

# City of Fort Lauderdale

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## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

11:30 AM

Joint Workshop with Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights

Redevelopment Board

NSU Art Museum - Horvitz Auditorium

1 E Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

## CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

*FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION*

*DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor*

*STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II*

*JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I*

*PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District III*

*WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV*

*SUSAN GRANT, Acting 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 11:36 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Commission Members Present:** Commissioner John Herbst (arrived at 12:07 p.m.), Vice Mayor Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Warren Sturman, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

**Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights Redevelopment Board Members (NWPFHRB) Present:** Kenneth Calhoun, Lisa Crawford, Sonya Burrows, Noel A. Edwards (arrived at 12:54 p.m.), Steffen Lue, Alfredo Olvera, and John Quailey

**Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights Redevelopment Board Members Not Present:** Chair Rhoda Glasco Foderingham, Jinny Bissainthe, Christopher Murphy, and Michael Lewin

**COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED**

**Also Present:** Acting City Manager Susan Grant, Deputy City Clerk Casandra Brown, City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbro, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS****BUS-1** [24-0648](#)

Joint Workshop with the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights (NPF) Community Redevelopment Advisory Board - (Commission Districts 2 and 3)

Mayor Trantalis said that this workshop will include an update on the NWPFHRB's activities and a discussion regarding moving forward when the Northwest Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Agency (NWPFH CRA) sunsets in November 2025.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Clarence Woods, NWPFH CRA Area Manager. Mr. Woods narrated a presentation entitled *Northwest Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Area Update*.

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

Mayor Trantalis commented that this presentation only included projects currently underway. There are significantly more completed NWPFH CRA projects, and the NWPFH CRA has aggressively provided housing and

economic opportunities in the area. Mr. Woods confirmed and explained that the presentation only contains highlights of completed projects and is a snapshot of NWPFH CRA projects from 2017 forward.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions regarding infill housing lots listed in the presentation, Mr. Woods explained the contractor solicitation was limited to five (5) infill housing lots per contractor. Upon completion of a home, each contractor had the opportunity to receive an additional (5) five infill housing lots. Three (3) contractors completed their first five (5) infill housing lots, and others have decided not to move forward with infill housing lots. Staff is working with a non-profit organization to complete homes on the remaining infill housing lots.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Woods said there would be a second solicitation for the remaining infill housing lots.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's remarks regarding infrastructure needs for the Progresso Thrive Project, Mr. Woods confirmed ongoing efforts of the Public Works Department to pursue sidewalks, connectivity, and lighting in the area.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Woods explained details of the Wright Dynasty Mixed-Use Development Project. Mayor Trantalis commented on the CRA Staff's and NWPFHRB's efforts to improve the area.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Sonya Burrows, NWPFHRB Member. Ms. Burrows discussed the large number of inquiries she has received regarding how individuals over the age of sixty-two can apply for residency at the Mount Hermon Senior Affordable Housing Project (Mount Herman Project). She expounded on issues and concerns expressed by community members wishing to apply and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Woods discussed opportunities to disseminate affordable housing information to the community and the application process. Mayor Trantalis discussed related concerns and his perspective.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, Mr. Woods commented on disseminating information regarding marketing affordable housing units to the community. There is related language included in NWPFH CRA agreements with the Applicants. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Glassman discussed his viewpoint regarding the need to inform the community on pursuing affordable housing opportunities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding marketing the Mount Herman Project, Jonelle Adderley, NWPFH CRA Project Coordinator, explained community marketing efforts and expounded on related details.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on difficulties experienced by those wishing to apply. Ms. Adderley said a point person for the Mount Herman Project is accepting applications by appointment only. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis requested that CRA Staff follow up on this issue. Mr. Woods confirmed and discussed methods of future NWPFH CRA project marketing opportunities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Woods discussed methods used for marketing affordable housing projects and the need for NWPFH CRA Staff to receive related criteria and program information.

Ms. Burrows confirmed the ability and willingness of the Fort Lauderdale Negro Chamber of Commerce to partner with the NWPFH CRA to promote marketing efforts, noted the need for applicants to know the related criteria in advance, and expounded on related details.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question regarding funding amounts allocated to projects that have not been spent, Mr. Woods said he would research and provide an update. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on the importance of this information in order to move forward with other needs in the NWPFH CRA area such as a garage before the NWPFH CRA sunsets in November 2025. Vice Mayor Glassman expounded on his viewpoint and noted there should be timeline mandates included in NWPFH CRA Applicant agreements. Mr. Woods commented on related efforts and cited an example. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need to reallocate unspent NWPFH CRA funds before the November 2025 sunset date, which should be revisited in Spring 2025. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman concurred.

Mr. Woods discussed upcoming NWPFH CRA projects and expounded on related information, including a possible supermarket.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Woods commented on supermarket locations in the area. Commissioner Sturman remarked on their importance to the community. Mr. Woods discussed information related to a global parking plan for the Sistrunk Corridor and other NWPFH CRA areas. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question about a potential unfunded Post Office project, Mr. Woods confirmed he would meet with him to discuss.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman acknowledged the NWPFH RB and NWPFH CRA Staff for their efforts and confirmed her support of extending the NWPFH CRA beyond the November 2025 sunset date.

Mr. Woods discussed efforts to create cultural tourism and explained related information. Grace Kewl-Durfey, Broward County Cultural Arts Division Administrator, showed a short video entitled *Smart City Art*, a visionary

collaboration between NWPFH CRA and the Broward County Cultural Arts Division.

Ms. Kewl-Durfey commented on community engagement initiatives, the history of the Broward County Cultural Arts Division with the NWPFH CRA, expounded on the *Smart City Art Initiative Partnership* and discussed related goals and opportunities.

Mr. Woods discussed instituting a pilot program for the *Smart City Art initiative Partnership*. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Woods said an initial pilot program would include five (5) *Smart City Art* stations at a cost of approximately \$30,000 per station. Mayor Trantalis recommended starting with two (2) stations, remarked on concerns, explained his viewpoint, and cited examples.

Justin Gammage, University of Miami Director of Innovation Partnerships at the Frost Institute for Data Science and Computing, narrated a presentation entitled *Smart Art Wayfinding Sistrunk at Sistrunk*, which provided detailed information about the technology available for the *Smart City Art* stations.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Gammage explained that the *Smart City Art* stations would be electrically hardwired. Wi-Fi capabilities would be integrated and accessed depending on location. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed the importance of addressing Wi-Fi needs in District 3.

Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed his support of cultural heritage and related tourism efforts. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question regarding receiving support from Broward County's *Visit Fort Lauderdale* marketing initiative, Ms. Kewl-Durfey confirmed and noted plans for coordinated efforts with all partners. Vice Mayor Glassman concurred. Mr. Woods confirmed efforts to include creative industries and others to spur economic development.

Acting City Manager Susan Grant noted that plans for extending the NWPFH CRA would be discussed at the January 2025 Commission Goals and Priorities Setting Session. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's questions, Mr. Woods explained ongoing efforts to create Invest Fort Lauderdale, Inc., a 501c (3) organization. Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on concerns related to delays and the need for Staff to make this a priority. Mr. Woods concurred, expounded on related details, and confirmed a status update of efforts would be sent to each Commission Member.

Mayor Trantalis reiterated the need for additional Commission discussions before the NWPFH CRA sunsets in November 2025. He requested that members of the NWPFH RB reach out to the community to obtain feedback regarding NWPFH CRA accomplishments, goals, future plans, and boundaries. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need to hold an additional

workshop after the community feedback is received.

Mayor Trantalis noted the boundaries discussed for the *Smart City Art Initiative*. He confirmed that the NWPFH CRA boundary extends to Federal Highway, and explained the reasoning was to connect multiple neighborhoods.

Vice Mayor Glassman recommended the NWPFHRB meet with the Budget Advisory Board to discuss its plans and opportunities. Mayor Trantalis remarked on that opportunity following the Commission Summer Break.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.