



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#22-0043

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: January 18, 2022

TITLE: City Manager Annual Performance Review - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Mayor and City Commission review the performance of City Manager Chris Lagerbloom in accordance with his employment agreement.

Background

I continue to be privileged to serve as the City of Fort Lauderdale's City Manager since my formal appointment effective January 1, 2019, pursuant to Resolution No. 18-255. In accordance with the Employment Agreement dated November 6, 2018, this is intended to be the annual performance review for the City Manager.

Despite the many challenges that continued into 2021 because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the City continued to serve its neighbors effectively, supported the recovery efforts, and achieved accomplishments that are propelling the City toward its vision of becoming "the City you never want to leave."

I would like to highlight several Citywide achievements that could not have occurred without the City Commission's leadership and support.

COVID-19 Recovery

Like many other organizations, the City continued to face varying levels of financial and operational impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City has positioned itself to adapt to the changing circumstances and continue services for our neighbors. Key accomplishments to supporting the community in its COVID-19 recovery over the past year include:

- Coordinated and supported the operation of two COVID-19 testing sites at City parks (Holiday Park and Mills Pond Park). The City also offered testing for City staff and families at various City work locations.
- Coordinated and supported the operation of vaccination sites at Holiday Park, Snyder Park, and DRV PNK Stadium.

- Provided an Emergency Rental Assistance Program to provide up to six months of rental assistance to eligible individuals and families who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provided a summer enrichment program to mitigate the impact of learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the program, 85% of campers maintained or improved their literacy skills and 78% of campers maintained or improved their math skills.
- Administered a temporary, non-congregate housing program for individuals experiencing homelessness in Fort Lauderdale. This program provided housing, food, health, and case management services at a nearby hotel for 151 participants.

Strong Financial Management

Many of the financial challenges we experienced in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 continued into FY 2021 and set the stage for a challenging budget year. Without adequate resources, the City cannot deliver the services that neighbors need. To mitigate against this scenario, the City took proactive measures to maintain and enhance its financial health for 2022 and beyond. Key financial accomplishments this year are included below.

- Produced a structurally balanced budget for FY 2022 which was adopted unanimously by the City Commission maintaining the same low millage rate of 4.1193 for the 15th consecutive year. Despite significant budgetary challenges, the City implemented strategic cost reductions; leveraged Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding for eligible expenses; and benefitted from its diversified revenue streams to weather revenue shortfalls to the General Fund without using fund balance or impacting services to neighbors.
- Secured approximately \$19.7 million in grant funds, which includes \$9.1 million in competitive grant awards. Grant funding was used for necessary purchases, which allowed City funds to be redirected to other high priority needs such as facilities maintenance, infrastructure improvements, and transportation enhancements. This amount does not include \$17.3 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding or \$38.1 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.
- To date, allocated over \$29 million in external funding to help our community recover from the pandemic. Funding was appropriated to support homelessness and housing assistance; small business assistance; education enrichment services; COVID-19 response, testing, and vaccinations; and City services such as personal protective equipment and public safety payroll assistance.
- Established a competitive nonprofit grant application process that provided for a consistent and transparent review of applications from nonprofit organizations and included evaluation by the Budget Advisory Board. As a result of this new process, 107 applications were received; 99 of which were not recipients of FY 2021 funding.
- Issued \$42,145,000 in Water and Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds resulting in \$5.1 million in net present value (NPV) debt service savings, approximately 11.9% of the par amount of the Refunded Bonds.

- Coordinated city-wide conversion to the Florida Retirement System for non-public safety positions effective January 1, 2021.

We are proud of our General Obligation bond ratings that are the result of our long term financial and management strategies (Standard & Poor's (S&P) "AAAA" and Moody's Investors Service Aa2). These ratings allow the City to borrow and repay money at low interest rates resulting in significant savings to our taxpayers.

Other Key Accomplishments

In addition to advancing the City's recovery from COVID-19 and maintaining the City's financial stability through strategic actions, the items outlined below highlight key success in alignment with the City's Strategic Plan goals and the City Commission's priorities.

- Administered the City's first biannual Business Survey to gauge the perception of the City as a place to do businesses and businesses' satisfaction with City services. This survey was especially relevant as we considered ways to support businesses in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Established a Government Affairs and Economic Development Division within the City Manager's Office, adding a position and enhancing funding levels for lobbying activities.
- Selected and hired a new Police Chief after conducting a nation-wide search.
- Selected and hired a new Public Works Director.
- Completed the seven-mile, \$65 million redundant sewer line extending from the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant to a lift station at the Coral Ridge Country Club.
- Began efforts to explore a subsurface tunnel that would transport neighbors and visitors between downtown.
- Secured provisional certification by the Broward County Planning Council for the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan provides the City with long-term direction for future land use and serves as the basis for the City's zoning and land development regulations.
- Began work towards 39 park improvement projects as a part of the first implementation phase of the voter approved, \$200 million Parks Bond.
- In support of the Parks Bond initiatives to expand green space and increase public access to parks, the City has acquired and added approximately 4.5 acres of park space to the City since March 2019.

The 2021 Strategic Plan Annual Progress Report is attached as Exhibit 1 to illustrate the advancement toward the City's five-year goals as outlined in Press Play 2024.

Progress updates for Commission Priorities, identified and articulated by the City Commission in January 2021, have been provided through the monthly Top Priority LauderTrac newsletters and quarterly progress reports. The LauderTrac newsletters may be accessed online at <https://bit.ly/3oxi4mA>; the latest quarterly summary report is

attached as Exhibit 2. These documents demonstrate the successes and progress we have made towards addressing the highest priorities of the Mayor and City Commission.

In my third year as your City Manager, I would like to thank you for trusting me to lead the City in addressing our organization's highest priorities. I look forward to working with you, our neighbors, and our team of public servants as we continue to move the City forward.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan, 2021 Annual Progress Report

Exhibit 2 - 2021 City Commission Priorities – Quarterly Progress Report (December 2021)

Prepared by: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

Charter Officer: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager