

City of Fort Lauderdale



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

1:00 PM

City Hall is closed to the public.

Workshop can be accessed:

<https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv

Cable Television - Comcast Channel 78 and ATT Uverse Channel 99

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II

HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III

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 1:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Heather Moraitis (participating telephonically), Vice Mayor Steven Glassman (participating telephonically), Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (participating telephonically), Commissioner Ben Sorensen (participating telephonically) and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau and City Auditor John Herbst (participating telephonically)

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

[20-0370](#)

COVID-19 Update

Mayor Trantalis gave opening remarks regarding the impact of and response to COVID-19 efforts, stating the curve of new COVID-19 cases has been flattened and expounded on details.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed aspects of the City's COVID -19 Working Group (Working Group) Report (Report) for use as a Staff guide for Phase One re-openings. He thanked Chief of Staff Scott Wyman for his efforts to assemble the Working Group and preparation of this draft Report.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed the Report slide presentation, discussing relevant points.

A copy of this slide presentation can be viewed in the backup to this Workshop.

Mayor Trantalis announced that on Wednesday, April 29, 2020, there will be a press conference at Holiday Park announcing the opening of a free COVID-19 Test Site by appointment for residents and non-residents. The test site location can test up to four hundred (400) people per day. Mayor Trantalis acknowledged and thanked the Office of the Governor for their

support and efforts.

Mayor Trantalis noted the need to be cautious and adhere to social distancing rules in place with a phased, measured approach to reopening to avoid a resurgence of COVID-19. He reviewed the Report's general recommendations for a phased reopening, confirming the need to work in concert with neighboring municipalities and counties.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on feedback from residents, inquiring about when a phased reopening would begin in conjunction with other coastal cities. He recommended keeping parking garages closed to limit visitors to the beach.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed the State's *Executive Order* precludes the City from making a decision regarding reopening beaches. Discussion ensued on this topic and related contingency plans going forward at the appropriate time.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on the need for ongoing updates due to the fluid, evolving nature of plans. Mayor Trantalis concurred.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question regarding plans following the State's *Emergency Orders* expiring on April 30, 2020, Mayor Trantalis explained the Report is the result of participation in the *Reopen Florida Task Force*. The Report lists related recommendations moving forward. Further comment ensued.

Commissioner Moraitis provided her perspective regarding the Report, expounding on details. She concurred with Vice Mayor Glassman's recommendation to keep parking garages closed.

Commissioner Moraitis suggested when beaches are open, limiting hours for beach access, explaining specific recommendations. She requested Commission consider allowing elderly residents on the private portion of the Galt Ocean Mile beach to use beach chairs. Commissioner Moraitis confirmed this request would be reviewed with The Galt Mile Community Association.

Mayor Trantalis cautioned about limiting beach hours when beaches are reopened, explaining his rationale and noting challenges related to adhering to social distancing guidelines.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on lifeguards. City Manager Lagerbloom explained ongoing Ocean-Rescue life-saving efforts and responsibilities, citing examples.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis explained the goal of this Workshop is to receive updates from Staff, identify the next steps moving forward and provide Commission recommendations.

Mayor Trantalis requested Commission input and consensus on the Report, followed by approval of a related resolution at the next scheduled Commission Regular Meeting. This will serve to illustrate plans moving forward when permitted.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed Report recommendations, noting the fluid nature of the COVID-19 situation and evolving Report. Mayor Trantalis concurred, confirming the Report is a starting point to move forward. Further comment ensued.

Mayor Trantalis requested Commission Members prepare additional suggestions and recommendations for discussion at the May 5, 2020 Commission Regular Meeting and incorporation into the Report.

Mayor Trantalis continued his review of the Report, requesting Commission feedback. Comment and discussion ensued on allowed Park activities and sports.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on the reopening of Birch State Park, requesting outreach to the State and noting conversations with State Representative Chip LaMarca. Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed his outreach efforts on this topic, explaining related details.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding the reopening of Broward County (County) Parks, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed receiving a draft of the anticipated Broward County *Emergency Order* indicating the reopening of County parks tomorrow, April 29, 2020.

Mayor Trantalis requested input regarding the simultaneous reopening of City parks with County parks, including County restrictions. City Attorney Boileau expounded on related details and guidelines.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed the City mirroring the County's reopening of parks, boat ramps, golf courses and pools. She also commented on the County's position regarding reopening pools in multi-family developments.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the draft County *Emergency Order*

includes the reopening pools in County parks, reading the portion applying to parks. Comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed safety concerns regarding sharing sports equipment, confirming the need for restrictions and consistency at all City and County parks.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained only certain County parks would be reopened. He has requested input from Parks and Recreation Department Staff for a phased plan reopening, expounding on details.

Commissioner Sorensen concurred with Commissioner McKinzie's comments, recommending the mirroring of County plan to reopen parks per County guidelines. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed the need for a consistent downward trend in new COVID-19 cases before reopening parks, commenting on the impact on First Responders.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided an update on Staff's ability to start a Phase One reopening with a select number of parks in alignment with County guidelines, expounding on details. Smaller parks and parks with playgrounds would remain closed.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's request, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed receipt of Mr. Thornburg's memorandum proposing parks that should reopen would be forwarded to the Commission.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, City Attorney Boileau confirmed the City's current *Emergency Declaration* expires on April 30, 2020, explaining related details and necessary modifications.

Vice Mayor Glassman provided input regarding the City's *Emergency Declaration* coinciding with forthcoming State *Executive Orders* and County *Emergency Orders*. Mayor Trantalis noted the need to provide direction to City Manager Lagerbloom in a timely manner. Further comment ensued.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on her viewpoint regarding reopening park amenities, noting limited parks in District I. She confirmed support of reopening parks in a phased approach in tandem with the County. Commissioner Sorensen concurred.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on community input received regarding walking on beaches. It was confirmed that beaches are closed until May 8, 2020. Further comment ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman recommended having a plan in place for reopening beaches for exercise and swimming. Commissioner McKinzie concurred with the need to be proactive on this subject and address upcoming planned beach events. Mayor Trantalis concurred.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on details related to water activities, i.e., jet skis and paddleboard launching areas in parks. She commented on the possible future need to limit park activities to residents.

Commissioner Sorensen concurred with Mayor Trantalis' comments regarding the inability to enforce a limitation on the number of individuals on a vessel. He recommended implementing the Report's waterway guidelines.

Vice Mayor Glassman inquired about measuring vessel distancing requirements. Mayor Trantalis explained details regarding calculating distancing requirements from the closest edge of each boat.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on reopening golf courses in the City, expounding on details related to Coral Ridge Country Club. Mayor Trantalis noted the detailed nature of County regulations regarding reopening golf courses.

Mayor Trantalis suggested coupling both boating and park recommendations. He recommended giving City Manager Lagerbloom authority to move forward with updated guidelines and regulations in coordination with the County parks and waterways reopenings. Discussion ensued on reopening golf courses and related guidelines. There was a consensus to follow County guidelines.

City Manager Lagerbloom commented on possibly differing from County guidelines relating to reopening restrooms in Parks, confirming he would confer with Phil Thornburg.

City Attorney Boileau commented on the County reopening water activities, noting enhanced restrictions, expounding on related details and citing examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Lagerbloom remarked on the County allowing charter boat and drift boat operations and actions taken to adhere to distancing requirements. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed support of mirroring

County guidelines. Commissioner Moraitis concurred.

In response to Commission Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed the Report mirrors the County's recommendations regarding reopening golf courses, parks, boat ramps and waterways. Mayor Trantalis confirmed a consensus on the parameters defined in the Report.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed Report guidelines regarding private community recreation facilities, i.e., condominiums. Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed his support of allowing private community recreation facilities, noting his perspective that they should go into effect on Wednesday, April 29, 2020.

City Attorney Boileau explained the County's position on reopening private community amenities, expounding on details as listed in the draft County *Emergency Order*. Vice Mayor Glassman explained his perspective on this topic. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question regarding the County *Emergency Order*, City Attorney Boileau explained the City's ability to be more restrictive, not more permissive. He cited case law in instances where jurisdictions are operating under emergency measures. Further comment ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on input from condominium boards regarding their ability to control their amenities under emergency circumstances. City Attorney Boileau explained the Governor's *Executive Order* over rules existing condominium law when operating under governmental emergency measures.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on condominiums operating under strictly regulated circumstances, inquiring as to the penalty. City Attorney Boileau explained the penalties that would be imposed by a court. Further comment ensued. Vice Mayor Glassman expounded on his perspective.

Mayor Trantalis noted City Manager Lagerbloom's ongoing conversations with County Administrator Bertha Henry and the goal to make guidelines uniform and consistent. City Manager Lagerbloom expounded on conversations with County Administrator Henry, explaining the regional nature of guidelines.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the County would only allow reopening pools in

multi-family developments but no other amenities, i.e., gyms. This mirrors Miami-Dade County and Palm Beach County guidelines. City Attorney Boileau commented on related details. Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his perspective regarding social distancing when pools are the only amenity open and available in multi-family buildings.

Commissioner Moraitis concurred with Vice Mayor Glassman's position that condominiums should be able to make their own decisions regarding reopening amenities, noting the difference between indoor and outdoor activities. She suggested exploring opportunities to provide outdoor exercise for condominium residents, citing examples and expounding on details. Mayor Trantalis recommended Commissioner Moraitis bring ideas to the May 5, 2020 Commission Regular Meeting for discussion and inclusion in the Report.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed the Report's recommendations for reopening businesses. He discussed an email from Marc Cannon, Executive Vice President and Chief Customer Experience Officer of *AutoNation*. Mr. Cannon's email highlights guidelines and protocols *AutoNation* is implementing. He confirmed City Manager Lagerbloom would forward this information to the Commission.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on input from members of the business community regarding the ability to procure hand sanitizer for businesses once allowed to reopen. He inquired about utilizing Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funding to procure hand sanitizer for businesses.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained CRA counsel has advised this would not be an appropriate CRA expense. He commented on leveraging the success Staff has experienced with vendors to provide hand sanitizers and other protective gear, i.e., the City operating as a pass-through entity. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed efforts to identify possible avenues for funding.

Mayor Trantalis noted input from Galleria Mall (Galleria), allowing one customer per 100 square feet, including employees in retail businesses. Commissioner Moraitis noted residents utilize the Galleria for walking.

Commissioner Moraitis requested input from District I Uptown area businesses, including the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) businesses, be incorporated in the Report. Mayor Trantalis explained the Working Group had completed its work, encouraging Commissioner Moraitis to reach out to Uptown area and FXE businesses and provide input at the May 5, 2020 Commission Regular Meeting to supplement the

Report. Commissioner Moraitis confirmed.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed the Report's proposed criteria and timelines for reopening restaurants when the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) five (5) threshold requirements for a Phase One reopening have occurred. Restaurants have requested two-week advance notice for reopening, explaining details and confirming decisions will be data-driven.

Mayor Trantalis said the Commission reserves the right to reverse reopening decisions based upon forthcoming data. Commissioner McKinzie requested clarification on this point. City Attorney Boileau confirmed the ability for the City to act and has been included in previous County *Emergency Orders*, expounding on details.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed the Report's hotel and personal care services categories. He also commented on the gym category, explaining how comprehensive recommendations for reopening were determined.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed the remaining categories in the Report. He noted uniformity regarding night clubs, bars, movie theaters and entertainment venues remaining closed in addition to the prohibition of public events.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the Report's recommendations to establish Special Working Groups to address details of Phase II and Phase III re-openings.

Mayor Trantalis reiterated the request for input at the May 5, 2020 Commission Regular Meeting to augment Report recommendations. A Resolution would follow to authorize the City Manager to move forward on those recommendations.

City Manager Lagerbloom discussed the need to address scheduled events, including *The Great American Beach Party* and *Memorial Day* beach events. There was a consensus to cancel these events.

Mayor Trantalis reiterated that tomorrow, April 29, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. there would be a press conference announcing the opening of a free COVID-19 Drive-Thru Testing at Holiday Park beginning Thursday, April 30, 2020. This free testing site is open to everyone, both residents and non-residents.

City Attorney Boileau requested an Executive Closed-Door Session (Session) on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 following the Commission Regular Meeting regarding the following items:

- Hinton, Walter, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale Case No.: CACE 07-030358 (26)
- Adderly, Ray, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale Case No.: CACE 11-008499 (26)

The Session is anticipated to last 30 minutes.

City Manager Lagerbloom updated the Commission on housing opportunity efforts for the homeless. A hotel contract is under review in the City Attorney's Office to provide hotel room vouchers for homeless individuals. Bus passes would also be issued to homeless individuals. The goal is to provide shelter for homeless individuals during the balance of the COVID-19 pandemic. Interactions are expected to begin tomorrow. Comment and discussion ensued on addressing homeless needs, including feeding.

Commissioner Moraitis requested updated information regarding items discussed today for inclusion in an updated City *Declaration*. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed that updated information would be communicated promptly.

In response to Commission Moraitis' requests, Mayor Trantalis confirmed City Manager Lagerbloom would distribute *AutoNation's Best Practices Policy*, addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in addition to the County's updated *Emergency Order* when issued.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on having discussions at the upcoming May 5th Commission Regular Meeting regarding summer camps for children when parents return to work.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed the date to reopen businesses remains to be determined, expounding on details.

Commissioner Sorensen requested the virtual meeting platform include video in addition to audio. Andrew Parker, Director of Information Technology Services, confirmed video would be enabled, explaining related details.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding reopening the Water Trolley, City Attorney Boileau explained his understanding based on the anticipated, updated County *Emergency Order*,

expounding on related details.

Ben Rogers, Director of the Transportation and Mobility Department, explained details related to social distancing challenges and operational concerns regarding the Water Trolley. Commissioner Sorensen discussed his understanding, stating the owner of the Water Trolley is willing to take appropriate safety/social distancing measures. Further comment ensued. City Attorney Boileau provided additional input. Mayor Trantalis confirmed information would be included in the updated *City Declaration and County Emergency Orders*.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding use of tennis courts at private clubs, City Attorney Boileau confirmed it is dependent upon the wording of the County *Emergency Order*. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Attorney Boileau confirmed only essential Boards and Committees deemed necessary for the functioning of the City and the Commission are meeting virtually, citing examples and expounding on details. City Attorney Boileau explained there is a process in place for the Offices of the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk and Information Technology to evaluate Board and Committee Meeting requests to meet virtually.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.