

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

1:30 PM

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*****VIRTUAL MEETING ONLY*****

CONFERENCE MEETING

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSIONER

DEAN J. TRANTALIS - Mayor

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN - Vice Mayor - Commissioner District III

JOHN C. HERBST - Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN - Commissioner - District II

WARREN STURMAN - Commissioner - District IV

GREG CHAVARRIA, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

D'WAYNE M. SPENCE, Interim City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner John C. Herbst (participated via communications technology), Commissioner Steven Glassman (participated via communications technology), Vice Mayor Pamela Beasley-Pittman (participated via communications technology), Commissioner Warren Sturman (participated via communications technology), and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis (participated via communications technology)

Also Present: City Manager Greg Chavarria, City Clerk David R. Soloman, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne M. Spence, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

FLOOD EMERGENCY UPDATE/CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mayor Trantalis provided a Flood Emergency update that impacted District 3 and District 4 residents severely.

A copy of his statement has been made part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman recommended tabling all Conference Agenda items to address needs of residents impacted flooding (Flood Emergency). Mayor Trantalis confirmed the Commission would address this topic.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman expressed her disappointment and described concerns about the response to the Flood Emergency. She remarked on the need for the City to be better prepared. She confirmed the need for the Commission to participate in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and expounded on related concerns.

City Manager Chavarria responded to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's remarks, expounding on Staff efforts, in concert with Broward County and the state, to prioritize resident and community needs during and following the storm. Staff followed National Incident Management System (NIMS) guidelines to mitigate and respond. City Manager Chavarria explained EOC efforts and related details. Further comment and discussion

ensued.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed District 3 tours with Police Department personnel to assess the impact of the Flood Emergency to determine the most severely impacted neighborhood areas. She commented on the accuracy of response efforts discussed and the related timeline.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed the need for the City to be better prepared and have the necessary equipment on call to respond to flood events. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman acknowledged the efforts of Staff and clarified her perspective regarding the responsibility of the Commission to address community needs during an emergency event. She confirmed her readiness to sit at the table to address related concerns.

Mayor Trantalis discussed ongoing flood mitigation projects estimated to be completed in twenty-four (24) to thirty-six (36) months. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman reiterated the importance of moving forward with flood mitigation projects and the immediate need for shovels in the ground for those flood mitigation projects.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on current pre-positioned vendor contracts and suggested having multiple pre-positioned vendor contracts to respond to emergencies versus relying on the resources of neighboring municipalities. He recommended the Commission pursue efforts similar to those taken in District 1 to replace the Redundant Wastewater Pipe Line and prioritize stormwater mitigation projects in District 3 and District 4.

Commissioner Sturman noted he would comment on the Flood Emergency during Commission Reports.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman and Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to have been included in press conferences related to the Flood Emergency. Commissioner Glassman recommended the Commission participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training for elected officials and expounded on details.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on feedback from FEMA and Staff efforts to provide FEMA with required Flood Emergency information and expounded on his viewpoint.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on conversations with Senator Rick Scott, Congressman Jared Moskowitz, and their respective staff related to obtaining FEMA assistance for residents.

Commissioner Sturman clarified that his presence at a Flood Emergency Press Conference at a shelter coincided with his volunteer efforts during the Flood Emergency.

Commissioner Sturman discussed his National Incident Management System (NIMS) training with the Medical Reserve Corps and working with the Red Cross, the Florida Department of Health, and the Broward County Medical Association, all of which assisted in his communication efforts with Staff and First Responders during the Flood Emergency.

City Manager Chavarria commented on plans and work to mitigate the Flood Emergency. Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, provided an overview of measures to reduce stormwater flooding.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his understanding regarding the ability of the City to draw down neighborhood stormwater levels into the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) canals. He requested Staff verify related information and commented on the possible need to improve coordination with other Broward County municipalities during significant rain events.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective regarding challenges during a major weather event. Commissioner Glassman recommended Broward County involvement. Mayor Trantalis remarked on pursuing the assistance from the Broward League of Cities. Mr. Dodd discussed details associated with SFWMD drainage canals and challenges due to its design and the City's location. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Dodd explained Staff efforts to mitigate stormwater flooding with pump trucks that included the pursuit of multiple avenues.

Commissioner Sturman recommended the Commission direct the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee to conduct a post-Flood Emergency analysis of the impacted areas, including Edgewood, River Oaks, Melrose Park, and Melrose Manors. Mayor Trantalis concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Chavarria reviewed results of the *2023 Flash Flood Damage Assessment* survey and confirmed additional surveys are

ongoing.

A copy has been made part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman provided additional areas in District 3 that experienced significant flood damage and are in need of FEMA Assessment surveys, including SW 22nd Road between Sunrise Boulevard and SW 15th Court, and the Royal Palm and Rock Island Road areas between NW 22nd Street and NW 26th Street, bordered by NW 27th and NW 28th Avenues. City Manager Chavarria confirmed.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, City Manager Chavarria confirmed 954-828-8000 as the telephone number residents should call to report flood damage and related needs. City Manager Chavarria explained streamlined efforts with the state to document flood damage.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, City Manager Chavarria explained Staff's door-to-door outreach efforts to impacted residents and cited examples. Residents can also be transported to comfort areas via Circuit transportation to report flood-related needs and property damage to Staff.

Assistant City Manager Susan Grant confirmed a communication from Fire Marshall Jeff Lucas reminding residents that Staff will contact residents who have reported damage to 954-828-8000 and residents should not duplicate calls. She explained that once FEMA's threshold has been met, all residents can file a FEMA damage claim.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the efforts of numerous officials at the local, state, and federal government levels.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[23-0414](#)

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

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING March 16, 2023

Officer Communication to the City Commission - Education Listening Campaign

*The City of Fort Lauderdale's Education Advisory Board (EAB)
respectfully recommends that its Mayor and Commission support the*

EAB's efforts to develop and implement a dynamic Education Listening Campaign. Fort Lauderdale has a unique role to play in understanding our local educational needs. City schools sit at the intersection of the nation's sixth largest school system and a diverse, burgeoning metropolis. The campaign's goal is to capture the strengths and needs of the City's public schools. By amplifying the voices of our residents, the City can partner with the Broward County Public School Board to inform decision-making and effect meaningful, lasting change. Campaign findings will enable Fort Lauderdale to empower students to become career-oriented, productive, and engaged community members. In elevating the quality and appeal of our schools, Fort Lauderdale will be recognized as a desirable destination for local, national, and international businesses. Motion by Dr. Verdi-Knapp, seconded by Ms. Gohl, to accept the draft as is to present to the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. (8-0).

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer, explained the communication, shared details that led to this recommendation, and expounded on details.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on the need to table the remainder of the Conference Agenda items following Commission Reports due to the need for Staff to focus on the Flood Emergency.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to continue this noticed meeting and noted the number of residents signed up to speak on Conference Agenda items. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recommended continuing the Commission Reports portion of the Conference Meeting followed by the noticed Executive Closed-Door Session.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence explained the Commission would participate in an Executive Closed-Door Session to address ongoing litigation, not the other Executive Closed-Door Session related to labor negotiations. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Saunders confirmed that the communication could be addressed later at the direction of the City Manager. Commissioner Glassman commented on the importance and his support of the communication.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

Commissioner Glassman commented on attending the funeral service for community advocate Norm Kent. He acknowledged today is Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah). Commissioner Glassman discussed concerns related to state pension legislation under consideration and cited problematic examples experienced in other states. He expounded on his perspective regarding state legislation impacting women's rights and cultural issues and remarked on an anticipated one percent (1%) increase in homeowner insurance.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman commented on attending funeral services for City Pioneers Betty Sue Butler and Mary Alice Yancey-Baskin.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman thanked everyone advocating for District 3 neighbors impacted by the Flood Emergency, including community members, elected officials, the Salvation Army, Staff, and others. She remarked on the need to communicate with vendors to determine what services they can offer residents. She noted the Florida Department of Health's offer to administer tetanus shots to District 3 residents who may have injured themselves.

Commissioner Sturman urged City Manager Chavarria to provide Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman with an EOC tour to include the review of NIMS, and recommended allowing Commission Members to have input regarding the City's response to emergencies going forward.

Commissioner Sturman expounded on his First Responder qualifications, experience with volunteer response to emergencies, activities related to the Flood Emergency as a First Responder, and confirmed there was no loss of life during the Flood Emergency. Commissioner Sturman acknowledged and thanked elected officials at the local and state levels for their outreach, insight, and assistance.

Commissioner Sturman explained that despite the Flood Emergency, residents need to file a federal income tax return or an extension postmarked today, April 18, 2023.

Commissioner Sturman discussed his District 4 daily virtual meetings with residents to update residents on the response to the Flood Emergency. He reviewed the impact of the rain event, the resulting Flood

Emergency, and provided an update on efforts to address issues and concerns. Commissioner Sturman reiterated contact telephone numbers to report resident problems, 954-828-800, and confirmed his availability to assist with resident concerns if necessary. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman provided an update regarding gasoline availability, water damage impacting the ability to pump gasoline at Port Everglades for delivery to gas stations, and explained assistance from the state's gasoline reserve to assist with recovery efforts.

Commissioner Sturman reviewed additional First Responder recovery efforts, i.e., debris removal and mosquito spraying in neighborhoods, and the availability of shelters and comfort stations. The Florida Department of Health has set up a facility in District 3 to administer tetanus shots to residents that have been injured. All hospitals located in the City are fully operational.

Commissioner Sturman explained volunteer efforts, including those of the Neighbor Support Division, and confirmed The United Way is the lead organization. He remarked on information related to economic assistance for businesses and automobile claims for individuals, and acknowledged business community members who have assisted in recovery efforts.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his perspective regarding the response to the Flood Emergency and acknowledged neighbors helping neighbors. He explained that new development in the downtown area was not a factor in the Flood Emergency impacting Edgewood, Dorsey-Riverbend, Melrose Park, and Melrose Manors neighborhoods and remarked on opinions in the editorial page of the *Sun Sentinel* newspaper and expounded on his perspective.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the impact of the Flood Emergency on City Hall and confirmed this is the reason that today's Commission Meetings are being held virtually.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Chavarria provided an update on the severe impact of the Flood Emergency on City Hall and cited specific examples of damage, shown in a presentation entitled *City Hall Status, April 18, 2023*. The presentation illustrated a significant flood in the basement, where most of the building's mechanical systems are located.

Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, continued narration of the presentation illustrating damage to City Hall and noting Staff and the vendor team addressing flood mitigation and recovery operations.

A copy of the presentation has been made part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Dodd confirmed more than eight feet (8') of water accumulated in the basement of City Hall during the Flood Emergency. Mr. Dodd confirmed an updated estimate cost of \$175,000 per day to maintain and operate temporary systems at City Hall over the next 180 days. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Dodd confirmed this cost is a temporary measure and would not bring operations up to current Florida Building Code standards and expounded on related details and anticipated costs following a complete assessment.

Assistant City Manager Susan Grant continued narrating the presentation illustrating strategies for the temporary relocation of City Hall Staff. She explained several models for Commission consideration and feedback. Ms. Grant confirmed the City Hall building is insured and remarked on the availability of FEMA to assist and explained related details.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Ms. Grant confirmed the \$38,300,000 FEMA threshold for the City to be eligible for public assistance that local governments would apply for and cited examples. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his viewpoint that the costs discussed in the presentation are excessive and discussed the interim options available, including the relocation of Staff to 110 Broward Boulevard and locating District offices in each respective District.

Commissioner Herbst discussed the availability of Kaplan University, located in District 1 on Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) property and owned by the City. He confirmed this facility was toured by City Manager Chavarria, Assistant City Manager Grant, and Assistant City Manager Fajardo. Commissioner Herbst explained the suitability of the building's seventy-five thousand feet (75,000') of office space, is move-in ready, expounded on details, and encouraged the Commission to consider this opportunity. He explained his perspective regarding the need to move forward with constructing a new City Hall building and explained concerns related to future environmental factors at City Hall. City Manager Chavarria confirmed that at this time, City Hall is not considered an unsafe structure and explained related details.

Mayor Trantalis concurred, remarked on necessary criteria, and confirmed the viability of this relocation option. Commissioner Sturman commented on his understanding. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the direction to Staff to determine the relocation option to meet the needs of Staff and its operations at a competitive cost.

In response to Ms. Grant's question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need for relocated space to include an area for Commission Meetings. She confirmed Kaplan University space includes an area to accommodate Commission Meetings.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Commissioner Herbst confirmed Kaplan University is located at 1515 Cypress Creek Road, across from FXE.

City Manager Chavarria remarked on scheduling a Commission Special Meeting to discuss the relocation of City Hall, where Staff would present a matrix of available options, the transition plan, and building a new City Hall. Mayor Trantalis confirmed a consensus that City Hall should relocate, and he requested Commission Members make themselves available when the Special Meeting is scheduled.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on the need to table the remainder of the Agenda items due to the Flood Emergency. Commissioner Glassman commented on his viewpoint that the Commission Conference Meeting should continue, and expounded on details. Commissioner Herbst and Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman concurred that the remainder of the Conference Agenda is tabled. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence explained details regarding how State Statutes and the Charter address Executive Closed-Door Sessions and the time-sensitive nature of litigation items scheduled for discussion. Commissioner Glassman expressed his viewpoint regarding the need to move forward with the remainder of the Agenda. Commissioner Sturman explained details associated with his request to table remaining non-critical Conference Agenda items due to the Flood Emergency. Commissioner Herbst concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recommended taking a ten (10) minute break and reconvening for the Executive Closed-Door Session.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mayor Trantalis

confirmed the State of Emergency is still in effect. Commissioner Sturman remarked that business as usual does not apply during a State of Emergency.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the Commission would move forward with the Community Redevelopment Agency Board Meeting, the Executive Closed-Door Session at 4:30 p.m., and the Commission Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [23-0378](#) Homeless Advisory Committee Discussion - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)
TABLED

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [23-0260](#) Presentation on the Strategic Historic Preservation Plan -
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)
TABLED

BUS-2 [23-0379](#) Florida Retirement System (FRS) for Elected Officials Discussion -
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)
TABLED

BUS-3 [23-0410](#) Status of Residential Unit Allocation and Flexibility Units - Staff
Presentation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)
TABLED

BUS-4 [23-0422](#) Discussion on Additional Funding for City Sponsored Events -
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)
TABLED

BUS-5 [23-0425](#) One Stop Shop Update - (Commission District 2)
TABLED

RECESS

Mayor Trantalis recessed the Conference Meeting at 4:06 p.m. to hold the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board Meeting.

**EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION - 4:30 P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS
POSSIBLE**

[23-0408](#)

The City Commission will meet privately pursuant to Florida Statute, Section 286.011(8)(a) concerning:

City of Fort Lauderdale, et al. v. Terminal Ventures, LLC, et al.
Case No.: CACE 22-0911787 (05)

KC FXE Aviation Investments, LLC and Terminal Ventures, LLC
Bankruptcy Petition No.: 22-19815-SMG

Stephen Nagy, et al. v. 1813 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd., LLC, et al.
Case No.: CACE 21-015100 (03)

Mayor Trantalis announced that the City Commission shall meet privately to conduct discussions between the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the City Commission relative to pending litigation pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, in connection with the matters listed above.

Present at the attorney-client session will be:

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis
Vice Mayor Pamela Beasley-Pittman
Commissioner John C. Herbst
Commissioner Steven Glassman
Commissioner Warren Sturman
City Manager Greg Chavarria
Interim City Attorney D'Wayne M. Spence
Outside Counsel Michael T. Burke, Esq., Johnson, Anselmo, *et al.*,
Edward A. Dion, Esq. from Nabors, Giblin, *et al.*, and
Certified Court Reporter from Bailey Entin Court Reporting

The estimated length of this attorney-client session is approximately twenty (20) minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.