

City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
www.fortlauderdale.gov*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

1:30 PM

City Commission Conference Room

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

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

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

Meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Mayor Seiler on February 16, 2016.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

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

Quorum Established

Also Present: Assistant City Manager Stanley Hawthorne, City Auditor John Herbst, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Cynthia A. Everett and Sergeant At Arms Jeffrey Newman

No public comments were submitted by email for this meeting.

Events and Matters of Interest

The Mayor and members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and may raise matters of interest or concern.

Mayor Seiler and the entire Commission specifically recognized the success of Neighborhood Support Night held on Thursday, February 11th acknowledging the City Staff's great job.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Crime Issues

Commissioner Rogers stated a constituent had expressed his frustration when trying to communicate details regarding the theft of his vessel in a marine repair facility off State Road 84 because a detective had not yet been assigned to the case. Commissioner Rogers recommended having an email address to forward specific details and information surrounding a crime such as pictures and video for use with the All-Points Bulletin issued. The more information authorities have the more effective the search. Commissioner Rogers also stated his constituent was frustrated that there is no telephone information for the Marine Patrol on the City's website, and he was unable to notify them of the situation or forward the pictures and video. The victim was told he could not call the Marine Patrol directly. City Manager Feldman noted he would add a contact number on the City's website for the Marine Patrol.

Regarding other crime issues, Commissioner Rogers was asked by Ms. Marilyn Mammano, President of the Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, if there was a platform for neighborhood civic associations to become involved in the Juvenile Justice issue. City Manager Feldman noted City Staff will be updating the Commission at the second City Commission Conference Meeting in March. City Staff is currently working with the Department of Justice (DOJ) personnel who made their presentation at the City Commission's Juvenile Justice Workshop on January 20, 2016. At the second meeting in March, the Commission will be given an outline of what the next steps will be, what the DOJ will bring to the table in terms of resources and what the City will need to bring to the table.

Regarding 911 issues, Commissioner Rogers and Roberts noted the evaluation of the Regional 911

Communications System on February 17, 2015 encouraging public input via call-ins and emails to provide comments.

Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport Noise

Commissioner Rogers asked if any progress has been made in addressing the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport landing and takeoff variances in terms of the cone. Ryan Henderson, Assistant to City Manager Feldman, addressed the Commission noting he had spoken to Mr. Jeff Ames of the Lauderdale Isles Neighborhood who brought Mr. Henderson up to speed on the issue. Mr. Henderson told Mr. Ames the City had spoken to its lobbyist and the lobbyist is working to put together a meeting here with the Federal Aviation Association (FAA) to address the issue. Mr. Ames had concerns regarding whether the FAA is coming to offer solutions or just listen. Commissioner Rogers asked for an update as to when this meeting will take place.

Water Rate Usage

Commissioner Roberts raised the issue of complaints he has received about spikes in water rate usage noting City Staff has been very responsive to working with individuals on this topic. Commissioner Roberts stated that some of the spiking usages are from large operations and indications are, after checking for leaks in the system, something else is causing the spikes. Commissioner Roberts had two examples: One of his constituents received a bill for using 39,000 gallons of water and a normal bill was 2,000 – 3,000 gallons of water. Commissioner Roberts stated a proactive plan needs to be in place to address these individual types of aberrations using both discretion and judgment. Further discussions ensued among on this topic.

Dixie Highway Improvements

Commissioner Trantalis discussed the death of a bicyclist on Dixie Highway by a hit and run driver which brought attention to what the City is doing on Dixie Highway to include items such as defined bicycle lanes. His constituents are concerned as to when the construction will begin. Mayor Seiler noted it is a State project and bad information is being given to the media on this subject indicating the City is pushing it back when this is not the case. City Manager Feldman noted the project is 60 percent designed and is to be let for construction with work beginning in December 2016. Further discussion ensued on this matter noting neighborhood input delayed the design phase for a short time.

Code Enforcement

Commissioner Trantalis asked if the City was staffed up to handle the enforcement of the vacation rental ordinance passed in November 2015 noting he is receiving complaints. City Manager Feldman stated the City is in the process of registering and has done inspections noting not many have complied. Jenni Morejon, Sustainable Development, noted 96 applications have been received, but only 15 certificates have been issued, 45 are ready for inspection (done on a weekly basis), and 36 are on hold due to the need for pending additional information. City Manager Feldman stated approximately 100 vacation rentals have not yet begun the process and the City is citing accordingly. City Manager Feldman confirmed adequate City Staff exists to enforce this ordinance. Further discussions ensued on this topic including Mayor Seiler's questions as to the possibility of incentives being put in place to encourage registration in a timely manner.

Vice-Mayor McKinzie asked City Manager Feldman the number of Code Enforcement personnel in that department. Jenni Morejon stated approximately 16 and would confirm this number noting some hires were filling other existing vacancies. Vice-Mayor McKinzie stated he has received phone calls from his constituents on various code violations which said he will give to City Manager Feldman for follow-up. He noted his report contained the same issues relating to code issues that have existed from day one. Vice-Mayor McKinzie stated there is still a challenge regarding communications among those reporting

violations and code enforcement communicating to the violators noting the need for consistency. Vice-Mayor McKinzie cited a specific incident regarding box trucks in his District that continues unabated. Further discussions ensued on this topic.

Police Substations

Commissioner Trantalis stated the Police Substations located on Sistrunk and 13th Street are currently not staffed even though people are led to believe there is activity. Vice-Mayor McKinzie concurred with Commissioner Trantalis stating his constituents complain about the Sistrunk Police Substation not being operational. Commissioner Trantalis expressed to City Manager Feldman that it would behoove the City to activate those substations. Commissioner Roberts suggested staffing them with other police activities by reallocating police office space. Mayor Seiler suggested Commissioner Roberts meeting with Chief Adderley to come up with a recommendation to City Manager Feldman and the Commission. Further discussions ensued on this topic.

Las Olas Marina Bids

Commissioner Trantalis asked City Manager Feldman for an update regarding the Las Olas Marina bids. City Manager Feldman stated this item will be on the Commission's March 1, 2016 Agenda asking the Commission to reopen the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Further discussions on the entire bid process, the role of CBRE, and possible rent abatement, which was not contemplated in the original RFP, ensued.

City Arts Advisory Board

Commissioner Trantalis noted he heard from Claire Vickory requesting the City start a City Arts Advisory Board. Ms. Vickory indicated there are funding sources and grant opportunities available for a City Arts Advisory Board suggesting the Commission create an advisory board that would review opportunities that may come before the Commission to install art throughout the City. City Manager Feldman noted the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan will have an art in public place component to make recommendations to move forward on this issue and will be drafted for review during the Commission's first meeting in April 2016. The City's Priority Action Plan was discussed among the Commission.

City Commission Meeting Format

Commissioner Trantalis raised the issue of City Commission Meetings going late into the night such as the one held February 2, 2016 regarding Bahia Mar Project. Commissioner Trantalis stated they were not a good idea as it cuts people off from participating due to the late hour. Additionally, having deliberations until 4:00 a.m. in the morning interferes with the process. Commissioner Trantalis recommended other options that would make more sense for all concerned. Discussions ensued on this topic among the Commission.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 16-0004 Emergency Purchases - 20 Inch Diameter Water Main Failure at 1961 East Sunrise Boulevard - \$75,764

Mayor Seiler asked if there were any questions or a comment noting the cost was high. City Manager Feldman stated this item was related to the Christmas Day water main break. City Manager Feldman also stated the contractor does the restoration of the State road system, and the City did do the

excavation and repair of the pipe in-house. The State has particular Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) issues relating to this item.

CF-2 16-0210 South Side School Update

Commissioner Rogers asked City Manager Feldman to be sure everything for this item is in order to ensure timeliness. City Manager Feldman stated the City is looking at March 1, 2016 to have the deduction change order on the agenda and the shovel hitting the dirt shortly after that.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 16-0177 Discussion Regarding the Local Government Infrastructure and Charter County and Regional Transportation System Discretionary Sales Surtaxes

Commissioner Roberts and City Manager Feldman both attended the County Commission Workshop discussing the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) proposal for a split transportation infrastructure surtax noting the County Commission seems poised to move forward with transportation surtax. The outstanding question is what portion, if any, would be dedicated back to the municipalities for operation, maintenance, and capital in addition to any restrictions on those funds. The County Commission appointed Commissioner Ryan to be the negotiator on behalf of the County and the matter will come back before the County Commission in March in the form of a Workshop. Further discussions ensued on this topic including the possibility of the program having an Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) that would be negotiated with the municipalities. The County would have the discretion in the ILA of a formula based on a designated criterion such as population. Should a municipality not spend the allocated funds, it would go back into the fund. City Manager Feldman noted the County needed municipal "buy in" to ensure there is an effective outreach program to voters for approval via a referendum. Further discussions ensued on this item regarding the transportation surtax being in the best interests of the City versus an infrastructure tax that had more flexibility and greater revenue for the municipalities.

BUS-2 16-0222 Wave Streetcar Agency Role Change and Funding Discussion

City Manager Feldman stated the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) had agreed to take over the administration of the final design and construction of the Wave Streetcar Project that will be the City's downtown circulator. City Manager Feldman stated FDOT said if they are going to do this, however, they want to make sure there is local participation in the funding gap and the potential cost overruns for the project. Additionally, after a review by FDOT and the County undertaken jointly, the cost associated with the project is at \$195,000,000 including a 15% contingency based on a 2020 delivery. Currently, there is \$170,200,000 worth of funding including the previous City's contributions. This funding gap would be shared by FDOT and would look towards the County to commit the funding the remaining 50%. The County, in turn, would look to the City and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to share the remaining 50%. City Manager Feldman detailed the City's sources of funding for this project. City Auditor John Herbst gave his input regarding the City possibly establishing a reserve for this project. Further discussions ensued on this item.

Steve Cook, 708 SW 16th Court, addressed the Commission raising the point of possibly requesting the project being set for one-year out regarding funds being collected from the assessment. Mr. Cook stated that setting it out to 2020 would cause the residents to pay a special assessment for eight years prior to completion. Discussions on this point ensued.

BUS-3 16-0148 Sustainable Development Informational Presentation

Jenni Morejon, Director Department of Sustainable Development, addressed the Commission introducing John Travers, Building Official with the Department of Sustainable Development. Ms. Morejon also introduced other staff members of the Building Division including Mr. Andre Cross, Business Assistance Coordinator, formerly from Code Compliance; Mr. Mark Liebowitz, Permit Services Manager, Ms. Nicole Evans, from the ICMA, assisting with the data development.

Mr. Travers noted components of the Wave the Commission may find of interest. He said with the expansion of The Wave eventually going to Port Everglades and the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, it may be seen as a means for this public transportation to step up to a public transportation evacuation method. As such, they have been looking at the maintenance building for The Wave and the possibility of the City classifying it as Category 4 Building from its inception. This would mean elevating it and building the walls stronger for wind force, etc., enabling it to sustain flooding and wind events. Regarding overhead lines on the Wave and under the current system the City is looking at, the arm that comes up off of the cars, the pantograph, will disengage from those wires as The Wave Streetcars cross the river running on battery and then come back up and reconnect on the other side of the river for power.

Mr. Travers gave the Commission a presentation on the Department of Sustainable Development's Building Division.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

16-0266 The City Commission will meet privately pursuant to Florida Statute, Section 286.011(8) concerning:

Lynn Andreozzi v. City of Fort Lauderdale Case No. 15-001223 (05)

*Fort Lauderdale Food Not Bombs, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale
Case No. 15-60185-CIV-Zloch*

*George Goodridge v. City of Fort Lauderdale Case No. 14-004597
(25)*

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BD-1 16-0217 Board and Committee Vacancies

Please see Regular Meeting Item R-1.

BD-2 16-0218 Communications to the City Commission

Maureen Dinnen, 622 SW 15th Street, and former college teacher and member of the Education Advisory Board (EAB) addressed the Commission. Ms. Dinnen noted the EAB is in strong opposition to Senate Bill 68/House Bill 4001 regarding removing the provision prohibiting concealed carry licensees from openly carrying handgun or carrying a concealed weapon or firearm into college or university facility. Ms. Dinnen noted her special concern for the City of Fort Lauderdale's dual enrolled students. Ms. Dinnen stated this legislation has cleared the Florida State House and is currently stalled in the Judiciary Committee. Ms. Dinnen noted the importance of protecting the students and the need to oppose the carrying of any guns on college campuses in Florida colleges and universities. The Commission concurred with the EAB's opposition.

Mayor Seiler discussed the Sustainability Advisory Board's communication recommending to the Commission the promoting of more recycling as it relates to clothing and waste. Building drop off sites and bins at City events for clothing recycling were discussed.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

None.

There being no further business before the Commission, Mayor Seiler adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
BUILDING SERVICES
DIVISION



Presentation Preview

- State of Permitting Activity
- Implemented Process Improvements
- Improvements on the Horizon

John Travers, Building Official

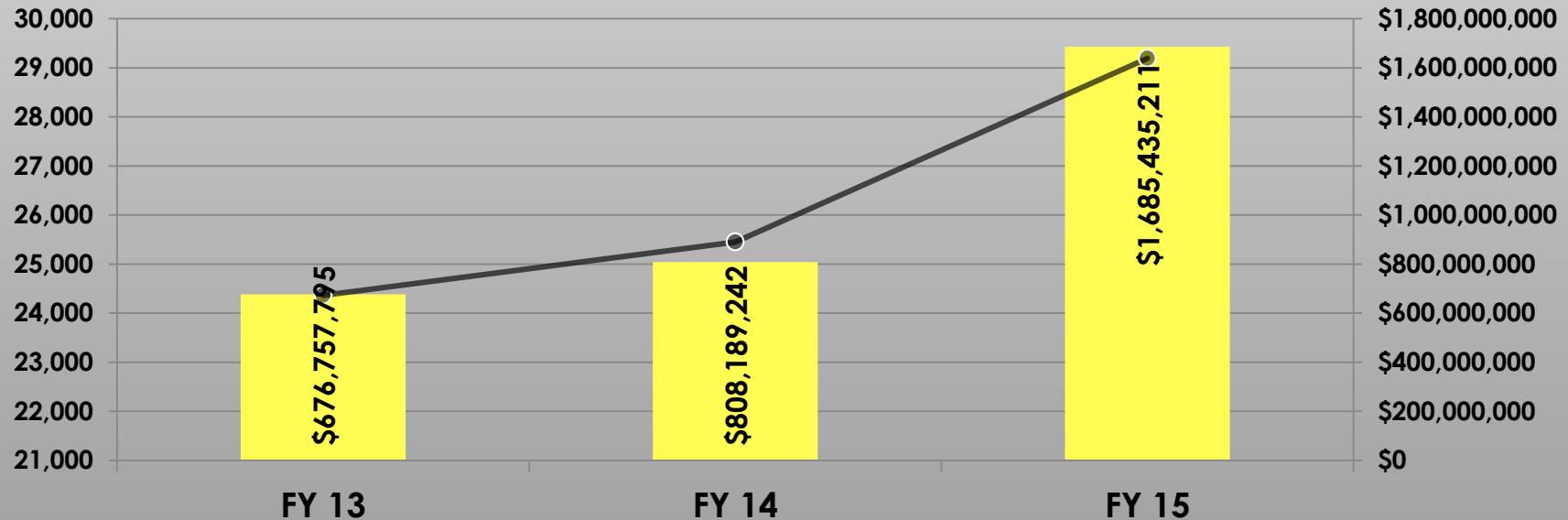


DEPARTMENT OF
**Sustainable
Development**

No Slowing Down

Permit Application Counts and Values by Fiscal Year

Job Value of Permit Apps Number of Permit Apps



Competition for Resources

Filled FTEs

70%

Vacant Approved Contract Temps

18%

7%

5%

- Full Time Employees: 60
- Contracted Employees: 6
- Temporary Employees: 4
- **Vacant Approved Positions: 15**

***Healthy vacancy rate is roughly 10%*



Performance Indicators

FIRST QUARTER DATA

Permits Issued



FY 16: 6,424
FY 15: 6,205
FY 14: 5,522

Plan Reviews – Multiple Disciplines



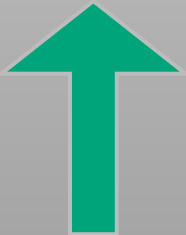
FY 16: 22,839
FY 15: 17,838
FY 14: 15,671

Permit Applications



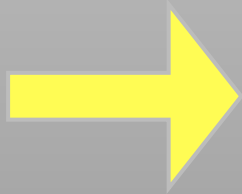
FY 16: 7,246
FY 15: 6,111
FY 14: 5,589

Turnaround Time



FY 16: 34.1 Days
FY 15: 27.5 Days
FY 14: 29.0 Days

Field Inspections



FY 16: 24,738
FY 15: 24,237
FY 14: 24,227

Application Values


Held Steady from 15 to 16

FY 16: \$199,360,690
FY 15: \$201,671,538
FY 14: \$145,615,738

Performance Indicators

Permits Applied

FY 2014 : 5,589
FY 2015: 6,111
FY 2016: 7,246



**12% average increase
among quarters**

Valuation

FY 2014 : \$145,615,738
FY 2015: \$201,671,538
FY 2016: \$199,360,690



**Holding at 13% average
increase from 2014**



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Performance Indicators

Permits Issued

FY 2014 : 5,522
FY 2015: 6,205
FY 2016: 6,424

7% average increase

Turnaround Time

FY 2014 : 29.0 days
FY 2015: 27.5 days
FY 2016: 34.1 days

15% overall increase



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Performance Indicators

- ▣ Permit Complexity
- ▣ Staffing Challenges
- ▣ Building Code Changes



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Performance Indicators

Plan Reviews

FY 2014 : 15,671

FY 2015: 17,838

FY 2016: 22,839

**17% average increase
among quarters**

Field Inspections

FY 2014 : 24,738

FY 2015: 24,237

FY 2016: 24,227

**1% average increase
among quarters**



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Performance Indicators

Calls Presented

FY 2015: 23,700

FY 2016: 25,632

8% increase

Lobby Traffic

FY 2015: 550 (visitors per day)

FY 2016: 645

15% increase



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Process Improvements Implemented

- ❑ NEMO-Q Improvements
- ❑ Express Lane
- ❑ R.F.I.D
- ❑ Flood Plain Manager & Plan Review
- ❑ New Eco-Friendly Vehicles
- ❑ Change of BSD hours of operation
- ❑ DSD Neighbor Survey



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Kiosk Improvements

- Additional information has been added to help clarify the initial permit intake process
- A handicap accessible electronic kiosk has been installed to allow neighbors in wheelchairs to easily navigate the permit process



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Permit Express Lane

- ❑ Corrections drop off/pick up
- ❑ Revision submittal
- ❑ Permit payment/pick up
- ❑ Print/Reprinting permits
- ❑ Replacing TBD subs
- ❑ Contractor license updates
- ❑ Notary Services



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R.F.I.D. Radio Frequency Identification



- Has drastically decreased the time it takes to locate a permit
- New Quality Assurance process incorporated into tagging



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New Hybrid Fleet

- All vehicles have been mobilized, laptop stands have been installed
- Gas consumption in January was **29% less than last year** (data provided from Fleet)



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Operating Hours & Exit Surveys



- ▣ Standardized the lobby hours from 8:00a to 4:00p
- ▣ Allows clerks to spend 4:00-4:30 closing out their daily workload and reconciling their transactions
- ▣ We conduct an online exit survey for neighbors that use our services. This allows us to respond to issues directly related to our service performance.



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Improvements On The Horizon

- ❑ Digital Plan Review
- ❑ City Website Permit Information
- ❑ Lobby Renovations
- ❑ Filling Vacancies



Digital Plan Review

- ❑ As we move from our current Land Development Program (LDP) to the new LDP, digital review will become a reality
- ❑ This must be a phased project to ensure seamless transition
- ❑ Turning the desktop into an active work screen



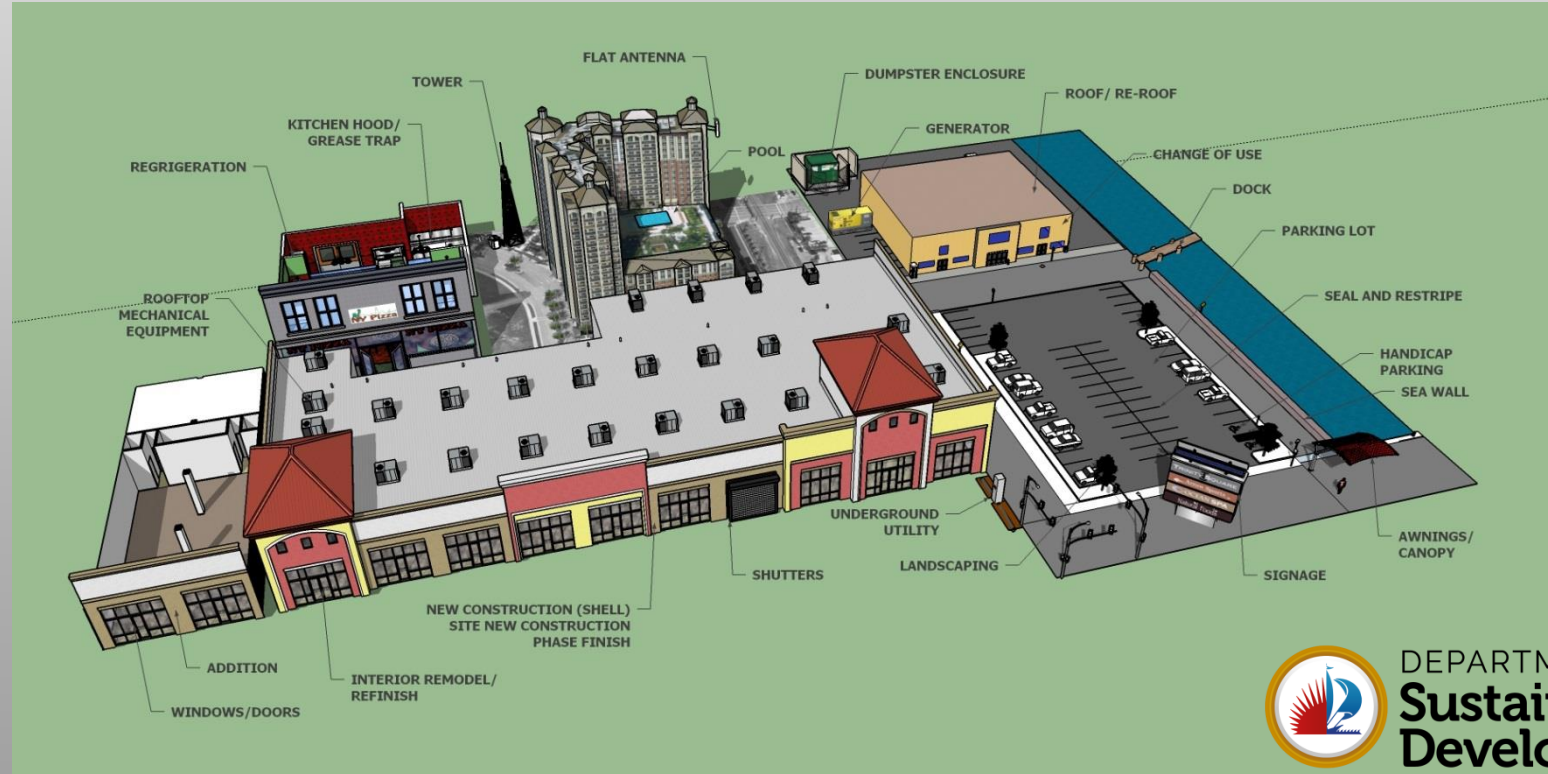
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Interactive Website - Residential



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Interactive Website - Commercial



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Facility Improvements

Remodeling the Lobby area of DSD to make better use of underutilized floor space and provide a dedicated cashier area



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Recruiting & Hiring

- Ten vacant technical positions in current budget
 - Assistant Building Official
 - Chief Mechanical Inspector
 - Senior Plans Examiner
 - Building Inspector
 - Plumbing Inspector
 - Plumbing Plans Examiner
 - Structural Plans Examiner (x2)
 - Flood Plain Development Review Specialist
 - Electrical Inspector
- Remaining vacancies for administrative support





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Building Division - Working smarter with the right tools and training!

DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING SERVICES
DIVISION

Thank you!