

# City of Fort Lauderdale



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2021

1:30 PM

City Hall - City Commission Chambers  
100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

### Access Meeting Via:

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## City Commission Conference Meeting

*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 1:36 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Trantalis announced details regarding the virtual format of this meeting, including how members of the public can view and participate.

## QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

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

## CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Commissioner Moraitis presented a brief slide presentation clarifying and illustrating the *Rails with Trails* portion of the *LauderTrail* project adjacent to the *Mobility Hub* and the *Flagler Greenway* located in the *MASS District*. She requested the Commission consider pursuing opportunities to extend *Rails with Trails* within *LauderTrail* and neighboring municipalities through PATH Foundation efforts and as part of the *Transportation Master Plan*.

***A copy of this slide presentation can be found in the backup to these minutes.***

Commissioner Moraitis commented on the City of Oakland Park administering COVID vaccinations at a City of Oakland Park Community Center. She requested consideration of the *Beach Community Center* and the Galt Ocean Mile as sites to administer resident vaccinations. City Manager Lagerbloom explained discussions with the Oakland Park City Manager. The site is being utilized to accommodate senior citizens in need of transportation to a vaccination site. He commented on

concerns related to the number of vaccines available, explaining details. When the vaccine supply chain expands, utilizing additional community centers for vaccine administration is possible.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained upcoming changes to the *Holiday Park* vaccination site. Due to construction and renovation activities in and around *Holiday Park*, the *Holiday Park* vaccination site will remain open until January 23, 2021. Starting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, all *Holiday Park* vaccine administration will be relocated to *Snyder Park*. Staffing and operations will remain the same. Individuals scheduled to receive the second vaccine dose will receive it at *Snyder Park*.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' request, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed current City vaccination sites, *Lockhart Park*, *Holiday Park* (until January 23, 2021) and *Snyder Park* (beginning on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.) Vaccinations are available by appointment only.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed vaccine administration is running smoothly at *Lockhart Park*, noting that demand exceeds supply. Approximately 500 vaccines are administered per day at *Lockhart Park*. Further comment and discussion ensued on vaccine administration protocols at *Lockhart Park* to allow observation of vaccination recipients outside of vehicles.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions and concerns, City Manager Lagerbloom explained there will be more vaccinations in the supply chain when additional vaccines become available. City Manager Lagerbloom explained details regarding the disbursement of vaccines allocated by the *Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM)* that are received from the Federal Government. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis expounded on his understanding of vaccine allocation and concurred with Commissioner Sorensen's concerns.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained that based upon discussions with *Florida Department of Health in Broward County*, individuals with the vaccination card issued during their first vaccination dose at *Lockhart Park* would receive the second vaccination dose at *Lockhart Park*. Individuals with the vaccination card issued during their first vaccination dose at *Holiday Park* would receive the second vaccination dosage at *Snyder Park*. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the responsible

control of vaccines to ensure an adequate number of second dosages. Vice Mayor Glassman commented on the importance of the second vaccine dose.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed a request from Hallandale Beach Commissioner Michele Lazarow to address the Code limitation regarding the number of domestic animals allowed per residence. This request is an effort to find permanent housing for animals previously housed at the *Broward County Animal Shelter*.

Anthony Fajardo, Department of Sustainable Development Director, explained aspects of the Code regarding this subject. Residents with four (4) or more cats or dogs must register with the State of Florida (State) for licensure as a kennel.

Commissioner Moraitis inquired whether the Commission was interested in addressing the Code limitation. Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective regarding the distressing nature of the Shelter. Further discussion ensued on this topic.

Commissioner Sorensen said he would consider modifying the current Code limitation. Commissioner Moraitis commented on allowing five (5) per household. In response to Commissioner Sorensen and Vice Mayor Glassman, Mayor Trantalis agreed Commission Members should reach out to the community and obtain resident input.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective, the governing authority and monitoring the number of animals per household. City Attorney Alain Boileau explained several government layers are involved, including *Code Enforcement* and *Broward County Animal Control*, expounding on details. Commissioner McKinzie commented on the experience of District 3 residents. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Attorney Boileau explained details regarding the ability to cite residents and the lack of authority to remove animals from a residence. He would research and provide a Commission update before modifying the Code.

Commissioner Moraitis confirmed the *Broward League of Cities* would pursue the Commission's *Ban on Smoking on the Beach Resolution (Resolution)*. City Attorney Boileau confirmed distribution to *the Florida Senate* and *Florida House of Representatives* was included in the *Resolution*. The *Resolution* would also be distributed to municipalities.

Commissioner Moraitis explained two (2) related pieces of legislation

have been filed in the *Florida Senate* (sponsored by Senator Joe Gruters) and the *Florida House of Representatives* (sponsored by Representative Thad Altman), expounding on details. She requested Commission Members share this information with constituents in support of this initiative and commented on opposition lobbying efforts. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed this topic is included in the *Commission's Legislative Priorities*. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Moraitis said she would provide updates as the legislation moves forward.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on the outstanding poem authored and recited by *National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman* during the *January 20, 2021 Inauguration of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.*

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on the upcoming *January 29, 2021 Commission Goal Setting Session (Session)* and inquired about sharing details with residents. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the *Session Agenda* would be published, and the *Session* would be live-streamed on the web.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested a *Moment of Silence* in remembrance of two (2) *City Pioneers*, *Angelyn Whiddon - Founder of Causeway Lumber* and *Ronald R. Davis - First Supervisor of Music for Broward County Schools*. Vice Mayor Glassman expounded on the civic contributions of both *City Pioneers*.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on the exemption of non-profit entities from *Stormwater Fees*. City Manager Lagerbloom explained requests from District 1 private schools to consider *Stormwater Fee* relief. Should this be accomplished, he would update the Commission. Commissioner McKinzie commented on the controversial nature of this subject, similar concerns in all four (4) Districts and the need to share this type of request with all Commission Members. He expounded on related details and said any consideration of relief should apply to all Districts.

Commissioner Moraitis explained discussions with City Manager Lagerbloom on this request. The request came from private schools in District 1, and she requested City Manager Lagerbloom review trip calculations with other schools in the City. Commissioner Moraitis noted public schools do not pay *Stormwater Fees*. Commissioner McKinzie expounded on his perspective, noting the need to look at this as a City-wide issue.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed his understanding of the City of Atlanta Georgia's trail development that is similar to LauderTrail endeavors. Atlanta's trail is parallel to the *400 South Highway a/k/a 400 South Trail*. Commissioner Moraitis commented that the PATH Foundation could consider similar parallel paths along roads and rails.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's request for an update on historical designation in the *Sailboat Bend Historic District*, Vice Mayor Glassman said it is a controversial topic, expounding on details and confirming numerous past meetings on this subject. The neighborhood is split on this issue, and there are upcoming meetings planned. Vice Mayor Glassman explained the City is a *Certified Local Government (CLG)* for historic designation and Staff efforts to lessen demands on historic property owners, citing examples.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding *Wheels Up Guns Down Group (Group)* activities during the *Martin Luther King, Jr.*, holiday weekend, City Manager Lagerbloom explained Police Department efforts and said an organized *Group* did not visit the City.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the topic of motorcycle noise, expounding on his perspective. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed the need to address this topic. Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective and the coordinated efforts of law enforcement to address the *Group*. He concurred with the need to address mitigating other motorcycle noise. Discussion ensued on this topic. Commissioner McKinzie recommended tasking the Police Department with this challenge. City Attorney Boileau said he would research and update the Commission on the Commission's authority to regulate motorcycles. Further comment and discussion ensued on obtaining community input.

Commissioner Sorensen thanked City Manager Lagerbloom, Acting Police Chief Karen Dietrich and Police Department personnel for their recent efforts over the recent *Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Weekend* and *Presidential Inauguration*.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed the proposed *Cordova Road* improvements (Project) and requested Staff input. Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility (TAM) Department Director, explained the *Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)* hosted both a neighbor virtual meeting and an in person neighbor public meeting on this Project. Mr. Rogers confirmed opposition from neighbors and business community members on the current proposed Project concept, commented on three (3) concepts and recommended the third concept to

work with the neighborhood in partnership with area business owners for beautification and area improvements.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, Mr. Rogers explained community feedback and area business owners included issues related to the elimination of a traffic lane, access concerns, left-hand turn movements and truck loading areas, i.e., maintaining traffic movement when trucks are onsite. Mayor Trantalis confirmed neighbor input in opposition to a lane reduction. Commissioner McKinzie concurred.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on his perspective and opposition to the proposed project. He suggested moving forward with the third option discussed by Mr. Rogers. Further comment ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented on the history of the *Cordova Road* project.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding moving forward with the third option, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed Staff would review the related grant agreement to determine action moving forward.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the Miami Waterkeeper water testing company contracted by the City and its disclosure of proprietary information related to water quality. He expounded on concerns and the need to report areas with good water quality. Mayor Trantalis requested Staff research options moving forward. City Attorney Boileau confirmed. Further comment ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on parcels of land for sale by *Brightline*. The parcels were previously owned by the City and used for a land swap with *Brightline*. Commissioner McKinzie commented on cost concerns, expounding on possible implications. Further comment ensued. Mayor Trantalis recommended scheduling this subject for a future *Commission Conference Meeting* Agenda. Commissioner McKinzie concurred. Discussion ensued on including the County on purchase negotiations. City Manager Lagerbloom said discussions on purchase of the *Brightline* parcels had started and recommended acquisition without the involvement of the County.

In response to Commission McKinzie's question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained his perspective regarding the ease of negotiating as a sole entity.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his Washington, DC trip and meetings with outgoing and incoming *Department of Transportation (DOT)* officials

and representatives of *Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway* and *Brightline*. Discussions focused on building a railway tunnel or railway bridge in the City. He explained that building a tunnel could be significantly less expensive than initially estimated by *DOT*, citing recently built tunnels in Miami. *Brightline* is now interested in working with the City to move forward on the tunnel concept.

Mayor Trantalis commented on anticipated financial contributions from *federal DOT* infrastructure funding and *Brightline* to augment tunnel costs. He confirmed a meeting next week with the *Boring Company* for preliminary discussions regarding possible future tunnel construction. Mayor Trantalis commented on benefits to the community with a tunnel versus a bridge. Further comment ensued.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the community's desire for pickleball courts. Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director, confirmed Staff is aware of this request and related challenges regarding meeting the demand for pickleball courts. He explained Staff efforts, including the addition of lines to existing tennis courts and discussions with the *Broward County School Board (School Board)* to utilize *Sunrise Middle School* tennis courts in the same manner. This will be a topic during *Parks Bond* discussion meetings commencing on February 1, 2021. Work has been ongoing with *Colliers International* to locate a large building for pickleball courts.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, Mr. Thornburg explained the amount of space required for a pickleball court. He confirmed residents had requested a multiple pickleball court complex with approximately twenty (20) pickleball courts. Further comment ensued on options to achieve this goal.

Commissioner Moraitis explained *District 1* resident input regarding use of the *Lockhart Park* location for pickleball courts and the desire to maintain the twenty (20) acres on the south side for versatile use. Further comment and discussion ensued on available space in *Sistrunk Park* and the community request to obtain a tournament-style pickleball court space to host national and international tournaments. Mr. Thornburg confirmed he would continue to pursue pickleball complex opportunities and update the Commission.

Mayor Trantalis requested an update on the *Sewer Force Main Infrastructure Project (Project)* north of Broward Boulevard along *Bayview Drive* and *Poinsettia Heights*. Raj Verma, Public Works



Department Director, provided an update. The *Project* is approximately seventy-five percent (75%) completed. There have been unforeseen circumstances impacted by underground conditions.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Verma confirmed he would research and provide an update regarding lingering work along *Bayview Drive*. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner McKinzie cited details of a similar situation previously experienced in District 3.

### OLD/NEW BUSINESS

**BUS-1** [21-0083](#)

Discussion of City Holidays - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Lagerbloom provided an overview of this Agenda item addressing the recognition of *President's Day* and *Juneteenth* (June 19th) as Staff paid holidays.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained the fiscal impact of an additional Staff holiday is approximately \$1,200,000, as indicated in the Commission Agenda Memo (CAM).

Vice Mayor Glassman explained his perspective and urged the Commission to support *President's Day* as a City Staff paid holiday for consistency with Broward County (County) and the Broward County School Board. This action would reduce the childcare burden on families. He commented on the County's decision to have a day of education in recognition of *Juneteenth (June 19th)*. Vice Mayor Glassman urged the Commission to consider *President's Day* as a paid City Staff holiday.

Mayor Trantalis explained the history of the *Juneteenth* holiday commemorating the emancipation of slaves in the United States. He commented on his perspective and the importance of recognizing significant historical civil rights dates, including *Juneteenth* on June 19th and June 28th in remembrance of *Stonewall*. Mayor Trantalis suggested school education programming during the June 19th - June 28th timeframe in recognition of both historical dates that embrace equality and diversity. He commented on his perspective regarding costs associated with recognizing *President's Day* as a paid Staff holiday. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding the related costs, Yvette Matthews, Assistant Budget Manager, explained calculated costs based on three (3) categories: overtime, labor

agreements and employee costs per day. Further comment and discussion ensued on aspects of those calculations. Commissioner Sorensen commented that the most considerable portion is the net cost of productivity. Ms. Matthews confirmed. She expounded on details and cited examples and aspects of labor agreements.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective regarding the differences between the recognition of *Juneteenth* and *Stonewall*. Further comment ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman expounded on support of the City recognizing *President's Day* as a Staff paid holiday. Further comment and discussion ensued. There was a consensus to recognize *President's Day* as a paid City holiday.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding *President's Day* officially being recognized by the City starting in 2021 or 2022, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed he would update the Commission following his review of labor agreements.

**BUS-2** [21-0100](#)

Mayor's Appointments to the Election Board to Certify the Results of the Civil Service Board's Election - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Lagerbloom requested this item be moved to the February 2, 2021 Commission Conference Meeting, explaining details related to language included on the CAM and the need to adhere to Charter requirements.

**BUS-3** [21-0131](#)

Leaf Blower Discussion - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Attorney Boileau provided an overview of this item, confirming the need for Commission direction on instituting additional leaf blower restrictions or a leaf blower ban. He reviewed existing Ordinances addressing this topic. Chapter 25-14 of the Code of Ordinances addresses the discharge of materials into the street.

It does not include discharge into waterways and could be included. Chapter 17-7 of the Code of Ordinances pertains to noise control regulations and sets limitations on landscaping and yard maintenance motorized equipment.

City Attorney Boileau explained no other area municipalities have an outright ban, except for the City of Weston. He commented on the difficulty associated with enforcing that Ordinance. He discussed mandates regarding leaf blower equipment to have original noise

reduction equipment and his perspective. He reiterated his request for Commission direction regarding adding restrictions to current Ordinances or a ban on all leaf blowers.

Commissioner McKinzie recommended amending hours of use and adding waterways to existing Ordinances. He confirmed opposition to a leaf blower ban.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Kyle Bolger, President, *Emerald Isle Landscape*, 2609 NW 3rd Avenue. Mr. Bolger discussed his opposition to a leaf blower ban and support of the Ordinance enforcing landscape debris dumping.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the significant amount of residential input to address these topics, the negative environmental impact of dumping debris into stormwater infrastructure and waterways. Further comment and discussion ensued on enforcement and respecting waterways.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed her support of additional enforcement of existing Ordinances and modifying operation hours. She confirmed opposition to a leaf blower ban.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michael Weymouth, 600 Sagamore Road. Mr. Weymouth concurred with the need to keep waterways clean and explained his perspective regarding numerous reasons drainage negatively impacts waterways. He explained details of permitted operation hours for landscape crews along Las Olas Boulevard. Mr. Weymouth noted concerns regarding increased costs associated with additional leaf blower restrictions.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective and the need to compromise to address improving waterway quality and neighborhood concerns with leaf blower noise.

In response to Mr. Weymouth's question, Mayor Trantalis said any Ordinance restrictions would apply to commercial and residential leaf blowers. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Pat O'Loughlin, *Angler Lawn and Landscape*, 2632 NE 27th Avenue. Mr. O'Loughlin spoke on behalf of numerous lawn and landscape small business owners, supporting Mr. Bolger and Mr. Weymouth's position opposing a leaf blower ban. He confirmed additional restrictions would increase costs to landscape clients. Mr. O'Loughlin recommended proactive review and enforcement

of licensure and permitting landscape vendors (Vendors) operating in the City. He suggested a Vendors roundtable discussion to address Commission concerns.

Commissioner McKinzie reiterated his previous comments and his position in opposition to a leaf blower ban.

Vice Mayor Glassman said he did not support a leaf blower ban. He suggested a review of operation hours, not allowing lawn debris discharge into waterways and addressing enforcement.

Commissioner Sorensen confirmed neighbor concerns include leaf blower noise, negative environmental impact of lawn debris discharge into waterways and leaf blower exhaust. He concurred with Mr. O'Loughlin's suggestion for a Vendor roundtable discussion to include hours of operation, banning lawn debris discharge into waterways and enforcement. Commissioner Sorensen expounded on proposed recommendations to limit hours of leaf blower operation.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on the need for flexibility regarding hours of operation and weather-related concerns. She confirmed support of regulation, enforcement and a ban on lawn debris discharge into waterways. Commissioner Moraitis suggested a later start time for landscape services operating in residential neighborhoods.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed a consensus to coordinate a stakeholder roundtable discussion. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed he would organize. Commissioner McKinzie confirmed he would act as Commission Liaison.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective regarding the need to reevaluate priorities to maintain a healthy, safe community environment.

**BUS-4** [21-0145](#)

Discussion in Response to the Events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021- (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his perspective regarding addressing this topic as elected officials, expounding on his viewpoint and citing concerns. He authored a proposed draft resolution and commented on its details and intent.

Commissioner Moraitis noted three (3) versions of a proposed resolution from: 1) Vice Mayor Glassman, 2) Mayor Trantalis and; 3) the City of Miami Beach. Mayor Trantalis confirmed that only the resolutions prepared by the City of Fort Lauderdale Commission for adoption would

be considered at tonight's Commission Regular Meeting. He confirmed the Commission should be on record regarding the events of January 6, 2021 that occurred at the U.S. Capitol. Further comment and discussion ensued on wording of the proposed resolution and each Commission Member perspective. Commissioner Sorensen urged the Commission to pass a resolution unanimously.

Commissioner Moraitis expounded on her viewpoint condemning activities at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, including the need to find bipartisan solutions to address constituent concerns at all government levels.

Vice Mayor Glassman expounded on his perspective regarding the series of events of January 6, 2021. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' inquiry, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the updated resolution scribed by Vice Mayor Glassman as amended would be on the Commission Regular Meeting Agenda. Commissioner Moraitis suggested merging both resolutions. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis said Staff would review and send out a draft to Commission Members before tonight's Commission Regular Meeting. Vice Mayor Glassman concurred.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

See Vaccine discussion in Commission Reports.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.