved critics of the trustees' action, saying among other things, "Thank God, the people are waking up . . . We will no longer stand for the Catholics to receive eighty-five per cent of the salaries paid by this government."<sup>26</sup> The situation was ensnared in politics, a prelude to the coming 1916 elections.

The community was still feeling the deleterious effects of the allega-

tions of fraud in Richard Bolles' Progresso land lottery, which had been criticized as a scheme to sell underwater lots in Florida to the unwary. The nationwide negative publicity the scheme had received compromised the entire Everglades drainage project. Now Lauderdaleans with an interest in the town's development were faced with further damaging publicity from the Murphy incident.

In 1913 Fort Lauderdale's small Catholic congregation had purchased a house at Valentine and South Third Street (now Southeast Third Avenue and Southeast Seventh Street) for use as a church. Father Clifford McLaughlin, S.J., from Miami, said mass once a month at the remodeled cottage. In 1916 fifteen ladies formed an Altar Society to pay off the remaining indebtedness of \$96.00 on the cottage. The ladies held bake sales and bazaars; on Thursdays they somehow got themselves across New River Sound — it was not bridged until 1917 — to sell lunches to beachgoers in front of the bathhouse.<sup>27</sup> Perhaps the ladies crossed by "pop" boat, small ubiquitous vessels with the motor housing in the center of the craft, so-called because of the loud popping noise their engines made.

Sidney J. Catts, candidate for governor in 1916, arrived in Fort Lauderdale in December of 1915 and spoke to the town's school children. Colonel Mathews editorialized on his visit that "... he showed the danger that menaced this nation from the Catholic Hierarchy."<sup>28</sup> Anti-Catholicism and anti-immigration proved to be the text of the coming election. Catts and incumbent governor Park Trammell, who was running for the U.S. Senate seat held by Bryan cousin Nathan P., embraced the nativist positions.

George Mathews campaigned on behalf of Catts and Trammell. He traveled to Jacksonville to speak at a Baptist church, but the minister of that church objected to his pulpit being used for an anti-Catholic diatribe.<sup>29</sup> At about the same time that Mathews was in Jacksonville, Senator Bryan was denouncing the

Guardians of Liberty, a nativist organization which was strongly influenced by Tom Watson and actively supported Catts and Trammell. Throughout the campaign Bryan's opponents, relying on a 1914 controversy when the Senator had obtained the appointment of a Catholic postmaster of Jacksonville, portrayed him as unduly influenced by Rome.<sup>30</sup> Interestingly enough, the Senator's Catholic kin never became an issue in the campaign, although the connection was certainly known to George Mathews and through him to his nativist allies, possibly including Tom Watson.

While Lucy and Philemon Bryan and at least one daughter, Florence Bryan Barrett, were practicing Catholics, neither Tom nor Reed were in their later years.<sup>31</sup> If knowledge of the Bryan family's Catholic connection had become public, the information might have been used against the Senator in the campaign. Since Tom Bryan chose not to run for office that year, as a private citizen his parents' religious preference was no one's business. The Colonel did not relish direct personal confrontations, and did not risk printing such private information in his paper. But Nathan Bryan lost the election in any case; Catts and Trammell were elected governor and U.S. senator respectively.<sup>32</sup>

### III. Expansion, Land Boom and Establishment of Saint Anthony Parish 1920 to 1928

Between 1910 and 1915 the population of Fort Lauderdale increased from a few hundred to almost two thousand (1,870).<sup>33</sup> Now, the town was on the verge of a much greater expansion. Tom Bryan and S.P. Snyder had completed Las Olas Boulevard to New River Sound in 1917, and the sound had been crossed by a swing bridge from the Champion Company. D.C. Alexander, who had purchased Tom Watson's beach property in 1913, was platting Las-Olas-by-the-Sea, south of the boulevard.<sup>34</sup> Hugh Taylor Birch, the owner of beach property north of Las Olas, who was popularly considered some-

#### CHURCHES

(White)

All Saints Episcopal—Rev R D Tracy rector  
Baptist—Deerfield, Fla. Rev W S Gibson pastor  
Catholic—Rev Father McLaughlin pastor  
Episcopal—Dania, Fla. Rev R D Tracy rector  
First Baptist—Rev A E Atchison pastor  
Methodist—Dania, Fla. Rev J A Wales pastor  
Methodist (North)—(No pastor)  
Methodist (South)—Rev J A Wales pastor  
Presbyterian—Rev H E Dunning pastor  
Union—Hallandale, Fla (Colored)  
Baptist—Bryan av  
Baptist—Hallandale, Fla  
Episcopal—Hallandale, Fla  
Mt Herman A M E—Rev H W Gary pastor  
Mt Olive Baptist—N Brickell av  
St Christopher Episcopal—Bryan av  
St John's A M E Chapel—N Metcalf

**This listing of Broward County churches in the 1920-21 Fort Lauderdale City Directory was the first to note the Catholic congregation.**

what hostile to development, nevertheless platted Birch Ocean Front Estates on the beach.<sup>35</sup>

After discovering Miami Beach, Carl Fisher, the Prest-O-Lite and Indianapolis Speedway founder, had returned to the north enthusing about the development potential of south Florida. In 1920, Joseph W. Young, also of Indianapolis, began buying property south of Lake Mabel, near the natural inlet to the New River Sound, to build his dream city, Hollywood-by-the-Sea.<sup>36</sup> Thomas and Horace Stilwell of Anderson, Indiana, and Indianapolis purchased a spit of land on the west side of the sound, just south of Las Olas Boulevard, from Fort Lauderdale realtors M.A. Hortt and R.E. Dye. The Stilwells proposed to dredge three "finger isles" from the mangrove swamp west of Idlewyld, their new property.<sup>37</sup>

There is some controversy over the origin of the finger isles concept. Fort Lauderdale has claimed credit for the idea, although similar isles were being constructed in other parts of the country at the same time or earlier. However, as early as 1916 George Mathews wrote that "...a visionary group" had discussed dredging canals in the tidelands east of Fort Lauderdale to form islets.<sup>38</sup> It is not too great a stretch from dredging canals to drain the Everglades for agriculture to dredging to drain the mangrove swamps to form land for housing.

Mary Brickell began developing her Colee Hammock property about 1916. In October 1920 she platted her property on the south side of the river, east of East Avenue (U.S. 1), then the city limits, calling the subdivision Rio Vista.<sup>39</sup> That same year, Ross Clark, an investor from New York, sold his North Fork home to a man from Montana, by way of Miami, William Carmichael. Clark and Carmichael formed a partnership to develop Clark's land holdings south of the Tarpon River along Andrews Avenue.<sup>40</sup>

In March 1921 C.J. Hector, owner of Hector Supply Company, a farm provisions business, bought Mrs. Brickell's Rio Vista interests. A few months later Mrs. Brickell sold her

Colee Hammock land to realtors Hortt and Dye.<sup>41</sup> Hector replatted Rio Vista, and began looking for investors. In 1923 he sold the Rio Vista Isles portion of the development, which had been dredged out along the Stranahan River, to W.F. Morang.<sup>42</sup> Hector then went into partnership with William Sunkel to develop the rest of the subdivision.

By 1922 Carmichael and Clark, with S.L. Drake as contractor, were building their development, "Placidena," a name chosen by Ross Clark. At that time there was a cigar called Placidena that was widely advertised; perhaps it amused Clark to call his housing estate after a smoke.<sup>43</sup>

By October of that year, Carmichael was planning a house for himself, "Knob Hill," to be built on Rose Drive along the Tarpon River.<sup>44</sup> In the same month a development field office of Spanish design was erected on the corner of Andrews Avenue and a then-unnamed east/west street.<sup>45</sup>

Many out-of-town investors had been attracted to the area by one project. By 1917 there was much talk about town on the desirability of building an up-scale tourist hotel in Fort Lauderdale.<sup>46</sup> In January of 1918 developer George Henry of Winchester, Massachusetts, announced plans to build a \$125,000 hotel at

Andrews Avenue and New River.<sup>47</sup> Reed Bryan was one of the local investors in the project.<sup>48</sup> When the hotel opened in November 1919, the first guest to sign in was motion picture director D.W. Griffith.<sup>49</sup> Manager and hotel lessee John Needham offered embarrassed apologies when he registered Griffith; the hotel



**Frances Heimberger (above, courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society) arranged the meeting at the Charles Link house on New River (below) where the establishment of St. Anthony's parish was announced in 1921.**







**Bishop Michael J. Curley**

kitchen equipment had not arrived. Griffith reassured him by saying that he always traveled with a field kitchen when on location.

Of course Griffith's visit created wonderful publicity; the hotel began attracting day trippers and curiosity seekers. Tom Stilwell came up from Miami to see the place; he liked it well enough to register at the hotel for the 1920 winter season.<sup>50</sup> Among the visitors to the hotel that season was the Diego Abreu family of Newburgh, New York and Cuba. The Abreu's eldest son, Francis, was studying architecture at Cornell University. In a few years, Francis would play an important part in Fort Lauderdale's Catholic community.

Amid this flurry of activity, Fort Lauderdale's Catholic congregation, bolstered by new arrivals from the North, began the first steps toward organizing a local parish. In 1966, Mrs. Edward Heimberger, an early Catholic resident of Fort Lauderdale, recalled Bishop Michael J. Curley's visit to town in 1921. Bishop Curley, a personal friend of Mrs. Heimberger's family, asked her to arrange a meeting with all of the town's Catholics.<sup>51</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Charles Link owned a big house on the northwest corner of Block 44 in the Farrow and Bryan subdivision on the south bank of the river, which could

easily accommodate a large meeting and reception. At the meeting Bishop Curley announced that Fort Lauderdale's Catholic congregation would have a church. Mrs. Heimberger and Miss Corinne Cheadle were given the task of selecting the site for the new church and rectory. Later, at the reception, the bishop spoke to about one hundred visitors, emphasizing community cooperation and conciliation.<sup>52</sup> Mrs. Heimberger and Miss Cheadle chose a site for the new church at Las Olas Boulevard and Valentine Avenue, about three blocks east of the new Hotel Broward.<sup>53</sup>

Reverend Father E. F. Callahan, Fort Lauderdale's first resident priest, arrived in December 1920. In January 1922, he was joined by Reverend Father G. J. Plunkett, the "builder priest." The diocese assigned Father Plunkett pastor and Father Callahan assistant pastor for the new parish.<sup>54</sup> Father Plunkett had been supervising church building projects for fourteen years; he had just finished building a church in Ocala. Previously he had overseen construction of a \$60,000 church for the Jacksonville black community.<sup>55</sup> Fathers Plunkett and Callahan were diocesan priests; until this time the south Florida mission field had been given to the Jesuits. Bishop Curley, through a series of negotiations with the Jesuit Society, opened up the territory to other priests.<sup>56</sup>

The reverend fathers rented one of the Stamatz cottages at the beach. Father Plunkett told a reporter from the *Herald* that he hoped to get in some fishing before construction started.<sup>57</sup> If Father Plunkett preferred deep sea fishing to surfcasting, parishioner Charles Link would probably have been happy to take him angling. Link, a member of the Angler's Club and a noted fisherman, had caught a record tarpon which was displayed in a glass case on the approach to the Andrews Avenue bridge.<sup>58</sup>

Father Plunkett announced that he would say the nine o'clock mass that first Sunday, January 29, and would meet the parishioners after the benediction. Mass during this period

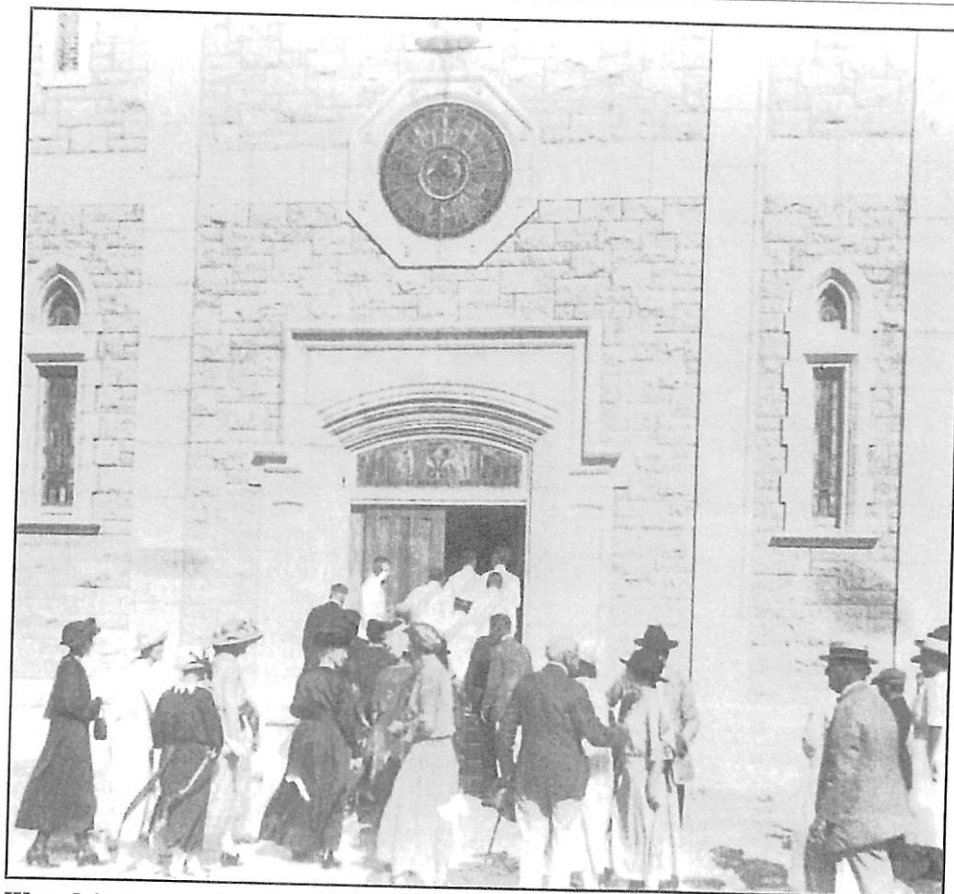
was not offered at the priests' cottage, but at the Elk's Club building and, later, at the New River Inn. An evening service was offered that Sunday, and parishioners were encouraged to attend and examine the plans for the new church.<sup>59</sup>

John Olsson was contractor for the project.<sup>60</sup> The church was built of non-native rusticated stone. Father Plunkett worked on the site and with his suppliers, earning the respect of local businessmen and his contractor, Olsson, a strict Lutheran who by all reports did not suffer fools gladly.<sup>61</sup>

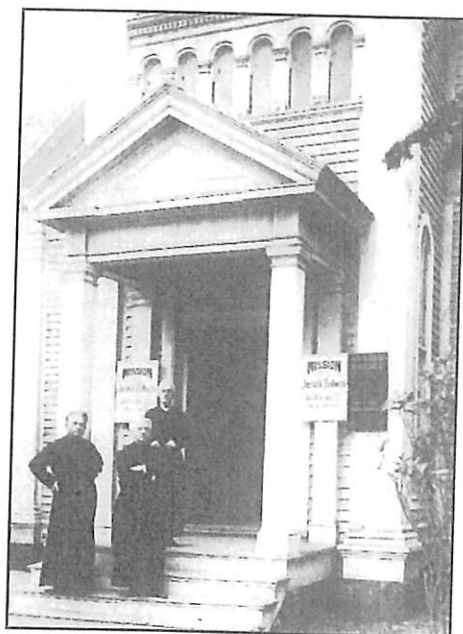
Father Plunkett's job involved as much public relations as church building. His mention of interest in fishing, for example, may have been somewhat calculated. The townsmen were for the most part avid hunters and fishermen, and the Father's fishing expedition was something they could understand. His southern background — Plunkett was from Tennessee as was Father Callahan, who had been head of Catholic missions for East Tennessee — was helpful as many Lauderdaleians were from other parts of the South, where a man could live his whole life and never encounter a Catholic, let alone a priest, and where the word Jesuit conjured a sort of bogeyman.<sup>62</sup> Father Plunkett presented himself as a man who wore a Roman collar, but also as a man who could be found wearing overalls, working on the building site, supervising the unloading of a shipment of stone at the railway yard, or dickering for the best price with a building materials supplier. He wanted to be seen as a regular sort of fellow.<sup>63</sup>

The church and rectory were completed in October 1922, but not dedicated until December. The delay was to allow Bishop Patrick Barry of Saint Augustine to attend the ceremony. Father Peter O'Sullivan of Miami delivered the sermon. The celebration began with a parade of the congregation, led by the Knights of Columbus, around the church property. A choir from Miami provided music during the service, with locally noted soprano Juliette Lang as soloist.<sup>64</sup>





Worshippers gather for the dedication of St. Anthony Church, December 17, 1922 (courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society).



Father Peter Paul O'Sullivan, S.J., standing on left with two other priests in front of the Church of the Holy Name (later GESU), was a noted orator and spoke at the dedication of St. Anthony in 1922 (courtesy of GESU Catholic Church).

In his sermon, Father O'Sullivan said, "... there had been denominational dissension in this city in years past, ... but bigotry had been largely dispelled in the community."<sup>65</sup> He went on to say that Catholics "... looked to Rome in religious matters but in ... political matters and governmental affairs their first allegiance was to America."<sup>66</sup>

After the service, about 150 people, including principals from the parishioners and their guests from the community, attended a dinner at Philemon Bryan's New River Inn. After dinner, Bishop Barry addressed the assembly. The *Herald* reported that the bishop "... assured the people of Lauderdale that they would be proud of the class of tourists the new church would attract to this city in the future."<sup>67</sup>

On March 26, 1926 the *Fort Lauderdale Morning Sun* reported that the town's Catholics were planning to build a \$60,000 school building.<sup>68</sup> The amount of money to be spent on the school was an indication of what

had happened to the community the preceding four years. The amount spent on Saint Anthony Church in 1921/22 was \$10,000. Although the foundations of real estate development and tourism emerged in the late 1910s and early 1920s, the frenzied speculation known as the "Florida boom" is usually reckoned to have begun in 1924, reached its apex in 1925 and to have finished in 1926. In 1926 the people of Fort Lauderdale could not believe it was over. On January 1 the *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, successor to Colonel Mathews' *Sentinel* and owned and published by the Stilwell Brothers, declared that the new year would be the best yet. During the boom the city had achieved great, although inflated, prosperity, had undergone a population increase from 2,065 in 1920 to 5,625 in 1925, and had seen development projects of all sorts, but it had also suffered a housing shortage and the health problems associated with overcrowding and temporary encampments.<sup>69</sup> The city had borne the financial shenanigans of the "binder boys," which eventually led to state-wide investigations

## LARGE CROWD WAS PRESENT AT THE CHURCH DEDICATION

250 PEOPLE IN LINE OF MARCH  
LED BY D. J. HEFFERNON, NAV-  
IGATOR OF THE FOURTH  
DEGREE ASSEMBLY.

A crowd that well filled St. Anthony's, the new Catholic church in this city, witnessed the dedication ceremonies Sunday morning. At 10:30 a procession formed at the New River hotel and marched two abreast to the church. The parade was headed by the uniform rank of the Knights of Columbus of Miami, in uniforms of white. They were followed by the Catholic Daughters of America of the

Report of the St. Anthony's dedication from the December 19, 1922 *Fort Lauderdale Herald*.

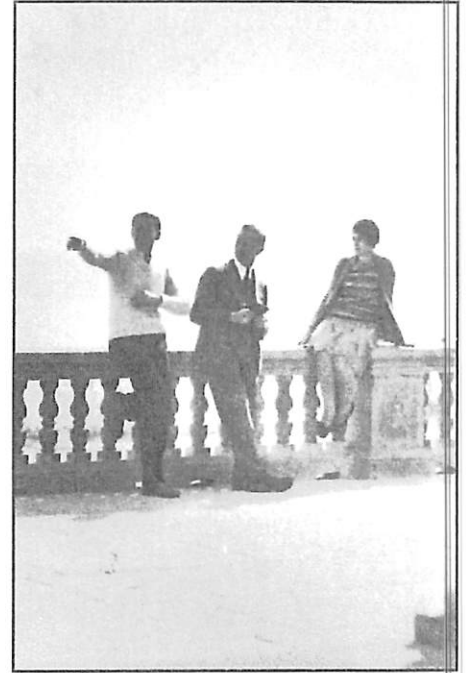
by federal tax authorities, and had experienced a devastating freight embargo, affecting shipments of building materials by the Florida East Coast Railway. To cap it all, in 1926, the state of Florida was in the midst of a smallpox epidemic of such severity that the government of the Bahamas refused to allow ship passengers from Florida ports to disembark in that country.<sup>70</sup>

With all of these difficulties, the Catholic plan to build must have seemed to be a sign of confidence in the city's future, but there were other factors influencing the project. Bishop Curley, who was now Archbishop Curley of the Diocese of Baltimore, was a strong advocate of Catholic education, as he proved by his spirited defense of Saint Augustine nuns arrested for teaching black children in 1916.<sup>71</sup> Given his earlier acquaintance with the city, the bishop probably felt that there was a definite need for Catholic education in Fort Lauderdale.

The school's designer, Francis L. Abreu, was the second architect to open an office in Fort Lauderdale; his contemporary and great rival, John M. Peterman, had beaten him to the punch by opening his office a few months earlier in 1923. Both men had worked in south Florida since 1921. Abreu's parents had come to Fort Lauderdale in December 1920 while their son was still a student at Cornell University. Liking what he saw, Diego Abreu rented a house on Las Olas Beach for the season and began looking for property to buy.<sup>72</sup>

Cuban-born Diego Abreu had married Marie Jova, daughter of Juan Jacinto Jova, a sugar importer from New York and Spain. Their son Francis was born at "Dannskammer," the Jova estate on the Hudson near Newburgh, New York.<sup>73</sup>

Francis entered Cornell's College of Architecture in 1916. His education interrupted by World War I, he returned to Cornell in 1919, resumed his studies and graduated in 1921. During his first few years he took work wherever he could find it. Family sources believe that he may have worked for Joseph W. Young's Hollywood-by-the-Sea development.<sup>74</sup>



**Fort Lauderdale architect Francis L. Abreu (left) designed the St. Anthony school building. In picture to right Abreu (at left) points out architectural features at the Las Olas Casino, which he also designed (both photos courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society).**

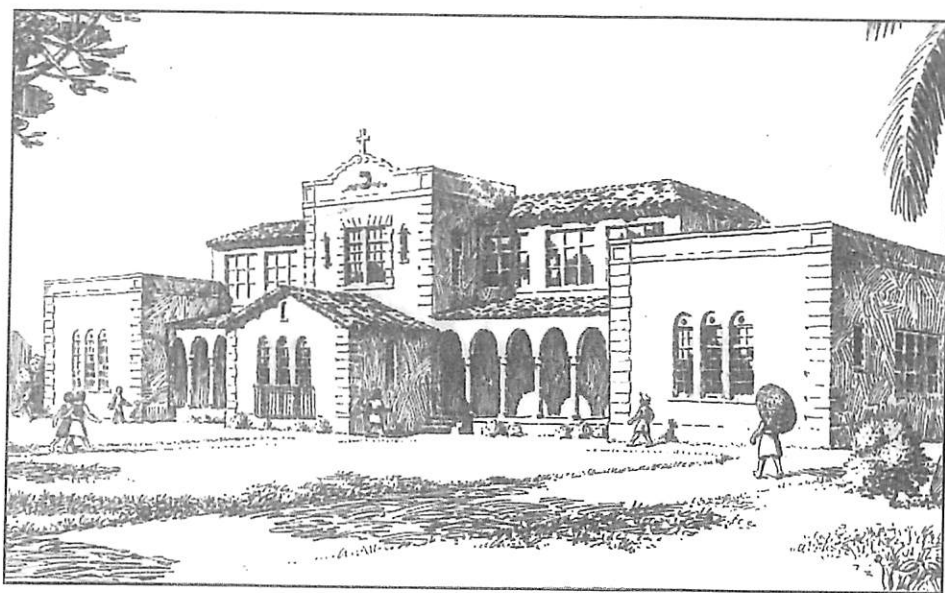
Soon after moving to Fort Lauderdale, the Abreus were joined for the winter season by several members of the Jova family, including Juan Jacinto's widow, a daughter and several sons. Mrs. Jova and her daughter became active in St. Anthony's Parish and made a number of social acquaintances in town while the men of the family took advantage of the area's renowned fishing. Abreu's early commissions included a remodeling job that he undertook on a house that Mrs. Jova had purchased in the Colee Hammock area of Fort Lauderdale.<sup>75</sup>

The family's social connections proved crucial to the young architect's career. During both his early career in Fort Lauderdale and his later work in Sea Island, Georgia, Abreu worked as a "society architect," primarily designing residences, while his rival John Peterman concentrated on commercial projects. Abreu also bid on commercial projects, but often lost out to Peterman, especially when bidding on projects for developers who did not have local connections. However, Abreu's acquaintance with Tom Bryan brought him a number of com-

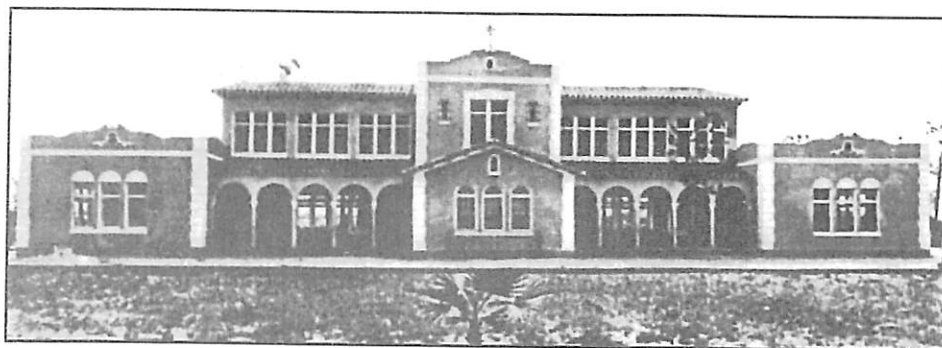
mercial and public projects.<sup>76</sup>

During the 1920s, Tom Bryan was one of Fort Lauderdale's leading political and business figures. He obviously favored Abreu for his own commercial projects and was able to steer such public projects as the Fort Lauderdale Golf and Country Club clubhouse in the young architect's direction. Because of his parents' connection with Saint Anthony Church, Bryan may have had some influence in the choice of an architect for the school, but the Abreus' and Jovas' own memberships in the church was probably a deciding factor.<sup>77</sup>

After the collapse of the boom, Abreu's Fort Lauderdale practice survived another two years, partly because of two public projects that Tom Bryan may have helped him secure — Westside Fire Station Number Three and the Las Olas Beach Casino. The casino proved to be Abreu's passport out of Fort Lauderdale. Young Alfred Jones of Sea Island, in Florida to invite famed Palm Beach architect Addison Mizner to Georgia, was so impressed with Abreu's design for the casino that he invited him to investigate the opportunities his development offered. Abreu went to



Above is Abreu's architectural drawing of the St. Anthony School, below is the school as it appeared at the time of its completion in 1926 (both courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society).



Sea Island and decided to relocate. Although he occasionally took commissions in Fort Lauderdale during the next decade, this move essentially ended his south Florida career.<sup>78</sup>

On August 19, 1926 the women of Saint Anthony Parish gave a benefit dance at the new parochial school.<sup>79</sup> On August 23 four Adrian Dominican nuns arrived to staff the school.<sup>80</sup> It was also announced that there would be a reception for the general public to see the new school building. The school was dedicated by Bishop Barry from Saint Augustine. The official opening was announced for September 13, with classes to begin on September 16.<sup>81</sup>

In August and September many prominent Fort Lauderdaleians were in the North or abroad. Tom Bryan

had gone to New York on business with Joseph Young of Hollywood. Francis Abreu was visiting his family in Newburgh, New York. Abreu returned from the North on September 16.<sup>82</sup> At that time, various agencies were tracking a hurricane off shore. The summer of 1926 had been an unusually wet season; one relatively mild hurricane had hit Florida's southeast coast in July. People were not overly concerned with the prospect of the new storm; they thought that if the storm came ashore in their area they would have a few nasty hours, perhaps suffer some minor damage to property, but then would go on with their lives much as they had before.

The storm that struck in the early morning hours of September 18

has been called a one hundred year storm. There was no rating system for hurricanes in those days, but it probably reached a force five category, the strongest category in today's ratings. Unlike the modern storm of nearly equal force, Hurricane Andrew, which affected a relatively small territory, this so-called Miami Hurricane had a major impact in an area from the upper Keys to Palm Beach County.<sup>83</sup>

Saint Anthony School is located on Northeast Third Street, north of Broward Boulevard, and some blocks north of New River. Downtown Fort Lauderdale was mostly underwater for two days following the storm, however the school had been unaffected by the storm surge and flooding. As damage to the building was minimal (a few windows had been blown in) the school was used to house some of the many people made homeless by the storm.<sup>84</sup>

Saint Anthony's 1926 school year began on October 1. It has been in operation as a school ever since. When first opened, the school served grades one through eight; unfortunately, enrollment figures for the early years of the school are no longer available. The four classrooms on the first floor each accommodated two grades in the early years. The second floor of the building was used as a convent for the teaching sisters. In 1939 the Adrian Dominican nuns moved to a convent building and, as had been planned from the beginning, the second floor of the school building was turned to classroom use.

Expanding enrollment during this period dictated the addition of portable classrooms and a cafeteria on the campus. An auditorium/gymnasium was added after 1939. Also in 1939 high school grades nine through twelve were added. Saint Anthony remained the only Catholic high school in Broward County until Saint Thomas High School opened in southwest Fort Lauderdale in 1952. At that time St. Anthony's returned to serving solely as an elementary school. Additional land was acquired for an expanded playground in the early 1980s, and the entire complex was surrounded by a stuccoed wall



with wrought iron inserts about ten years later.

Some notable graduates of Saint Anthony School include tennis star Chris Evert, mystery and detective story author Michael Connelly, and baseball player Mike Stanley, formerly with the New York Yankees and presently with the Boston Red Sox. Today the school serves the parish children from pre-k to eighth grade.<sup>85</sup>

Saint Anthony parish was the first parish established in Broward County; Saint Anthony School was the first Catholic school between Gesu in Miami and Saint Ann in West Palm Beach. The number of sisters teaching increased from four in 1926 to eighteen in 1948; in the 1970s five Adrian Dominican sisters were assisted by nineteen lay teachers. At the present time the faculty is completely laicized.<sup>86</sup>

Lucy and Philemon Bryan did not live to see the parish school built. Lucy Bryan suffered a fall from the porch of her home; she broke her femur. A few days later, on August 31, 1924, Mrs. Bryan died of heart failure; her family was with her. Services were conducted by the pastor, Father Michael Francis Mullaly, at Saint Anthony Church on September 1. Ironically, one of Mrs. Bryan's pallbearers was *Sentinel* publisher George Mathews.<sup>87</sup> The Bryans had just celebrated their fifty-seventh wedding anniversary. A few months later, on April 18, 1925, Philemon Bryan passed away. Like his wife, he was buried from Saint Anthony Church with Father Mullaly in charge of the services.<sup>88</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Bryan are buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

Today, after seventy-eight years, Saint Anthony's parish is thriving, and the church and school serve both the local Catholic population and the larger community. As the clergy and congregation look toward the future, Saint Anthony's inspiring past has not been forgotten. Father Plunkett's 1922 church building still stands. When replaced by a larger church building in 1949, it was dismantled stone-by-stone and removed to Northeast Third Avenue, where it



**The current St. Anthony Church, adjacent to the school building, was completed in 1949.**

now serves as the First Lutheran Church.<sup>89</sup> In September 1997, the historic Saint Anthony's School, including the original classroom building, convent, and gymnasium, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its sig-

nificance in Fort Lauderdale's religious, educational, social and architectural heritage.<sup>90</sup>



## Notes

<sup>1</sup> *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, February 23, 1923.

<sup>2</sup> J. L. Heede, "Our Bryan Pioneers," part I, *Broward Legacy*, vol. 7, nos. 3 & 4 (Summer/Fall 1984), 39.

<sup>3</sup> Heede, "Our Bryan Pioneers," part II, *Broward Legacy*, vol. 8, nos. 1 & 2 (Winter/Spring 1985), 24-25.

<sup>4</sup> "Thomas Murray Bryan (Tom Bryan)," *New River News*, October 31, 1965.

<sup>5</sup> Heede, "Our Bryan Pioneers," part I, 21-32.

<sup>6</sup> "Lauderdale's First Settler is Buried," *Miami Herald*, September 2, 1924.

<sup>7</sup> Heede, "Our Bryan Pioneers," part II, 24.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 26-30.

<sup>9</sup> August Burghard and Philip Weidling, *Checkered Sunshine* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1966), 16.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 42.

<sup>11</sup> Bryan Family Collection, Broward County Historical Commission archives, Fort Lauderdale.

<sup>12</sup> Burghard and Weidling, *Checkered Sunshine*, 27.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 42.

<sup>14</sup> "County Division Committee at State

Capital," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, May 9, 1913.

<sup>15</sup> "Nomination of Town Officers" and editorial, *Ibid.*, March 7, 14, 1913.

<sup>16</sup> "If Mathews is Elected Mayor," Advertisement, *Ibid.*, March 28, 1913.

<sup>17</sup> "Mathews Elected Mayor of City," *Ibid.*, April 4, 1913.

<sup>18</sup> "County Division Bill Passes the House," "Broward County Bill Passes the Senate," "Broward County Election July 8," "Dade County Division Defeated," *Ibid.*, May 16, June 6, July 4, 11, 1913.

<sup>19</sup> "Institute Suit for Riparian Rights," *Ibid.*, April 16, 1915.

<sup>20</sup> "Contract Let for Bridge," "Local News," "Local News," "Opening New Bridge to Public," *Ibid.*, January 8, August 6, December 3, 10, 1915.

<sup>21</sup> "County Division Will Be Asked For," "Broward County Is Assured," "Fort Lauderdale County Seat," *Ibid.*, April 2, 23, 30, 1915.

<sup>22</sup> "Broward Officials Nominated Saturday," *Ibid.*, June 18, 1915.

<sup>23</sup> "People Sustain School Trustees," *Ibid.*, August 27, 1915.



- <sup>24</sup> Editorial, *Ibid.*
- <sup>25</sup> Michael J. McNally, *Catholicism in South Florida 1868-1968* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1982), 43.
- <sup>26</sup> Editorial, *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, September 10, 1915.
- <sup>27</sup> John Howe, "History of Saint Anthony Parish," unpublished ms. in the archive of Saint Anthony Church.
- <sup>28</sup> Editorial, *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, December 17, 1915.
- <sup>29</sup> Editorial, "The Editor of Thomas Watson's Jeffersonian Defends George Mathews," *Ibid.*, March 24, 31, 1916.
- <sup>30</sup> L. Davis Givonetti, "Fort Lauderdale's Shame: Nativism and the Julia Murphy Incident," *Broward Legacy*, vol. 18, nos. 3-4 (Summer/Fall 1995), 26-28.
- <sup>31</sup> "Tom Bryan;" "Funeral Rites Announced for Reed A. Bryan," *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, May 6, 1937.
- <sup>32</sup> Editorial, *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, May 12, 1916.
- <sup>33</sup> Nathan Mayo, Commissioner of Agriculture, *Florida State Census — The Sixth Census of the State of Florida, 1935* (Tallahassee: State of Florida, 1935), 91, table 24.
- <sup>34</sup> "Valuable Beach Property Transfer," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, August 15, 1913.
- <sup>35</sup> Burghard and Weidling, *Checkered Sunshine*, 115; *Plat Book of Ft. Lauderdale Florida and Vicinity* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins Co., 1953), plate 9.
- <sup>36</sup> "Development of Hollywood," *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, November 18, 1921.
- <sup>37</sup> "Real Estate Has Been Selling Fast," *Ibid.*, February 6, 1920, "Big Suction Dredge Arrives on New River," June 25, 1920.
- <sup>38</sup> "Modern Tropical Venice Here," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, September 15, 1916.
- <sup>39</sup> "Plat of Rio Vista Subdivision Recorded," *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, October 26, 1920.
- <sup>40</sup> "Another Sale of Fort Lauderdale Real Estate," *Ibid.*, March 5, 1920.
- <sup>41</sup> "Hector Buys Land of Mrs. Brickell," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, March 18, 1921, "Colee Hammock Bought by Hortt and Dye," September 23, 1921.
- <sup>42</sup> "Rio Vista and Rio Vista Isles Sold to New Company," *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, August 3, 1923.
- <sup>43</sup> "Work Begins on Big Subdivision South of City," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, August 18, 1922; Advertisement, *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, July 13, 1923.
- <sup>44</sup> "Local News," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, October 20, 1922.
- <sup>45</sup> "Another Building for Placidena," *Ibid.*, October 27, 1922.
- <sup>46</sup> "We Must Have a Tourist Hotel," *Ibid.*, April 11, 1917.
- <sup>47</sup> "\$125,000 Fireproof Hotel to be Built This Spring," *Ibid.*, January 18, 1918.
- <sup>48</sup> *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, May 6, 1937.
- <sup>49</sup> "David Work [sic.] Griffith Is First Name on Hotel Register," *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, November 28, 1919.
- <sup>50</sup> "Local News," *Ibid.*, January 27, 1920.
- <sup>51</sup> Howe, "History of Saint Anthony Parish," 2.
- <sup>52</sup> "Archbishop Curley Honored Guest of Local Catholics," *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, November 11, 1921.
- <sup>53</sup> "Catholics Will Build Church At Some Later Date," *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, March 19, 1920.
- <sup>54</sup> "Ground Broken For New Church," *Ibid.*, January 13, 1922; "Resident Priest for Fort Lauderdale," December 28, 1920.
- <sup>55</sup> "Reverend Father Plunkett the Builder Priest Starts Church Here," *Ibid.*, January 27, 1922.
- <sup>56</sup> McNally, *Catholicism in South Florida*, 46-48.
- <sup>57</sup> "Reverend Father Plunkett," *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, January 27, 1922.
- <sup>58</sup> "Charles Link . . . Picture . . . New York Times," *Ibid.*, October 20, 1922.
- <sup>59</sup> "Reverend Father Plunkett," *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, January 27, 1922.
- <sup>60</sup> Howe, "History of Saint Anthony Parish," 3.
- <sup>61</sup> "Resident Priest," *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, December 28, 1920.
- <sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>63</sup> John DeGroot, "St. Anthony . . . Broward's Mother Church," *Saint Anthony Parish, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, October 13th, 1996* (Fort Lauderdale: St. Anthony Church, 1996), unnumbered.
- <sup>64</sup> "Large Crowd Was Present at Church Dedication," *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, December 19, 1922.
- <sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>68</sup> "Catholics to Build \$60,000 School Here," *Fort Lauderdale Morning Sun*, March 21, 1926.
- <sup>69</sup> Nathan Mayo, Commissioner of Agriculture, *The Seventh Census of the State of Florida, 1945* (Tallahassee: State of Florida, 1945), 84.
- <sup>70</sup> "Bahama Quarantine is Set Up," *New York Times*, January 29, 1926.
- <sup>71</sup> McNally, *Catholicism in South Florida*, 44, 64.
- <sup>72</sup> Francis L. Abreu biographical files, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Fort Lauderdale.
- <sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*; Francis L. Abreu Scrapbook, microfilm in Broward County Historical Commission archives, Fort Lauderdale.
- <sup>77</sup> Abreu biographical files.
- <sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*; Abreu Scrapbook.
- <sup>79</sup> "Society," *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, August 19, 1926.
- <sup>80</sup> "Catholic Nuns Arrive Today," *Ibid.*, August 23, 1926.
- <sup>81</sup> "Bishop Barry to Dedicate School," *Ibid.*, September 1, 1926.
- <sup>82</sup> "Society," *Ibid.*, September 16, 1926.
- <sup>83</sup> "Known Death Toll Now 15 in Lauderdale," *Ibid.*, September 20, 1926.
- <sup>84</sup> "Have You Heard," *Ibid.*, September 29, 1926.
- <sup>85</sup> Howe, "History of Saint Anthony Parish," 3, 5, 7, 9.
- <sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*, 12-13.
- <sup>87</sup> "Lauderdale's First Settler is Buried," *Miami Herald*, September 2, 1924.
- <sup>88</sup> "Bryan Funeral to Take Place This Afternoon," *Fort Lauderdale Evening Sentinel*, April 18, 1925.
- <sup>89</sup> "The Fortieth Anniversary, 1929-1969, of the Pastorate of Monsignor John J. O'Looney, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Fort Lauderdale, Florida," commemorative booklet in archives of Broward County Historical Commission.
- <sup>90</sup> National Register of Historic Places, file in archives of Broward County Historical Commission.



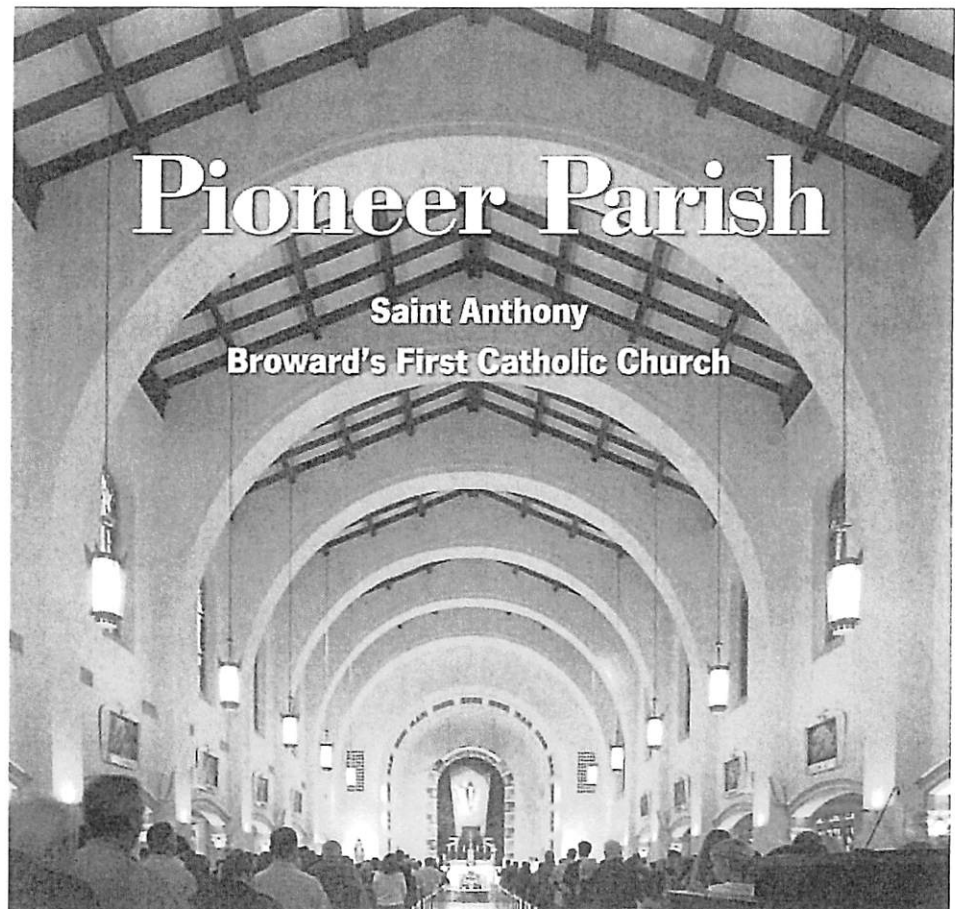
## book review

By Marla Sherman Dumas

### *Pioneer Parish, Saint Anthony Broward's First Catholic Church*

by Fr. Jerry Singleton

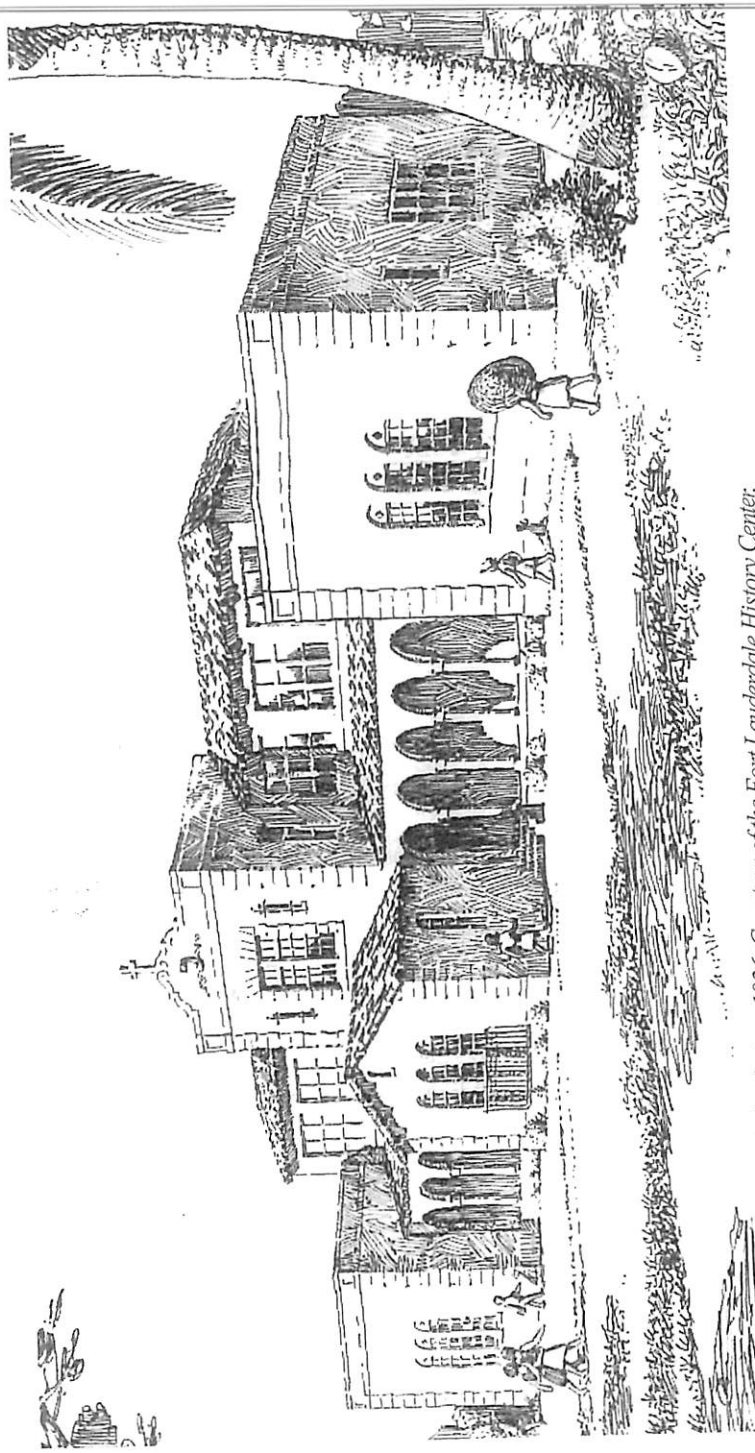
Marla Sherman Dumas, a planning consultant, has served as a Broward County Historical Commissioner since 2007. She previously contributed an article on an historic Hollywood neighborhood, Parkside, which appeared in the 2009 *Broward Legacy*. Her interest in historic preservation and the history of Broward County provides her with expertise necessary to review this book.



*Pioneer Parish: Saint Anthony Broward's First Catholic Church* by Fr. Jerry Singleton, Middle River Press, Oakland Park, Florida, 2011, ISBN 978-0-9838203-0-7, \$75, 174 pages.

Fr. Jerry Singleton, pastor of Saint Anthony Church and School since December 2005, with assistance from editor Chauncey Mabe, and researcher Judy Borich, developed

this publication in honor of the 90th anniversary of the church and the 85th anniversary of the school. The final product is a lovely and engaging coffee-table style book



*Drawing of the Saint Anthony School, circa 1926. Courtesy of the Fort Lauderdale History Center.*

containing a written history and a collection of significant photographs and illustrations that memorialize the history of Saint Anthony Church and School.

The author acknowledges that the content was compiled through archival research and recollections of parishioners. As part of the book, a list of all interviewees is included. The book tracks the history of the church and school from their inception in 1921 and 1926, respectively, through the Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights period, Fort Lauderdale's decline in the 1970s and its later resurgence. It also contains a final chapter in which Singleton discusses the potential for change faced by Saint Anthony, and the Catholic Church in general, during the 21st century.

This book includes information that clearly ties the earliest history of Saint Anthony Church and School to what was happening in secular settings in the area and the nation. For example, the author explains that in 1921 when Saint Anthony parish was established, the community still remained clearly anti-Catholic. In support of this assertion, Singleton relates the story of Julia Murphy, who in 1915 was

hired as a public school teacher in Fort Lauderdale but was fired almost immediately when members of the community found out she was Roman Catholic. One source that the author quotes regarding this incident is the same publication for which this book review has been written, the *Broward Legacy*. (The article appeared in the *Broward Legacy*, volume 18, number 3-4, summer/fall, 1995.)

Of great interest to readers is an opportunity to gain an understanding of the significance of the names given to many community institutions such as Barry University and Archbishop Curley High School (originally known as Central Catholic) and the roles their namesakes played in the history of Saint Anthony Church and School.

The founding of Holy Cross Hospital was described as a small Catholic hospital that has become a major medical facility for the entire community at large. Both of these institutions serve Catholics and non-Catholics alike and are iconic examples of excellence in educational and medical services to all South Florida residents.

Fr. John Joseph O'Looney, who

was assigned to this parish in October 1929 and served the community for over 40 years and retired in June 1971, is credited for much of the early success of Saint Anthony Church and School. Furthermore, he is acknowledged as being responsible for initiating the idea for opening Holy Cross Hospital through his fundraising efforts he started in 1950 enabling the hospital to hold an official ground-breaking ceremony in 1953. He is credited with recognizing the need for Central Catholic, the second Catholic high school in Broward County, with its first graduation class in 1953; and opening Annunciation Church in 1952, a mission that served Fort Lauderdale's African-American Catholics prior to the success of the Civil Rights movement.

Sr. Mary Paschal Sydnor, who joined St. Anthony in 1940, is credited for recognizing the need for a gymnasium-auditorium for the school. Designed by architect Robert E. Hansen, it opened in 1941 and served St. Anthony School, Central Catholic High School for a time and during World War II, the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard servicemen stationed at Port Everglades and the nearby small airfield that eventually became Hollywood-Fort Lauderdale International Airport.





*St. Anthony School Bus. Broward County Historical Commission.*

Also included as part of the book are lists with short biographies about students called to service in the Catholic Church and famous students, supporters and parishioners. The latter list includes politicians, sports stars, actors and business leaders that are easily recognizable to the community at large.

Throughout the book, the photographs and illustrations give an excellent pictorial overview of the church and school and include formal and more candid pictures of key stakeholders, students and parishioners responsible for the development and ultimate success of both of these facilities.

Certainly this book has great significance to anyone who ever attended the church or school as well as those persons that are currently involved with Saint Anthony. Additionally, anyone interested in the overall history of Fort Lauderdale and the greater South Florida community will find reading the



*Aerial View of St. Anthony Church and School. Photograph by Anthony Kozla*

narrative and reviewing the pictures from *Pioneer Parish: Saint Anthony Broward's First Catholic Church* a valuable experience. For those interested in obtaining a copy, this book is available for sale at Well Read Book Store on 17th Street Causeway in Fort Lauderdale and on Amazon.com. It is also available from the church.

Contact Information:  
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Administrative Assistant  
Saint Anthony Catholic Church  
901 N.E. 2nd Street,  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
954-463-4614



11/21/2017  
R-3 Provided by  
William Knott

**Jeff Modarelli**

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**From:** Jeff Modarelli  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:01 AM  
**To:** Jeff Modarelli  
**Subject:** FW: First Evangelical Lutheran Church

**From:** Bill Knott <[wknott3@gmail.com](mailto:wknott3@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** February 20, 2017 at 9:12:44 PM EST  
**To:** Bruce Roberts <[BRoberts@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:BRoberts@fortlauderdale.gov)>, Dean Trantalis <[dtrantalis@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:dtrantalis@fortlauderdale.gov)>, Jack Seiler <[jack.seiler@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:jack.seiler@fortlauderdale.gov)>, Robert McKinzie <[RMckinzie@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:RMckinzie@fortlauderdale.gov)>, Robert Mondelli <[mondo40@aol.com](mailto:mondo40@aol.com)>, "Romney Rogers" <[RRogers@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:RRogers@fortlauderdale.gov)>, Scott Wyman <[swyman@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:swyman@fortlauderdale.gov)>  
**Cc:** Doug Simpkins <[dsimpkin10@yahoo.com](mailto:dsimpkin10@yahoo.com)>, Itay Avital <[Itay@tahoinv.com](mailto:Itay@tahoinv.com)>  
**Subject:** First Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 20, 2017

Gentlemen,

I currently serve as Interim Pastor at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, hereafter "First Church," at 441 NE 3 AVE in Fort Lauderdale, a location I am certain you are currently acquainted with.

In the process of working through the request for historical designation for the church's property, I am simply hopeful that you will keep in mind these points:

- First Church is not a dying church, it is a changing church and in spite of our First Amendment protection a group of individuals is asking you to interfere in the free exercise of our mission and ministry.
- Throughout this entire process not a single representative of the City of Fort Lauderdale has made any effort whatsoever to reach out to First Church to discuss, confirm, or verify the accuracy of the statements being made by the petitioner and his registered agent, who have misrepresented themselves and their intentions in this matter.
- Not one person at the Historical Board's original meeting who spoke in favor of the historical designation is a supporting or participating member of this congregation, its mission and ministry.

- o The buyer/developer has acted in good faith and continues to do so, carefully measuring the real historical value of the property, working closely with our city officials and balancing same against the unreasonable expectations of the petitioners.
- o The single question to be determined here is the historical designation of the property as presented or amended by you, our commissioners. There is a lovely city park within one block of First Church. There are more than a half-dozen churches within walking distance of the First Church site, some of whom share their founding in the Fort Lauderdale boom of the 1920's.
- o Arguably, the only true historical piece on this property is the façade from the former St. Anthony's Catholic Church, which would have been demolished by the Catholics to provide for their new building but was sold to First Church for \$1 and moved stone by stone – not the entire structure as some might allege,
- o If anyone other than our buyer wants to preserve the façade, they are welcome to have it and move it for the simple cost of \$1. The continuing congregation of First Church, however, will retain the rights to the proprietary use or disposal of their equipment, appurtenances, and other material items as they see fit.

Thank-you for taking the time to review these points and providing them due consideration. And, thank-you for your service to our city which, too, is changing.

William H. Knott

Interim Pastor, First Church, Fort Lauderdale  
 Pastor, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Fort Lauderdale

Dean, Broward-Bahamas Conference  
 Florida-Bahamas Synod  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



† FIRST †  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

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ERECTED 1947-1948  
CONGREGATION ORGANIZED 1924







FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SS



CHURCHES OF  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
FLORIDA

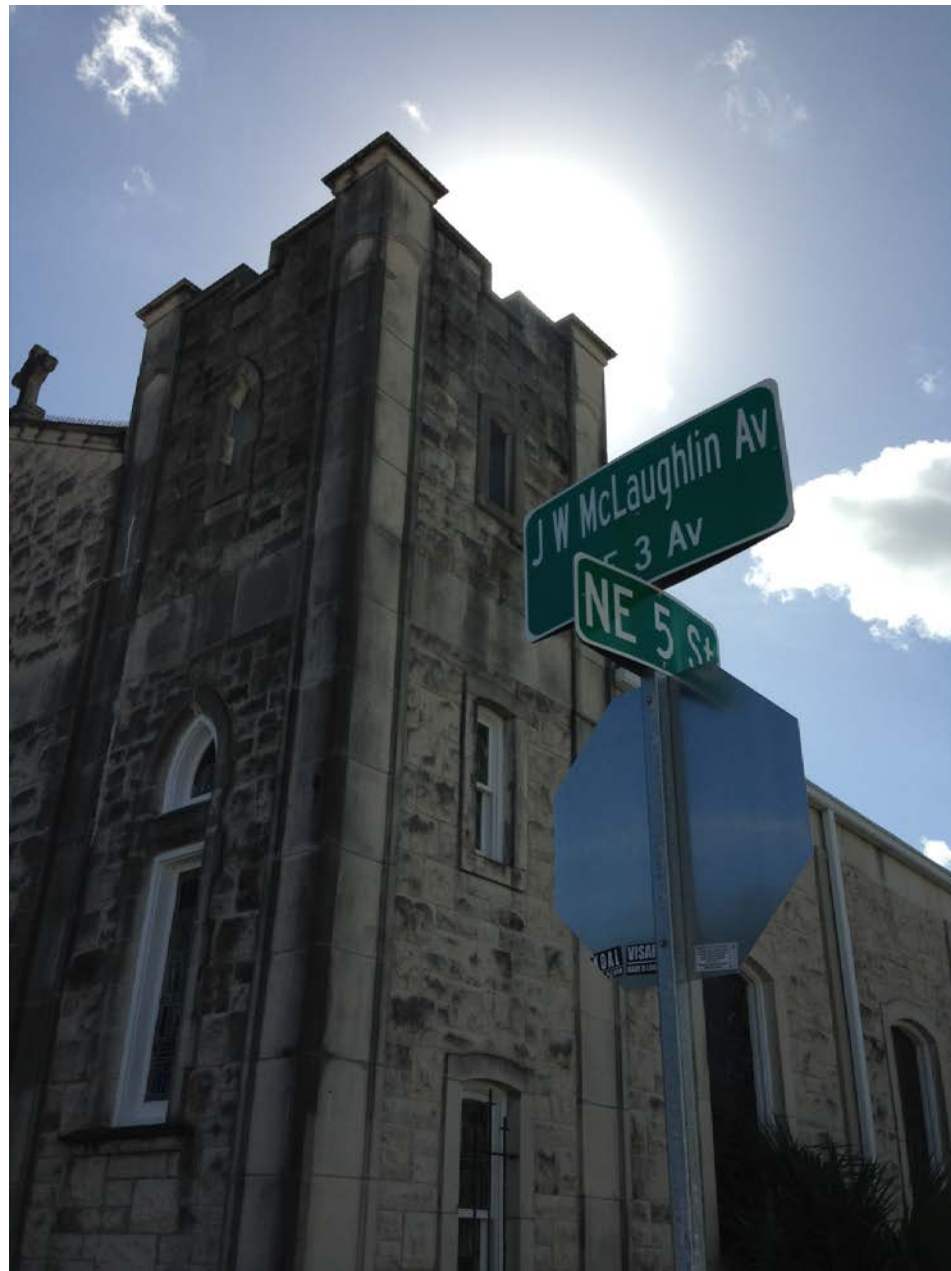
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH













# NORTH FLORIDA ROCK

850-762-4315  
5160 Vermont Road













2/24/2017 R-3  
Submitted by Courtney  
Crush

