



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 21-123

Date: December 21, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

From: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

Re: 2021 City Commission Priorities – Quarterly Progress Report (December 2021)

I am pleased to present the final quarterly updates for the 2021 City Commission Priorities. The Commission Priorities are an important short-term element of the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan* and *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*. The Commission Priorities are also a key component of our budget process as we ensure that funding is in place to advance the Commission's Priorities.

In January 2021, the City Commission met to identify and articulate the organization's highest priorities for 2021 where six Top Priorities and five Priorities were identified. Updates to the Top Priority initiatives are provided monthly to the City Commission and the community through the LauderTrac newsletters (accessible online at <https://bit.ly/3oxi4mA>). This memo provides an update to the five Priorities which include Airport Workforce Training Opportunities, COVID-19 Recovery, Safety, Smart Growth, and Uptown Master Plan South.

Airport Workforce Training Opportunities

The City continues to progress toward becoming a training hub for aviation, aerospace, and related technology. Collectively, the City, along with secondary and higher education partners, seek to create technical training pathways that establish an employment base for the industry, increase the median income for the region, and strengthen the economy.

The City of Fort Lauderdale contracted with the Broward College Center for Applied Research to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study establishing Fort Lauderdale as an Aviation and Aerospace Training Hub. The study is being conducted in a three-phased approach: needs assessment, design, and feasibility.

Broward College Center for Applied Research launched the second phase of the Aviation Training Program Feasibility Study following the completion of the needs assessment, which was presented to the City of Fort Lauderdale Commission on October 5, 2021. Phase II of the study focuses on design and will develop a shared vision for the City as an aviation training hub, mapping resources and equipment, and cultivating partnerships. Targeted outreach to possible partners is being conducted in coordination with industry

groups, including the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and the South Florida Aviation Maintenance Council. Over 200 c-suite level aviation leaders have been invited to complete a survey and participate in series of focus groups that are taking place in December 2021. The survey and focus groups are designed to identify the current and future training needs in the market, determine the most in-demand credentials/evaluation requirements, cultivate partners with adequate resources, and design the education/training framework.

COVID-19 Recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic drastically changed the way we interacted with one another, negatively impacting our economy and the labor market, housing stability, and education. The City has done great work to support recovery efforts of the City – for both neighbors and businesses.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the learning outcomes of children as many were required to learn from home. As students began to return to the classrooms, this regression became obvious. To provide supplemental learning opportunities to re-engage students in the summer of 2021, the City offered a Summer Enrichment Program as a part of its summer camps for 540 students. Academic instruction was provided by certified teachers and educators and focused on core educational components such as reading, math, and language arts. As a result of the program, 85% of campers maintained or improved literacy skills and 78% maintained or improved math skills. The City is looking for opportunities to replicate this success for next summer.

In support of our neighbor's health, groceries were provided to neighbors in need through weekly drive-thru food distributions at Mills Pond Park. This free event, in partnership with Feeding South Florida, provided healthy and nutritious food on a first-come, first-served basis. The program ended in May 2021. The City also provided opportunities for housing relief for low-income residents who were impacted by the pandemic through an Emergency Rental Assistance Program which provided up to six months of rental assistance. The program is still available and residents who are interested in information regarding the program, eligibility, and how to apply, may visit <https://www.consolidatedcreditsolutions.org/ftl-rent/>.

Over the course of the past year, the City hosted free COVID-19 testing at Holiday Park and Mills Pond Park for adults and children with or without symptoms. While the Holiday Park site has closed, the Mills Pond Park site is still open and available for testing. As of December 1st, 275,563 test specimens have been collected. The City also provided on-site testing for City employees between August 16 and September 24, 2021. During that time, 707 tests were administered with a positivity rate of 4%. While the on-site testing has ended, quick testing kits remain available to City employees. In addition to testing, vaccinations are also a key component to the City's recovery strategy. Vaccinations sites were open to the public at DRV PNK Stadium and Snyder Park. Both sites are now closed,

but vaccinations are available throughout the City at various retail pharmacies. The City also promoted CDR Maguire's Homebound Vaccine Program which brings vaccinations directly to Homebound neighbors.

In addition to helping neighbors recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has contracted with a consultant to conduct a study to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on our business community. This study will identify focus areas and develop strategies to address those impacts so that the City can better support existing businesses and attract new businesses to Fort Lauderdale. Input will be critical to the success of this study and is being collected through a survey, focus groups, and transactional data. A final report is expected in February 2022.

Safety

The Safety initiative aims to prevent and mitigate identified risks, improve notification of emergency incidents to the public, and increase community engagement.

The Fire Rescue Department remains focused on improving fire and medical response times and amplifying Community Risk Reduction (CRR) outreach. The Department also installs smoke alarms for residents and car seats for babies and children to reduce the severity of an emergency. Additionally, multiple public outreach events are hosted throughout the year to provide critical training to our neighbors and are included below:

- Stop-the-Bleed/Hands On CPR/Heat Emergencies
- Hurricane Preparedness
- Fire Station Tours
- Career Days
- Homeowner Association Presentations

The Police Department keeps neighbors and neighborhoods safe by enforcing public safety regulations and utilizing advanced investigation technologies. License Plate Reader (LPR) technology and National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) bullet tracing technology provide quick and reliable intelligence to investigate and solve crimes. A random sampling of 30 consecutive days between September and November 2021 revealed 969 LPR alerts. This includes 503 alerts for stolen license plates or stolen/felony vehicles, 357 alerts for wanted persons, and another eight alerts for sexual offenders. As of November 2021, NIBIN has 308 bullet entries which developed 39 leads for cases that are within the City and 55 leads for cases outside the City in 2021.

Improvements to public safety facilities continue to be underway as the City is working towards replacement of Fire Station 13, and preliminary design for the new Southeast Emergency Medical Services (EMS) sub-station (Fire Station 88).

In addition, the city is continuing progress towards construction of a new Police Headquarters. It will replace the existing structure, which is now functionally obsolete and

has portions that are deteriorating, with expanded workspace and integrated state-of-the-art technology. The final design for the exterior has been completed and the interior design will be completed by mid-January 2022. As a cost saving strategy, to the City plans to break ground concurrently for both the parking garage and the Police Headquarters. Key milestones for 2022 include acquisition of the adjacent property, rezoning approval, and replat for the Headquarters.

The Parks and Recreation Department is creating a Citywide Lighting Master Plan to address Citywide lighting needs. As a part of this plan, 1,000 Smart Nodes have been installed in streetlights and a monitoring contract is under review to bring the Smart Nodes online. The described technology allows for real time reporting of streetlight outages, which will improve repair response times. A draft Master Plan is scheduled to be presented to the City Commission in January 2022. Once the Master Plan is complete and accepted by the City Commission, the Department will upgrade and enhance streetlights throughout the City based on the priorities outlined in the plan.

Active Killer Response Training has been offered to City employees by the Human Resources Risk Management Division. As of November 2021, a total of 1,324 employees have successfully completed the program. The program offers techniques and insight from the Department of Homeland Security to appropriately respond to an active killer incident. To date, 213 Active Killer Response (bleeding control) Kits have been dispersed to various City locations; another 587 kits remain for distribution.

National Safety Council Training also began this year with 132 employees trained to date by the Risk Management Division. This training includes basic first aid, trauma bleeding and wound care, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). The City expects to train approximately 500 employees per year for the next three years. It encompasses the City's entire workforce, except for sworn public safety members of the Police and Fire Rescue departments, which conduct their own training.

Smart Growth

Smart Growth is an ongoing initiative for the City and under this identified Priority, the City continues to verify that current infrastructure plans support proposed developments, conform with adopted planning regulations, and align with master planning efforts. In support of this work, the Development Services Department (DSD) maintains, promotes, and leverages the Gridics Municipal Zoning Interactive 3D Development Map as a visualization tool for current and proposed development. This application integrates multiple commonly requested data components and consolidates them into a singular comprehensive website that is available for public review at <https://bit.ly/33tTV9z>.

Internally, DSD utilizes the software to visually assess the potential impact of proposed development and the effects of any proposed zoning regulation changes to the existing built environment. The platform's modeling has already proved valuable and is currently

being used to explore opportunities to better evaluate the City's transportation and infrastructure needs.

Uptown Master Plan South

The focus of the Uptown Master Plan South Priority is to develop a master plan for the Uptown South area that incorporates opportunities to develop the area east of DRV PNK Stadium. In June 2021, an internal preliminary analysis report for the Uptown South area was presented at a City Commission Conference Meeting. The purpose of the report was to reassess the current land use and zoning patterns within the area following recent redevelopment, specific to the DRV PNK Stadium, and examine opportunities to advance and/or align economic initiatives with new and existing industries within Uptown South. The report provided a summary of existing land use and zoning requirements in the area before outlining potential redevelopment opportunities and challenges within Uptown South.

Following the presentation, a need was identified to solicit feedback from current property and business owners within the surrounding area to survey their long-term goals and overall sentiment, and to identify any zoning or land use issues. City staff prepared a community survey which has been sent to the property owners in the project area. The survey results will be collected and summarized following the completion of survey input on December 17, 2021. In support of further economic growth in the area, the City will partner with the Chamber of Commerce and Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance in marketing and outreach initiatives. Tindale Oliver has been secured as a consultant for the project and will provide a preliminary economic and market analysis. The project will also contain a multi-modal connectivity plan that will link the area to the Uptown Village while leveraging nearby transportation systems, including the Tri-Rail and the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, among other areas in the City. The primary objective will be to ensure that any proposed redevelopment focuses on the expansion of business development without creating an internally competitive economic environment or duplicating urban planning initiatives currently in place within the City.

I am pleased with the continued success these initiatives have had toward achieving the City Commission's Priorities and look forward to next year's Commission Prioritization Workshop on January 27, 2022. Please contact me for any further information regarding our progress.

c: Tarlesha W. Smith, Esq., Assistant City Manager
Greg Chavarria, Assistant City Manager
Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney
Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Clerk
John C. Herbst, City Auditor
Department Directors
CMO Managers