

City of Fort Lauderdale

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

1:30 PM

City Commission Conference Room

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

***DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor
ROBERT L. McKINZIE Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III
HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I
STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II
BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV***

***CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk
ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney***

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, Deputy City Manager Rob Hernandez, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau, City Auditor John Herbst and Sergeant at Arms Luan Malushi

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the City Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed community concerns and information being commented on nationally regarding sewer breaks and water testing results for the body of water in George English Park. She commented on the possibility of State and Federal assistance.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed discussions with Jared Moskowitz, Director of Florida's Division of Emergency Management, regarding State assistance, stating Mr. Moskowitz would advise. He concurred with Commissioner Moraitis' concerns. This topic could be addressed during Agenda Item BUS-1 entitled *Discussions of 2020 Federal Legislative Priorities and Funding Requests for the City*. Further comment and discussion ensued on infrastructure concerns in other areas of the State.

Commissioner Moraitis said she would welcome the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) coming down to assist with environmental clean-up efforts, noting her perspective regarding funding assistance. She discussed the importance of working with all experts in the field to clean up the waterways, confirming it is a top Commission priority. Commissioner Moraitis thanked Staff for updated information illustrating water quality she shares with constituents, noting the need to be as transparent as possible and informing everyone on mitigation efforts.

Vice Mayor McKinzie arrived at 1:38 p.m.

City Manager Lagerbloom expounded on interaction with FDEP Staff in Tallahassee and Palm Beach County. Efforts are ongoing with FDEP to develop and permit a plan for the body of water at George English Park. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom

explained options for cleanup efforts, citing examples and noting the body of water in George English Park does not have adequate tidal exchange. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed he would advise the Commission of discussions with State regulators.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed a scope of work similar to Tarpon River was written for the body of water at George English Park and work is ongoing. Further comment and discussion ensued on environmental cleanup efforts and the timeline.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding remedies in addition to dredging, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed there are additional remedies to increase flow through the body of water at George English Park, citing examples that include flushing activities.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding water testing, City Manager Lagerbloom explained there are currently nine (9) water testing sites, expounding on related details. In coordination with the FDEP, Water Recreation Advisories would be lifted when appropriate. He explained discussions with the FDEP District IV Director regarding fines and other regulatory penalties.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding spending fine amounts on repairs and infrastructure needs, City Manager Lagerbloom commented on his perspective based upon the conversation with the FDEP District IV Director. He confirmed he would pursue efforts to negotiate investing fines into the infrastructure system.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding communications with the Governor's Office, City Manager Lagerbloom explained discussions with the Governor's Chief of Staff on infrastructure efforts, confirming they have been updated. Commissioner Sorensen recommended City Manager Lagerbloom update the Governor's Chief of Staff weekly. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained his perception that State officials are confident Staff is working to repair the infrastructure system and prevent future discharge, expounding on efforts to date and related details.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained two possible paths for the new pipeline off of Sunrise Boulevard, expounding on related details. When a determination is made, he will report to the Commission. Further

comment and discussion ensued on ongoing pipeline work in District I. Vice Mayor McKinzie noted any backflow work involving fire hydrants should adhere to requirements in the existing Ordinance.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on the need to address national news coverage regarding inaccurate reporting on drinking water. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed, stating there is no correlation between the sewer line and water line systems. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on his perspective.

Commissioner Glassman announced a Government Services Administration (GSA) Meeting tonight, February 18, 2020 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at the Broward County (County) Main Library. The topic of discussion will be a new Federal Courthouse and the GSA will be presenting three (3) locations to the public.

Commissioner Glassman said the Downtown Master Plan calls for open space on the *One Stop Shop* location (Site). In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the status of plans for the Site, including demolition, irrigation and sod, Luisa Agathon, Senior Assistant to the City Manager, confirmed demolition and interaction with the GSA regarding environmental items. There is a hold regarding installation of sod until a decision is made regarding the location of the Federal Courthouse.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the possible timeline for a GSA decision and discussions with Flagler Village residents regarding a *soft* activation of the Site until a decision is made. City Manager Lagerbloom concurred, noting that should this Site be selected for a Federal building, an agreement between the City and GSA would not be in place until 2022 at the earliest. Commissioner Glassman said neighborhoods in and around this area would like to do programming at the Site, recommending Staff move forward.

Commissioner Sorensen inquired if Staff had contemplated managing individuals that might populate in this area. City Manager Lagerbloom said it would be addressed in the same manner as other open greenspace areas, operating within current parameters. City Attorney Alain Boileau explained limitations during the day, noting it could be fenced and closed at night. Further discussion ensued on this topic.

Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on the impact of the County placing security guards at the bus terminal. He noted blight and the lack of maintenance at parking lots adjacent to *Brightline Railway* and explained

related history and details. Owners of the parking lots should address these concerns. Vice Mayor McKinzie discussed issues related to homelessness in this area, expounding on details. Mayor Trantalis noted homelessness is on the Agenda for further discussion.

Commission Glassman echoed comments made by Commissioner Moraitis regarding infrastructure communications, confirming requests from residents to have an inclusive and easy way to find and view all infrastructure related information on the City website.

Commissioner Glassman requested a conversation with City Manager Lagerbloom regarding the *Himmarshee Entertainment District*, commenting on a recent armed robbery in that area. He acknowledged the upcoming Spring Break season and the need to discuss Special Entertainment Districts and efforts to address open drinking containers and hours of operation.

Commissioner Glassman commented on reading about the Inter Miami Soccer Team entering into a major sponsorship with Qatar Airways (Sponsorship), owned and operated by the nation-state of Qatar. He commented on his perspective regarding Qatar not representing the values of South Florida, including Jewish and LGBT populations. Commissioner Glassman suggested a conversation with representatives of Inter Miami. City Attorney Boileau commented on his legal perspective, citing examples, discussing naming rights and the need for additional information. He confirmed the need to open a dialogue with Inter Miami to determine the nature of the Sponsorship. Commissioner Glassman concurred.

Mayor Trantalis concurred with Commissioner Glassman's comments, expounding on his perspective and remarking that interaction with other cultures could result in a softening of controversial views and commenting on a similar sponsorship at the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament. He agreed City Attorney Boileau should pursue additional information.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on survey work to address environmental concerns in the impacted area Tarpon River, beginning on February 24, 2020 and core drilling work expected to begin on March 3, 2020. City Manager Lagerbloom noted it is debris removal work, not dredging.

In response to Vice Mayor McKinzie's question, City Manager Lagerbloom said a permit would be sought to remove debris. Further comment ensued. Raj Verma, Director of Public Works, explained

aspects of the permit application process. A permit application for debris removal, not involving dredging, would be completed and submitted and an exemption would be issued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained the contractual process moving forward. There are multiple contracts in place with environmental companies. E-Sciences, Inc., (E-Sciences) is the vendor that will move forward with debris removal. Mr. Verma explained details related to this work, including coordination with the County. Timelines going forward are dependent on testing results. City Manager Lagerbloom noted FDEP's favorable response to the contracted vendor, E-Sciences.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding water quality testing, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the Department of Public Works - Sustainability is putting together a proposal. He will make a recommendation to the Commission following its review based upon what is required, scope of work and cost. Mr. Verma confirmed this process has begun, explaining that Staff is working with the County. He discussed the condition of all County waterbodies and impacted waterbodies in the City, expounding on details, causes and challenges. Mr. Verma confirmed ongoing conversations with the County regarding increasing the frequency and locations of water testing. Further comment ensued. In response to Vice Mayor McKinzie's question, Mr. Verma expounded on details regarding water testing samples in the body of water at George English Park. Further comment ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on discussions with City Manager Lagerbloom regarding plans to revamp the City website, recommending quick access to infrastructure and water-quality information. Comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on his perspective regarding tasking Staff with changing systems in place. Commissioner Glassman noted that this request is to tweak and improve the current system.

Commissioner Sorensen noted his desire to increase engagement with federal elected officials on topics including airport noise, infrastructure, etc., inquiring about the process. Mayor Trantalis noted the ability to meet with federal elected officials in their local district offices. Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on the ability and benefits of working in conjunction with City federal lobbyists to ease logistical aspects of meeting with representatives on Capitol Hill. Commissioner Moraitis suggested involvement with National League of Cities and its collective visits to Washington, DC to advocate on issues. Further comment

ensued. Commission Moraitis noted the opportunity for Commissioner Sorensen to represent the City at the upcoming National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, March 8-11, 2020 in Washington, DC.

[20-0196](#)

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

***Education Advisory Board (EAB)
January 30, 2020***

Motion by Mr. Relyea, seconded by Ms. Coetzee, that the Board advises the City Commission to pass a Resolution indicating City standards are for all schools to achieve A and B and achieve learning gains. Motion passed unanimously in a voice vote.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jennifer Lovell, EAB Member. Ms. Lovell explained the communication and recommendation to use learning gains as indicators of student achievement. She confirmed Broward County School Board (School Board) Superintendent Robert W. Runcie and the School Board support this recommendation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding how the EAB envisions a City resolution, Ms. Lovell explained the concept. It is an existing School Board metric and a way to advertise to the public of annual learning gains.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding whether the City currently advertises Broward County Public School rankings, Ms. Lovell explained the advantages of learning gains versus school rankings. Vice Mayor McKinzie noted that this is public information, expounding on his perspective.

Commissioner Moraitis confirmed her support of sharing, disseminating and celebrating whatever information the School Board wishes to provide. She recommended the School Board provide this information to the Commission for sharing. Vice Mayor McKinzie expounded on his perspective.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer and EAB Liaison. Ms. Saunders explained the EAB was looking to the City to establish a Resolution setting standards, expounding on details.

Vice Mayor McKinzie suggested recognizing schools during the presentation portion of Commission Meetings. Commissioner

Glassman recommended doing both a Resolution and school recognition at a Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Sorensen reviewed the concept and aspects of learning gains as a measurement of student progress, recommending the EAB develop what would be included in a Resolution, incorporating details and reasoning that would be used for further discussion.

Ms. Saunders suggested the Commission consider submitting an expression of support for goals set forth by Broward County Public Schools. This would showcase City efforts to improve the quality of education in an effort to attain a collective impact through the leveraging assets and resources of both the City and Broward County Public Schools.

Commissioner Moraitis reiterated her recommendation that it is the responsibility of the School Board to provide information regarding learning gains and related information to communicate to the City for sharing. Ms. Lovell confirmed the School Board is measuring this metric. Further comment ensued.

Commissioner Glassman confirmed his support of a resolution, noting the need for it to be more specific.

COMPLETE COUNT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)

February 11, 2020

The Complete Count Advisory Committee requests the following of the Commission:

- that the Commission pass a proclamation at the March 17th Commission meeting at 6pm designating the month of April to be Census Participation Month, and*
- the Commission wear Census apparel (shirts, buttons, etc.) to the Commission meeting, place the Census banner on the dais (which shall be left up for the full month April) and have a commission member or committee member be given time to express the importance of completing the Census and ask that the Commission promise to complete their Census.*

Motion made by Ann Mihaiu, seconded by David Brown. In a voice

vote, the motion unanimously passed.

Mayor Trantalis recognized David Brown, CCAC member. Mr. Brown reviewed the CCAC communication regarding maximizing participation in the Census by all residents. Each person counted earns the City \$1,450 to \$1,500 annually for the next ten (10) years. The CCAC will draft a resolution for Commission approval. There was Commission consensus.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [20-0096](#)

Discussion Regarding 2020 Federal Legislative Priorities and Funding Requests for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Maurice Kurlander, Partner, Alcalde & Fay, Ltd. (Alcalde). Mr. Kurlander presented the City's *2020 Federal Legislative Priorities and Funding Requests*, commenting on a meeting earlier today with City Manager Lagerbloom and Department Heads regarding various issues and Alcalde monitoring infrastructure related items.

Mr. Kurlander commented on the federal budget allocation for infrastructure. Mayor Trantalis noted his understanding of the 2020 White House Budget focus on transportation infrastructure funding and the focus of Congressional Democrats on sea level rise and climate change infrastructure. There is a need for funding all aspects of infrastructure, noting below ground infrastructure has not been discussed. Mr. Kurlander concurred, expounding on details. Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on his perspective and funding sources for below ground utility infrastructure.

Mr. Kurlander explained there is no direct funding source for water infrastructure. Current policy directs Federal funds to the State level. Municipalities fund water related infrastructure through bonds, rate payers and the State Revolving Loan Fund Partners (SRLFP). The City's positive financial position allows it to get better rates via bond issuance versus SRLFP rates. Mr. Kurlander confirmed the need to advise Congressional representatives that SRLFP funding does not work for the City.

Mr. Kurlander explained options:

The Environmental Infrastructure Program, a/k/a Section 219, available through the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) authorizes the ACE to

assist non-Federal interests in carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects. A project would need to be included and authorized in the next biennial Water Development Resources Act as an ACE Environmental Quality Project.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funds flow through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) down to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The WIFIA program accelerates investment in national water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for significant regional and national water projects. This option only provides up to forty-nine percent (49%) of a project.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the prolonged application process. Mr. Kurlander concurred, suggesting the use of these options as a long-term strategy to address water infrastructure needs and obtain authorizations for future use.

Mr. Kurlander explained the tool for earmarking individual projects within legislation did not move forward in Congress. Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective. Municipalities are on their own for below ground water-related infrastructure funding. Discussions ensued on the current water-related infrastructure situation being at a crisis level. Mr. Kurlander confirmed his firm would pursue an application for *ACE Section 219* to address future water-infrastructure needs.

Commissioner Moraitis confirmed and clarified the ability and plan in place to fund infrastructure needs, citing the updated *Water Rate Study* and bond funding. Vice Mayor McKinzie confirmed, commenting on the need to fund at the local level, stay on message and move forward.

Mr. Kurlander commented on obtaining available grant funding and resources for other opportunities as they become available, including education and the need to ensure business skill opportunities are available at the high school and community college levels.

Commissioner Glassman commented on information regarding ACE's consideration of eight billion dollars in funding to address sea-level rise and resiliency in Miami-Dade County. Mr. Kurlander noted this could relate to pre-disaster mitigation, confirming he would research and advise.

Mr. Kurlander explained that last year the amount for the overall

Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program was \$100,000,000, to address seawalls and flood mitigation projects. Commissioner Glassman recommended pursuing this opportunity. Mayor Trantalis noted the need to determine what Broward County is doing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Kurlander explained \$600,000,000 in federal funding for hurricane relief for sixteen (16) counties in Florida funded at the local level by Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Broward County is one of the sixteen (16) counties included in this funding. This funding could be used for infrastructure in CDBG areas of the City. Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on his understanding of CDBG funding. Mr. Kurlander noted this CDBG funding is separate funding, explaining details.

Commissioner Sorensen recommended the Federal Courthouse be included in the *2020 Federal Legislative Priorities*. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis said the Federal Courthouse Committee is working the General Services Administration (GSA) to identify sites, noting an upcoming open forum for community input for three (3) sites: 301 N. Andrews Avenue; 633 S. Federal Highway; and 477 S.W. 1st Avenue.

Mayor Trantalis said recent discussions with the GSA indicate they are looking for a site less than the original three (3) to four (4) acres, revising the size of the site to one and one half (1.5) acres. The amount GSA has set aside for land purchase is \$15,000,000. It was noted that the cost of the land at the *One-Stop-Shop* site (Site) is significantly higher.

Vice Mayor McKinzie requested information regarding the City's obligations to the Federal Courthouse Project. City Auditor John Herbst explained details regarding his involvement over the past ten (10) years, the role of the City, the desire for community support and early Downtown Development Authority (DDA) participation. He said the City never recommended a specific location.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding the GSA approaching the City about one of the sites, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed Staff has responded to GSA questionnaires. City Manager Lagerbloom said an Opinion of Value had been done on the Site. In response to Vice Mayor McKinzie's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the approximate value of the Site is between \$17,000,000 and \$23,000,000, dependent upon highest and best use. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Auditor Herbst informed the Commission the Federal Courthouse Task Force Meeting would be on March 18, 2020 in the 8th Floor Conference Room.

Commissioner Sorensen recommended the City communicate with the GSA regarding the City's interest in utilizing City-owned property. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the goal to maintain a Federal Courthouse within the downtown area of the City, explaining related details. He concurred with Commissioner Sorensen's recommendation, requesting Commission input on this subject.

Mayor Trantalis recommended letting the process continue, moving forward with community input. Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on his perspective and the need to address this decision collectively.

Mr. Kurlander commented on the GSA process and assessing the best location to meet the needs of a Federal Courthouse, including outside security. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding Staff attending the GSA Meeting tonight at the Broward County Main Library, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed Luisa Agathon, Senior Assistant to the City Manager, would be attending.

Commissioner Sorensen reiterated the need for the Federal Courthouse to be included in the *2020 Federal Legislative Priorities*. Mr. Kurlander confirmed his participation on Federal Courthouse Task Force Conference Calls and he would continue to monitor. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Count Rosenthal, 1237 N.W. 4th Avenue. Mr. Rosenthal commented on his perspective and recommendations, confirming the need to pursue Federal funding for infrastructure needs as well as State funding.

BUS-2 [20-0144](#)

Interlocal Agreement with Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization for Transportation Planning Services Transition Plan Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ben Rogers, Director of Transportation and Mobility (TAM). Mr. Rogers gave brief remarks on the Transition Plan for the Interlocal Agreement (Agreement) with the MPO for Transportation Planning Services (Transition Plan). March 1, 2020 is the date the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will take the

lead on transportation projects moving forward. The Agreement allows the option to use the MPO network of consultants as subject matter experts for special projects.

TAM will remain as a City Department working with neighbors. Karen Warfel, TAM Program Manager, will be the point of contact with MPO Staff and will work with Peter Gies, MPO Section Manager, to prioritize projects, work with neighborhood associations and coordinate with MPO City District Planners. Mr. Rogers expounded on the organizational structure and related details as illustrated in the presentation.

Commissioner Glassman confirmed the importance of communications, requesting closer communications with the District Planners and District Commissioners to include notices, mailings and attendance at meetings, citing examples. Mr. Rogers concurred, stating that beginning March 1, 2020 there would be a more coordinated effort.

Karen Warfel, TAM Program Manager, introduced herself and commented on her role as MPO Coordinator and related MPO interaction.

Members of the MPO Team introduced themselves, providing brief background information and comments:

Manager - Peter Gies - Broward MPO, Systems Planning Manager

District 1 - Mark R. Brown - Broward MPO, Senior City Transportation Planner

District 2 - Levi Stewart-Figueroa - Broward MPO, Senior City Transportation Planner

District 3 - Marcus Richards II - Broward MPO, City Transportation Planner

District 4 - Darci Mayer - Broward MPO, Senior City Transportation Planner

In response to Commissioner Glassman's request, Mr. Rogers confirmed additional background information regarding the MPO Team would be provided to the Commission and could be shared with District residents.

Mr. Rogers introduced Greg Stuart, Executive Director of the MPO. Mr. Stuart narrated the Transition Plan presentation that included highlights of

MPO core services and tasks, focusing on the Transportation Master Plan.

A copy of the Transition Plan presentation can be viewed in the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding how priorities would be set, Mr. Stuart explained the MPO would meet with each Commissioner individually and as a group, commenting on the need for a consensus moving forward. Mr. Stuart said funding will include MPO lobbying efforts to address funding needs. The State of Florida will be the primary partner moving forward due to the amount of State roads in the City. The Transportation Master Plan is anticipated at the end of 2021.

Mr. Stuart distributed a listing of planned projects (Projects) requested to be funded by Broward County through the Broward County Transportation Surtax (Surtax), commenting on funding on State and Federal funding through the MPO.

A copy of the Surtax Projects can be found in the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding when the Surtax Projects would begin, Mr. Stuart said some are currently underway. Vice Mayor McKinzie confirmed the Surtax Projects were intended to be *shovel ready* when the County Transportation Surtax was passed.

Mr. Rogers explained *shovel ready* Surtax Projects top the list of MPO recommendations for Cycle One of Surtax funding. Other Surtax Projects are programmed for planning and design funding to begin a project pipeline. The Surtax Projects still need to be reviewed by the Oversight Board and the Broward County Commission in April 2020.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Stuart said Surtax funding is anticipated in mid-May. Mr. Rogers explained details regarding Cycle One. Once an agreement with the County is signed, the funds are available immediately for use during the current year. Mr. Stuart confirmed the MPO would advise when the funding is available, explaining the subsequent process that includes coordination with City Manager Lagerbloom and Departments.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding the status of

community shuttles, Mr. Stuart said that is a separate funding source, explaining related details. Further comment ensued

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Stuart confirmed one-way pairing is on the list of Projects described as *Safety Improvements for Andrews Avenue*.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding reversible lanes on Broward Boulevard, Mr. Stuart explained discussions with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), noting the need for further conversations. Mr. Stuart confirmed FDOT plans for northbound NE 15th Street off of Sunrise Boulevard. Further comment ensued. Mr. Stuart confirmed the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Design for fly overs on Sunrise Boulevard at the Gateway are scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2021, expounding on related details. Further discussions ensued on other areas that may benefit from a fly over.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding a PD&E Design Study for a railway tunnel under the New River, Mr. Stuart explained efforts to date and costs, stating efforts are currently stalled. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented on his support of an underground option, expounding on the history of this topic, the position of the Marine Industry, increasing train traffic and the impact of an above-ground railway that would separate eastern and western portions of the City.

Commissioner Sorensen urged continued pursuit of a railway tunnel under the New River. Mr. Rogers explained the next steps to pursue, stating that FDOT is the lead agency. Further comment and discussion ensued on *Coastal Link* moving forward and its impact on justifying costs. Comment and discussion ensued on the anticipated starting and ending points for the railway tunnel, between Davie Boulevard and Sunrise Boulevard. Other options were reviewed, including vehicular traffic travelling under passenger railway tracks.

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

BUS-3 [20-0190](#)

United Way of Broward County, Inc. Overview of Homelessness Efforts for FY 2019 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis explained the genesis of this item, expounding on current concerns related to homelessness. The reason for this Agenda item is to understand partner efforts to address homelessness and how City

funding is being applied.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Lynne Wines, Director of the United Way of Broward County Coalition on Homelessness (United Way Coalition). Ms. Wines explained efforts to address homelessness throughout Broward County (County), noting the primary focus is on the City due to the homeless population.

Ms. Wines reviewed the summary of funding allocations in Fiscal Year 2019 included in the *Broward Business Council on Homelessness FY 2018-2019 Year End Report (Report)* explaining associated details and challenges.

A copy of this Report can be viewed in the backup to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis noted that despite the City FY 2019 funding and additional City funding over the past five (5) months, there has been a return of homeless individuals to previously addressed areas, including the Broward County Main Library (Library). Ms. Wines acknowledged this point, stating it is a different population and explaining details. In the next *Report*, the use of recently allocated funds would be explained.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding addressing homeless individuals at the Library, Ms. Wines explained work is going on behind the scenes to address people who are feeding the homeless population at the Library, urging them to provide food at homeless facilities. Further comment and discussion ensued on the process, challenges and the increasing number of homeless individuals.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Wines said the United Way Coalition cannot provide Permanent Supportive Housing, clarifying her report is on Rapid Rehousing. Comment and discussion ensued on the elusive nature of solving homelessness. Ms. Wines discussed the collective nature of previous efforts, confirming the United Way Coalition is making progress, reiterating efforts urging those feeding the homeless to work through established channels.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Yamaris Arbitman, Director of Housing Initiatives, United Way of Broward County. Ms. Arbitman gave a brief overview of her related, previous work in Miami-Dade County, stating homelessness is a systemic issue and the need to provide affordable housing. She explained details surrounding the incentive of individuals congregating at the Library.

Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on his perspective, confirming the situation at the *Salvation Army Day Respite Center (Respite Center)* needs to be addressed. Ms. Wines said the United Way Coalition has stopped funding the Respite Center.

Ms. Wines reviewed *City's FY 2019-2020 Grant Participation Agreement Progress Review (Review)*, included in the *Report*. Comment and discussion ensued on programs, timelines, goals and results.

A copy of this Review can be viewed in the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding the percentage of the homeless population completing the process and moving forward within three (3) months, Ms. Arbitman estimated approximately fifty to seventy-five percent (50% - 75%).

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, Ms. Wines commented on serving a specific set of individuals, confirming the difficulty involved in housing those individuals.

Ms. Wines reviewed the findings listed in the *Pilot Project - Housing Options Service Team (HOST) (Pilot Project)*, commenting on related details.

A copy of this Pilot Project document can be viewed in the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding assisting individuals with employment, Ms. Wines confirmed the United Way Coalition works with individuals from the *IOC of South Florida* and *Career Source*.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding *Rapid Rehousing* clients receiving housing vouchers, Ms. Arbitman explained the *Rapid Rehousing Program* is for clients who can be trained, employed and become self-sufficient. *Permanent Supportive Housing* is for clients in need of ongoing support and includes housing vouchers provided by Broward County.

In response to Vice Mayor McKinzie's question regarding stopping funding for the *Respite Center*, Ms. Wines explained it relates to limited

funds and a decision to focus on housing for families. Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on his perspective regarding the *Respite Center*, expounding on details, concerns and in-house efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued on housing the homeless and follow-up efforts.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charlie King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. King commented on his perspective and opposition to City funding.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Count Rosenthal, 1237 NW 4th Avenue. Mr. Rosenthal commented on his perspective, confirming the need for affordable housing and addressing the needs of mentally disabled individuals.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.