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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

1:30 PM

**Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Mary N Porter Riverview
Ballroom - 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312**

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

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

THOMAS J. ANSBRO, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

Also Present: City Manager Greg Chavarria, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbro, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [23-1201](#)

New River Crossing Update Part III - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis provided an overview of this Agenda item, its purpose to facilitate continued discussions, and provide community feedback and updated information about the best option for the New River Crossing. There will be a Resolution on tonight's Commission Regular Meeting Agenda reflecting the City's position on the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the New River Crossing.

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, provided an overview of the information to be presented, including a Staff presentation and a presentation by BDO.

Commissioner Herbst reiterated his objection to receiving pertinent Agenda information late in the process that requires a thorough review by Commission Members.

Mr. Rogers narrated the Staff presentation entitled *New River Crossing Part III*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rogers explained the purpose of the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Grant (RIAG) is for an analysis of a tunnel as the LPA for the New River Crossing. The City applied for a RIAG in the amount of \$2,500,000 and was awarded

\$974,000. Staff aligned the scope of the RIAG accordingly, which includes an analysis and understanding of the LPA's impact on economic development, the environment, and property values. Results of the analysis will be presented to the Commission in January 2024. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Rogers explained how the RIAG interacts with other Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunities and commented on application windows and related information.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions regarding Broward County and City grants furthering the process, Mr. Rogers explained his understanding based upon input from the City's federal lobbyist. Commissioner Herbst remarked on his understanding that only Brightline could apply for intercity railway funding and discussed related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis discussed input from United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) officials related to the City applying for intercity grant funding for a project that is within City boundaries. City Manager Chavarria confirmed Staff will research and advise the Commission. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Rogers continued narrating the presentation.

Mayor Trantalis discussed information received during meetings with USDOT. He explained the past practice of federal government funding *shovel-ready projects*, which is now focused on *shovel-worthy projects*. Staff's grant funding efforts will outline what the City hopes to achieve. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the timelines for the entire BDO study and the federal grant application. Mr. Rogers confirmed that the additional BDO scope of work will assist in attaining grant funding.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question regarding the impact of both the City and the County applying for grants simultaneously, Mr. Rogers explained the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) often takes the lead and brings both applications together as one single application. Mr. Rogers cited examples and explained related information.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Mr. Rogers explained why the BDO presentation was not online or in the Agenda backup due to the evolving nature of BDO's work product. City Clerk David Soloman confirmed that BDO's documents are available to the public.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Seth Miller Gabriel, BDO USA, P.C., Co-Practice Leader, Infrastructure and Public-Private Partnerships Team. Mr. Gabriel narrated the first portion of the BDO presentation entitled *Introduction to the Team*.

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Umer Yaqub, BDO, USA, P.C., Managing Director. Mr. Yaqub narrated the next portion of the BDO presentation entitled *Scope of Work*.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Mr. Yaqub confirmed the BDO presentation only focuses on a tunnel for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Nasri Munfah, Partner - Principal - Gall Zeidler Consultants. Mr. Munfah narrated the portion of the BDO presentation entitled *Solutions Meeting the Criteria*. Mr. Munfah expounded on his background, experience, and qualifications. He explained tunnel option alternatives, alignment information, and related details.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Mr. Munfah explained that the tunnel length of the Alternative 1.4 tunnel is one point one five (1.15) miles.

Commissioner Herbst noted this alternative does not alleviate traffic concerns at the Sistrunk Boulevard and Sunrise Boulevard east-west corridors. Mr. Munfah confirmed and noted those concerns were not within the scope of work.

Commissioner Sturman noted that Alternative 1.4 does not include Florida East Coast Railway Freight travel that will continue to travel unimpeded on existing railway tracks.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Mr. Munfah explained details and information regarding different grade elevations in the Alternative 1.4 illustration.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Munfah explained details of the U-shaped design of the north and south commuter railway travel route into and out of the tunnel, which will merge onto existing FECR railway tracks from the outside at grade level when exiting the tunnel. Mr. Munfah remarked on related information and confirmed

discussions with Brightline, which indicated they had no objection.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question regarding tunnel construction impacting the foundation of existing FECR lines and the bascule bridge's existing foundation, Mr. Munfah confirmed the tunnels would be forty (40) to fifty (50) feet below the FECR lines and are not expected to cause any negative impact. Mr. Munfah cited examples of other tunnel projects and noted there would be monitoring during construction to ensure the bascule bridge's existing foundation is not negatively impacted.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the ability to adjust the entrance and exit points of a tunnel to avoid major intersections such as Sistrunk Boulevard. Mr. Munfah confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Munfah commented on utilizing a parcel on Sistrunk Boulevard as a staging area for the tunnel project. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed concerns and the impact of using that area, which contains Sistrunk Park for a temporary staging area over the anticipated four (4) year period of tunnel construction. She commented on the possibility of this area being subject to eminent domain. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on similar circumstances on the south portion of a tunnel impacting Hardy Park. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented on utilizing other areas for tunnel construction staging. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman expounded on her viewpoint in opposition to greenspace being the first option for construction staging.

Commissioner Glassman said that a bridge option for the New River Crossing would also require areas for construction staging. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman reiterated the need for the Commission to be mindful of the staging areas. Commissioner Glassman expounded on his viewpoint and cited an example of a greenspace staging area used for infrastructure projects. Mr. Rogers commented on discussions with BDO related to options for construction staging areas.

Mr. Rogers reiterated that BDO is developing ongoing tunnel project work product documents that will be part of the final BDO report. Mayor Trantalis remarked that the BDO ongoing work product documents would provide a framework and parameters for a tunnel project. He remarked on related time constraints, and reiterated a Resolution stating the Commission's position will be on tonight's Regular Commission Agenda.

Mr. Yaqub narrated BDO's working document presentation entitled *DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENT Additional Information*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Munfah said the tunnel's north and south portal entry points will not impact existing FECR railway tracks, are within the FECR's rights-of-way, and will not require additional land acquisition.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the estimated cost for the tunnel project suggested by BDO, Mr. Munfah discussed differing costs, tunnel designs, and information included in the *Summary of Reports* slide and expounded on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions regarding costs, Mr. Yaqub explained information and details related to the duration of construction, the development cycle, and inflation. Mr. Munfah explained that the costs associated with a tunnel are primarily related to excavation versus building materials used for construction of the City's Police Department Headquarters. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst expounded on his viewpoint regarding initial estimated costs for municipal projects presented to the public, discussed related experiences, and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on cost differentials and details in the various consultant reports. Mr. Munfah commented on information related to updated tunnel technologies, cited examples, and expounded on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst commented on his perspective regarding the variety of engineering solutions. He noted the need for vigorous conversations among the consultants and discussed his viewpoint regarding the BDO report, which substantially deviates from previous consultant reports. Mayor Trantalis commented on the ability to peer review BDO's report and expounded on his viewpoint regarding initial cost estimates for a tunnel. He noted that BDO reduced the scope of a tunnel project, which resulted in a lower cost estimate, and discussed his perspective regarding numerous aspects related to a New River

Crossing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst requested validation of engineering assumptions included in the consultants' reports and cited examples. Mr. Munfah confirmed that BDO's tunnel engineering related to depth and grade had been cleared with Brightline representatives and explained related information.

Commissioner Herbst commented on differing information provided by consultants, cited examples, and noted the need for third-party verification of BDO's information, costs, and recommendations. Mr. Yaqub confirmed and noted that BDO was bound by the City's scope of work and explained related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman noted that Ben Porritt was in attendance on behalf of Brightline. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Porritt remarked on his understanding of Brightline engineers discussing the three percent (3%) tunnel construction grade. Brightline supports the best alternative for the New River Crossing but has yet to formally sign off on aspects of tunnel engineering information. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need for verification.

In response to Mr. Rogers' request for Commission direction, Mayor Trantalis reiterated the likelihood of a peer review of the BDO report.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Eugenia Ellis, President & Chief Executive Officer of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Inc. Ms. Ellis spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Alan Hooper, 2719 NE 37th Drive. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Hooper confirmed he wrote a letter to the *Sun Sentinel* editor. Mr. Hooper spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Patricia Zeiler, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society Executive Director. Ms. Zeiler spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Patrick Scott, 2090 NE 54th Court, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. Mr. Scott spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Marilyn Mammano, 1819 SE 17th Street. Ms. Mammano spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the

New River Crossing and discussed how to move forward with all stakeholders in support of this goal.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his understanding of the position of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners following the recent Workshop with the City Commission. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Mammano said based on the information presented today, she would contact her Broward County Board of County Commissioners representative and urge them to review this information. She noted the County should review this information and provide its input prior to the City spending additional funding on the tunnel option for the New River Crossing.

Commissioner Sturman noted that the LPA for the New River Crossing is a tunnel and commented on the need to illustrate a viable path forward.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Nadege LeBlanc on behalf of Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick. Ms. LeBlanc read from a prepared statement from Congresswoman Cherfilus-McCormick in support of a tunnel as the LPA for the New River Crossing. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. LeBlanc said that Congresswoman Cherfilus-McCormick had yet to communicate her position to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners but plans on meeting with them to discuss.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Brucie Cummings, 830 SW 9th Street, on behalf of the Tarpon River Civic Association President. Ms. Cummings spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing. In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Ms. Cummings explained details regarding her recommendation for greenspace around Hardy Park associated with the tunnel option. Ms. Cummings commented on the City's previous outreach to the community regarding the LPA for the New River Crossing. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked for the record that she was not contacted for community input when she served as President of the Historic Dorsey-Riverbend Civic Association.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Doug Coolman, 1911 Bayview Drive. Mr. Coolman spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street. Mr. Inserra discussed concerns about the increased commuter rail and the

impact on traffic at east-west corridor railway intersections.

Commissioner Herbst acknowledged Mr. Inserra's concerns, discussed the perspective of District 1 residents related to additional commuter railway traffic, and cited examples. Mayor Trantalis remarked on discussions with Broward County and FDOT regarding funding for underpasses at major east-west corridor railway intersections. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Stephanie Toothaker, Esq., 901 Ponce de Leon Drive. Ms. Toothaker said she represents numerous property owners located adjacent to the existing tracks and rights-of-way needed for the New River Crossing bridge options and noted that those property owners have yet to be contacted. Ms. Toothaker discussed development investment associated with those properties and the significant impact of eminent domain costs for a bridge option. She spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Cory Belschner, 1549 SW 18th Avenue. Mr. Belschner spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Peloquin, 2510 NE 10th Court, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations (CFLCA) President. Ms. Peloquin spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Peloquin provided an update on CFLCA representatives in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Walter Duke, 901 SE 5th Court. Mr. Duke spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Esthel Brennan on behalf of the Riverside Park Residents Association. Ms. Brennan spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Asi Cymbal, 413 SW 3rd Avenue. Mr. Cymbal spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive. Ms. Fertig urged a cooperative effort with Broward County and spoke in

support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his perspective and message to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners that a tunnel is the LPA and the best option for the New River Crossing, which would ensure no negative impact on the City. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dev Motwani, 2415 Delmar Place. Mr. Motwani spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Melinda Bowker, 511 SE 5th Avenue, Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association President. Ms. Bowker spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ina Lee, 2000 S. Ocean Drive. Ms. Lee spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Alan Cohen, 2218 NE 16th Avenue. Mr. Cohen spoke in support of a tunnel as the City's LPA for the New River Crossing. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the Commission's Joint Meeting with the Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Cohen commented on his understanding that County Commissioners are listening to this Commission Conference Meeting and said they are anxious to receive accurate, up-to-date information regarding a tunnel. Mr. Cohen recommended one-on-one communications between City Commission Members and members of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his experience with elevated highways and tunnels and discussed related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis said that a tunnel option for the New River Crossing would alleviate future concerns related to an elevated bridge. Commissioner Herbst remarked on his disappointment with the grant application submission timeline and would have preferred having this discussion six (6) months ago. Mayor Trantalis noted his understanding that the grant submission timeline begins in February 2024 and closes in April 2024. Further comment and discussion ensued.

RECESS

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

RECONVENED

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

BUS-2 [23-1169](#)

Review of 48-Inch Watermain Unsolicited Proposal - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, provided an overview of this Agenda item. Mr. Dodd narrated a presentation entitled *48-Inch Watermain Unsolicited Proposal Review*.

A copy of the presentation is attached to this Agenda item.

Commissioner Glassman noted a correction to a date listed in the presentation.

Mr. Dodd said the Comprehensive Agreement associated with this Agenda item will be presented to the City Commission at the Commission Meeting on January 9, 2024. There were no additional comments or questions from the Commission.

BUS-3 [23-1082](#)

Soundscape and Noise Ordinance Study Presentation Follow-Up - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Two or more members of the Fort Lauderdale Noise Control Advisory Committee may be in attendance and may comment on this item.

Chris Cooper, Development Services Department Director, provided an overview of this Agenda item. Mr. Cooper narrated a presentation entitled *Fort Lauderdale Soundscape Study (Soundscape Study)*.

A copy of the presentation is attached to this Agenda item.

The Noise Control Advisory Committee (NCAC) provided a list of five (5) recommendations with a consensus to move forward with related Code amendments. Staff is requesting related Commission direction and feedback.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Eugenia Ellis, NCAC Member, confirmed unanimous support of the *Soundscape Study*. Ms. Ellis confirmed the NCAC recommends implementing aspects of the

Soundscape Study on a trial basis to allow further refinement and expounded on related details. Mr. Cooper noted that loud bass tones are more problematic and reviewed Staff efforts to improve their effectiveness when addressing noise complaints, including adding DBC parameter levels to Code and applying related Code to all areas of the City.

Mayor Trantalis commented on challenges to enforcing noise ordinances. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Cooper confirmed Staff has deployed new noise camera technology on a trial basis at a problematic location, which monitors noise levels and registers infractions. Mr. Cooper remarked on related conversations with the Police Department.

Commissioner Herbst commented on his support of using noise camera technology and feedback from District 1 residents regarding the difficulty in corralling vehicle noise from dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles. He commented on enforcement challenges and the inability to issue citations for violations that had not been personally observed by Code Enforcement or Police Officers and expounded on his perspective. Mr. Cooper confirmed the inability to use technology for issuing citations. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on his support of ensuring noise compliance and enforcement and acknowledged budget challenges associated with hiring additional Code Enforcement personnel.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Chavarria discussed Staff replicating Miami Beach's noise camera program and remarked on related information. City Manager Chavarria confirmed related data gathered would be presented to the Commission.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on feedback from District 4 residents, the need to address loud waterway noise, and requested Staff review. Mr. Cooper confirmed discussions with Police Chief William Schultz and commented on unique aspects of noise traveling across waterways.

Commissioner Sturman recommended a three-month trial program. Mr. Cooper confirmed challenges to enforcement for noise concerns that had yet to be codified. Staff can perform a noise camera study and analyze the data to determine suggestions for a revised ordinance.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Chief Schultz cited scenarios related to sound on waterways. Chief Schultz said that the

City has no overnight marine patrol to address noise violations and would confirm whether the Broward County Sheriff's Office has an overnight marine patrol.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective and cited examples of excessive noise from vehicles. He requested Staff return to the Commission with Study results and recommended ordinance amendments.

Mr. Cooper noted the NCAC would be sunseting soon. Mayor Trantalis recommended the Commission extend the NCAC for an additional year. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding additional contributions of the NCAC.

BUS-4 [23-1099](#)

Discussion on Riverland Woods Community Center, Boat Ramp and Carter Park Improvements - (Commission Districts 3 and 4)

Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Department Director, provided an overview of this Agenda item. Mr. Williams requested Commission feedback related to utilizing District 4 Park Bond land acquisition funds for a Riverland Woods Community Center and using District 3 Park Bond land acquisition funds for the Carter Park Community Center and expounded on related information. Mr. Williams narrated a presentation entitled *Riverland Woods Community Center Concept*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Commissioner Sturman commented on details and challenges related to acquiring the former Yacht Club property.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Earl Prizlee, Lauderdale Isles Civic Association President, explained the history and details associated with the proposed Riverland Woods Community Center that would serve the needs of the Lauderdale Isles neighborhood.

Commissioner Sturman recommended moving forward with this initiative to include a name change to the area known as Riverland Woods Park to Lauderdale Isles Landing.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Williams clarified a portion of this Agenda item requests the use of District 4 Parks Bond funding designated for land acquisition for the Riverland Woods Community Center. Mayor Trantalis said he had no objection.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed concerns regarding the Riverland Park Community Center being grouped in this Agenda item

with Carter Park. She remarked on previous funding requests for the Carter Park Community Center redevelopment.

Mr. Williams explained details associated with this Agenda item. Staff is requesting additional funding for Community Centers at both Riverland Woods and Carter Park from the respective District's Parks Bond funding designated for land acquisition. Commission direction would be shared with the Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Board. Mr. Williams confirmed that with funding from the District 3 Parks Bond land acquisition, there would be an \$8,000,000 shortfall for Carter Park and expounded on details.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Williams explained funding for Carter Park includes \$118,000 in cultural grant funding. Fund options for Carter Park include \$7,000,000 from the District 3 Parks Bond land acquisition fund and funding from Park Impact Fees. The initial 2019 cost estimate for the Carter Park Community Center and other Carter Park amenities was \$19,000,000. As plans progressed through the design process that included community input, the projected cost increased to \$33,000,000. Commissioner Glassman remarked on the significant cost difference between the 2019 cost estimate and the current estimate. Mr. Williams expounded on the goal to create and ensure Carter Park is a signature park that includes the planned forty-seven thousand square foot (47,000') Carter Park Community Center.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Enrique Sanchez, Parks and Recreation Department Deputy Director, explained details associated with the planned Carter Park Community Center, which includes the development of one (1) large community center that replace the existing six (6) buildings, which have reached the end of their useful life. Mr. Sanchez expounded on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Sanchez confirmed all remaining District 4 Parks Bond land acquisition funding would be used for the Riverland Woods Park Community Center. All remaining District 3 Parks Bond funding designated for land acquisition would be used for the Carter Park Community Center.

Commissioner Glassman noted feedback from District 2 residents related to using Park Impact Fees received from District 2 development in other areas of the City.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Attorney Thomas Ansbro confirmed he would research and advise the

Commission about the ability to use Parks Bond funding designated for land acquisition for other purposes.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Sanchez confirmed the limited availability of property in District 3 for the purchase of additional land for parks.

Commissioner Glassman commented that using District 3 Parks Bond funds designated for land acquisition for Carter Park would result in the inability to purchase additional parkland in District 3.

Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager, confirmed the flexibility to utilize Parks Bond Funds designated for land acquisition for other park-related needs when the designated process is followed, including Staff presenting it to the Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Board and the public hearing process as defined by the Parks Bond.

Commissioner Glassman reiterated his understanding of this Agenda item and Staff's request for a Commission consensus to reallocate District 3 and District 4 Parks Bond land acquisition funds for other park-related purposes in each of the respective Districts. Ms. Grant confirmed. Commissioner Glassman remarked on the City's four (4) signature parks, noting one (1) is in each District.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Williams explained that reduced funding for Carter Park would result in a community center approximately half the size of the planned forty-seven thousand square foot (47,000') community center.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman explained her opposition to reducing Carter Park's Community Center design. She recommended staying the course and determining additional funding.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Williams explained aspects of the Carter Park design and expounded on related information that includes combining existing buildings into one large facility. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Sanchez explained specific information related to the design of the Carter Park Community Center and other Carter Park amenities.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman reiterated her opposition to reducing the square footage of the planned Carter Park design. City Manager Chavarria confirmed the need to identify additional funding and Staff efforts to obtain federal grant funding for the shortfall. He noted Parks and Recreation Department Staff would be located at the Carter Park

Community Center. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Williams confirmed the Riverland Woods Community Center funding request is approximately \$2,500,000. Commissioner Glassman remarked that the available funding for land acquisition in the District 4 Parks Bond funding is \$2,900,000, close to the necessary amount.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Sanchez reiterated that additional funding for Carter Park is necessary to expand the Community Center and other Carter Park amenities, including turf replacement.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

MGR-1 [23-1132](#)

City Commission Follow up Action Items - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, requested feedback regarding Commission Member availability to modify the Commission Prioritization Workshop (Workshop) scheduled for January 18, 2024. Further comment and discussion ensued. There was a consensus to change the Workshop to January 19, 2024.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [23-1034](#)

Quarterly Investment Report for Period Ending September 30, 2023 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Received

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on the success of the City's partnership with Historic Black Colleges and Universities for the Annual Florida Beach Bowl.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed a meeting with Bonnie Clearwater, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale Director, and Lisa Quinn, NSU Art Museum - Lillian S. Wells Education Curator, for a complete understanding of programs, projects, opportunities, and events that NSU offers to the District 3 community.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman requested City Manager Chavarria and Staff address two (2) items of concern. The first is a public health concern caused by the owner of an RV parking on a parcel she owns in the area of NW 19th Avenue and near the Historic Cemetery. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman expounded on details and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Chavarria said he would work with the City Attorney and Code Enforcement to address concerns related to this issue. The second item concerns the need for Staff to inform the District 3 Office about departmental meetings held in District 3. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman expounded on details and cited examples. Public Works Staff confirmed that the District 3 Office would be informed about every departmental meeting held in District 3.

Commissioner Glassman noted attending the Sunrise Lane Project Public Workshop (Workshop) and commented on the \$250,000 for design and related information. He announced an additional Workshop scheduled for January 16, 2024, at the Sonesta Hotel.

Commissioner Glassman commented on attending the *Fort Lauderdale Beach 2030 Visioning Workshop* and remarked on items discussed, including concerns regarding the high parking costs on the barrier island, including the Las Olas Garage, the need for way-finding signage to iconic sites, and Uber and Lyft activities occurring in the middle of roadways that negatively impact traffic.

Commissioner Glassman commented on his concerns regarding the deferral and delays of Charter Officer annual reviews. He expounded on his viewpoint, noted the need for fairness, and remarked on related Commission discussion at previous Commission Meetings. Further comment and discussion ensued. The City Auditor's review is on tonight's Agenda. The City Manager's review will be on the January 9, 2023, Agenda.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on rescheduling the Commission Joint Workshop with the Charter Review Board (JWCRB). Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis suggested scheduling the JWCRB at 11:30 a.m. on January 9, 2024. City Clerk David Soloman explained prior scheduling conflicts and confirmed the JWCRB will be scheduled on January 9, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the impact of recent inclement weather on areas of the barrier island and the need to return those areas to their previous condition. City Manager Chavarria commented on collaboration with the State of Florida (State) and said Staff will utilize outside vendors to assist in cleanup efforts. Carl Williams,

Parks and Recreation Department Director, confirmed and explained additional details.

Commissioner Glassman discussed the need to complete the State Road A1A (A1A) Streetscape Project (Project) and noted the negative impact on adjacent restaurant businesses. In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, provided an update regarding the Project that includes receiving State grant funding, inclement weather delays, and the anticipated completion date. Paver work is anticipated to be completed in January 2024. Staff is working with businesses on the west side of A1A regarding their request to delay the installation of bollards until Project completion in June 2024. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Dodd commented on the use of "Tiger Dams" along points of entry at A1A beach access areas that Staff would evaluate. Mr. Dodd noted the "Tiger Dams" would restrict pedestrian access to the beach and pose safety concerns.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on the disappointment of the *Annual Winterfest Boat Parade* cancellation due to inclement weather conditions.

Commissioner Sturman commented on feedback from the community regarding ideas to offset the \$2,000,000 cost to address lighting issues on the Las Olas Garage (Garage), which could include signage and naming rights. Commissioner Glassman confirmed ongoing efforts to address this concern. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his participation at the United Negro College Fund Luncheon, noting it was well attended by members of the community and others from around the State of Florida. He noted his presentation of a Proclamation to the South Florida Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists.

Mayor Trantalis announced upcoming City events, including a Kwanza Celebration at Bass Park and the Fort Lauderdale Orange Bowl Downtown Countdown Event.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.