# **CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**

# and the

# FORT LAUDERDALE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

# FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

MODIFIED AND RESTATED

CLEAN VERSION

MAY 16, 2017

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#### AND THE

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# **CONTRIBUTING STAFF:**

Special Thanks to all the Staff from the following departments for their unique contributions to the amending of the Plan.

**Sustainable Development** 

**Transportation and Mobility** 

**Public Works** 

**City Attorney's Office** 

**City Auditor's Office** 

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## FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH

## COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

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I. OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

1.1. THE NEED FOR AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1.1.1 Introduction

This Community Redevelopment Plan has been prepared in accordance with Part III,

Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, the Community Redevelopment Act ("Redevelopment

Act"), which confers upon local governments certain powers to plan and execute

redevelopment efforts.

This document has been prepared and modified under the direction of the City of Fort

Lauderdale City Commission operating as the Community Redevelopment Agency

(CRA), and the Beach Redevelopment Board (BRB). The Beach Redevelopment Board

advises the Community Redevelopment Agency on matters pertaining to the

redevelopment and improvement of a portion of Fort Lauderdale's Central Beach.

The adoption of this Community Redevelopment Plan and subsequent modifications are

the culmination of a planning process which has included extensive analysis of existing

physical and functional conditions, market and financial projections, as well as the

consideration of numerous alternative concepts. In addition, numerous public workshops

have been held during the planning process for the purpose of providing opportunities for

input by citizens, property owners, and civic interests.

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#### Location of the Community Redevelopment Area

The Fort Lauderdale Beach Community Redevelopment Area was designated by the City Commission in Resolutions 89-88 and 89-89, adopted on April 18, 1989. It covers an area of approximately 121 acres of Fort Lauderdale's Central Beach. The Redevelopment Area is bounded by Alhambra Street to the north, the Atlantic Ocean on the east, the southern property line of the Bahia Mar to the south, and the east channel line of the Intracoastal Waterway to the west. This area is depicted in **Figure 1**, together with the Legal Description of the Community Redevelopment Area.



Figure 1: Community Redevelopment Area Boundaries and Legal Description

That area lying east of the eastern channel line of the Intracoastal Waterway; west of the mean high water line of the Atlantic Ocean; south of the northern right-of-way line of Alhambra Street east of the center line of the right-of-way of Birch Road, extended eastward to intersect the mean high water line of the Atlantic Ocean and then south along the center line of the right-of-way of Birch Road to the intersection of the northern right-of-way of Sebastian Street west of the center line of Birch Road and then extended westward to intersect the eastern channel line of the Intracoastal Waterway; and north of the southern property line of Bahia Mar extended eastward to intersect the mean high water line of the Atlantic Ocean and extended westward to intersect the eastern channel line of the Intracoastal Waterway.

At the adoption of this plan, this area had the greatest concentration of blight conditions

found in the Central Beach area. The Fort Lauderdale City Commission Resolutions 89-

88 and 89-89 (adopted pursuant to the Redevelopment Act and the Special Act

respectively), documented the conditions of blight in the Redevelopment Area (such

Resolutions being hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Finding"). The blight

conditions documented in the Finding, including such features as faulty lot layout and

diversity of ownership, deteriorating and deteriorated building conditions and properties,

underutilized land, and high incidence of crime, have been long-recognized problems of

the core area of the Central Beach.

Previous planning studies of the Central Beach area, including the ULI (1988) and Sasaki

(1987) studies, have documented this significant concentration of blight in the core area.

These previous plans proposed land uses and development programs as catalysts for the

redevelopment of this blighted area. The boundaries of the Community Redevelopment

Area have been chosen as best delineating these areas of the greatest concentration of

blight conditions.

Other factors which were considered in determining the boundaries of the

Redevelopment Area included:

1. The current road improvement projects for the re-alignment of SR A1A (the

Beach Revitalization project funded through General Obligation Bonds) will have

a major impact on the Redevelopment Area. The proposed one-way pair utilizing

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the existing SR A1A and a new southbound A1A will run from the intersection of A1A and Alhambra Street south to Bahia Mar. These northern and southern limits will therefore result in all lands affected by this new roadway pattern being included within the Community Redevelopment Area.

- 2. The eastern and western boundaries for the Redevelopment Area are the two major physical features that define the Central Beach, namely the Intracoastal Waterway on the west, and the Atlantic Ocean on the east.
- 3. The southern boundary has been defined to include the existing Fort Lauderdale Beach Parking Lot, and the Bahia Mar properties, two major activity generators in the Central Beach area.
- 4. The Redevelopment Area contains major public facilities and large areas of publicly owned land, including: the Fort Lauderdale Beach Parking Lot, the Swimming Hall of Fame, the Aquatic Center, D.C. Alexander Park, the Las Olas Marina, the Birch Parking Lot, and the Alhambra Parking Lot. The Bahia Mar complex is on land leased from the City.

#### 1.1.2 Redevelopment Legal Authority

The Community Redevelopment Act of 1969, as amended (codified as Part III, Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, confers upon counties and municipalities the authority and powers necessary to carry out redevelopment activity in recognition of the need to eliminate and prevent conditions of slum and blight. This Plan and modifications have been adopted by the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Community Redevelopment Agency pursuant to both the Redevelopment Act.

It is the intent of the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Fort Lauderdale that wherever this plan says the City of Agency "may" undertake or exercise some power or authority granted by Part III, Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, or other applicable law, then such power or authority is deemed to have been granted and exercisable in connection with the implementation of this Plan subject to the City or Agency, as the case may be, determining when and under what terms, conditions and circumstances it is or will be appropriate to undertake or exercise such power or authority.

#### 1.1.3 The Need for Redevelopment

The Finding documented the high concentration of blight conditions exhibited in the Community Redevelopment Area. These blight conditions are concentrated in the core of the Central Beach, and have a negative impact on the surrounding area. Evidence presented to the City Commission supporting the Finding documented such features as poor building conditions, large numbers of blocks under multiple ownership, low improvement value to land ratios, and high levels of crime associated with the physical deterioration of the Community Redevelopment Area. Each of these conditions contributes to the blight conditions exhibited in the Area, and require actions on the part of the Community Redevelopment Agency to eliminate and prevent the spread of these conditions. This Plan is intended to eliminate blight and provide a catalyst for new development throughout the Central Beach area.

As the core of Fort Lauderdale's famous beachfront area, the Central Beach area has

experienced a general decline in the past few years. The purpose of this Plan is to

remove the existing constraints to development, and to demonstrate to private developers

the public commitment to the redevelopment of the Central Beach area. Coupled with

the City of Fort Lauderdale's commitments to improve and upgrade infrastructure, traffic

circulation and to beautify and "pedestrianize" the beachfront, this Plan will outline those

improvements that that have been determined to meet the criteria for creating a world-

class beach resort. The Community Redevelopment Plan outlines those public

improvements that are necessary to create a pedestrian-friendly, family-oriented tourist

destination that is also an integral part of the City to be used by local residents. The

redevelopment of the Central Beach area is consistent with the City's mission of being

the "city you never want to leave". Along with the development of the Broward

Convention Center at Port Everglades and the resurgence of Fort Lauderdale's downtown

area as a business and cultural center, the redevelopment of the Central Beach area is

essential in meeting this goal.

1.1.4 Redevelopment Goals, Objectives and Policies

The redevelopment goals, objectives and policies of this Plan will guide the successful

redevelopment of the Central Beach area. These consist of:

Redevelopment Goals:

Eliminate the conditions of blight that are currently found in the area.

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Provide for a mix of land uses that will foster family activity and recreation in the

Central Beach area, and provide opportunities for the expansion of tourist-related

facilities and activities.

Stimulate the redevelopment of the core area as a catalyst for the revitalization of

the entire Central Beach area.

Maintain public access to the beach and Intracoastal Waterway.

Provide for resiliency of the public infrastructure in response to impacts of

climate change and sea-level rise.

These goals will be achieved through a series of objectives that are further refined in the

policies that follow. The objectives of the Community Redevelopment Plan are:

Enhance the resort image of Fort Lauderdale Beach as a place for tourists and

conference groups.

Make Fort Lauderdale Beach an integral part of the City for use by local

residents.

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Improve the transportation and mobility options within and through the Central

Beach area to include bicycles, pedestrians, transit, micro-transit, water-taxi,

automobiles and other alternatives.

Create and enhance a positive visual and physical environment of the Central

Beach.

Provide for an active pedestrian environment throughout the Central Beach area,

particularly between the Intracoastal Waterway and the Beach.

Improve inadequate public infrastructure for resiliency in response to the

anticipated impacts of climate change and sea-level rise.

Implementation of the Redevelopment Goals and Objectives will be achieved primarily

through the completion of one or more Planned Public Improvements identified in the

Community Investment Plan, but may also be achieved to a lesser extent through other

public improvements, projects, programs, family-friendly events and other activities.

The policies to be applied to the Planned Public Improvements by the Community

Redevelopment Agency are:

**Public Improvements** 

The preferred public improvement is one that conforms to the City of Fort Lauderdale

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Comprehensive Plan, the Press Play Strategic Plan, Fast Forward Vision Plan, the

Unified Land Development Regulation (ULDR) and the Central Beach Master Plan.

**Parking** 

The CRA will seek the retention of as many public parking spaces within the Central

Beach area as possible, while still implementing the Planned Public Improvements. The

majority of these public parking spaces should be consolidated into a central parking

structure (estimated to be  $\pm$  660) and shall remain open to the public. The CRA and the

City may seek other opportunities to provide additional public parking throughout the

Central Beach area.

The City may provide financing, through parking revenue bonds or other funding

mechanisms, for public parking provided in the Central Beach area.

Marina Development

There should be maximum expansion of the existing Las Olas Marina to accommodate a

full range of vessels, including short-term docking and specialty berths for large vessels /

"mega yachts".

If the marina is expanded, marina services should also be expanded to include showers,

restrooms, and laundry facilities, but not to include fuel docks, boat repair facilities, and

dry storage. Landside uses and attractions such as marine patrol facilities, a

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dockmaster's office, restaurant, and marine-related retail and office uses (yacht

brokerage, charters, etc.) may also be included in the expansion plans.

A water taxi stop should be included in or near the expanded marina. Additional boat

docking and marina expansion opportunities, as well as water taxi facilities will be

encouraged throughout the Community Redevelopment Area.

Other Public Facilities

An Intracoastal waterfront promenade should be included along the Intracoastal

Park and incorporated into the Las Olas Marina expansion.

An Oceanfront Plaza should be located west of north-bound SR A1A as part of an

oceanfront redevelopment plan. This plaza should include an information center,

restroom facility, shade structure, water fountain and flexible public open space.

Streetscape improvements to Las Olas Boulevard and SR A1A should be

completed to improve pedestrian and bicycle circulation and safety.

Fort Lauderdale Aquatics Center should be renovated to comply with national and

international swimming and diving competition standards, so that the facility can

once again host national and international swimming and diving competitions.

Other public improvements in the Central Beach area may be included in a developer

proposal or developed in partnership with public or private sector organizations,

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including improvement to DC Alexander Park, and improvements to inadequate public

infrastructure (transportation facilities, drainage facilities and seawalls) for resiliency in

response to the anticipated impacts of climate change, tidal flooding and sea-level rise.

The policies to be applied to other public improvements, projects, programs, family-

friendly events and other activities within the Community Redevelopment Agency are:

Other Public Improvement Projects

These public improvement projects shall focus on pedestrian/bicycle circulation and

safety, mobility, replacing/improving aging and antiquated infrastructure to

increase/maintain capacity for future development, resiliency, sea-level rise and flooding,

and/or providing additional public parking. Projects shall conform to the City of Fort

Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan, the Press Play Strategic Plan, Fast Forward Vision

Plan, the Unified Land Development Regulation (ULDR) and the Central Beach Master

Plan.

Projects, Programs, Family-Friendly Events and other Promotional Activities

These activities and initiatives shall focus on stimulating economic activity, enhance the

tourist and resident experience, and improve the Central Beach area. Whenever possible,

these activities and initiatives shall be funded in partnership with the City of Fort

Lauderdale Beach Business Improvement District (BID) and/or other public or private

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organizations.

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1.2. THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN CONCEPT

**1.2.1** Existing Conditions Summary (Updated)

The Central Beach Area of Fort Lauderdale has traditionally been the focus of both the

City's and the County's tourist market. The beach itself, the SR A1A "strip", and the

Intracoastal Waterway are all major components of the tourist image of Fort Lauderdale,

and have long attracted both visitors and residents to the Central Beach Area. The

Community Redevelopment Area was created to address the changing market, both in the

profile of visitors and in competitive tourist destinations, and the inability of the smaller

hotels and motels to replace lost "Spring Break" revenues which led to a physical and

economic decline, and attendant social problems.

This decline was manifested in many ways, including the physical deterioration of many

of the buildings and properties in the Central Beach Area. This physical decline and

increasing incidence of crime were among the problems faced in the study area, and were

among the evidence of blight conditions supporting the Finding adopted by the City of

Fort Lauderdale City Commission.

Since 1989, most of the smaller deteriorated or foreclosed hotels along SR A1A have

been replaced with new larger upscale and luxury hotels, restaurants and commercial

uses which have transformed the market from relying primarily upon "Spring Break"

revenues to a year-round family-oriented tourist destination. However, improvements in

the public realm have not kept pace with the private investment. Public amenities that

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build upon the private investment and achieve the Redevelopment Goals, Objectives and

Policies, many of which are identified in the Planned Public Improvements, have yet to

be completed.

1.2.2 Redevelopment Plan Concept

To address the deficiencies in the public realm within the Central Beach area, the CRA

and the City completed feasibility studies of many of the Planned Public Improvements,

and after an extensive planning process, identified four (4) major public improvement

projects that incorporate many of the individual Planned Public Improvements identified

in the Community Investment Plan. These include the Las Olas Boulevard Corridor

Improvement Project, the SR A1A Streetscape Improvement Project, the renovation of

the Fort Lauderdale Aquatics Center and the expansion of the Las Olas Marina. All of

these projects are scheduled to be complete by or before September 30, 2020.

The Las Olas Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project includes:

• A five-story ±660 space public parking garage, with a fifth floor amenity deck

located immediately north of the Las Olas Bridge along the Intracoastal

Waterway.

A pedestrian—oriented Intracoastal Promenade along the Intracoastal Waterway.

• A 3.8 acre Intracoastal Park located immediately south of the Las Olas Bridge

along the Intracoastal Waterway.

• Replacing the existing Oceanside Parking Lot with a new 4.5 acre park/public

plaza with an architectural shade canopy, information center/security monitoring

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office, restrooms, interactive fountain and multi-use pedestrian greenscape and hardscape areas. This plaza will replace the existing Oceanside Parking Lot.

• Streetscape improvements to Las Olas Boulevard including raising the roadway to create a festival street, new landscaping, turtle-compliant light fixtures, planters and seating areas.

See Figure 2 for a schematic of the Las Olas Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project

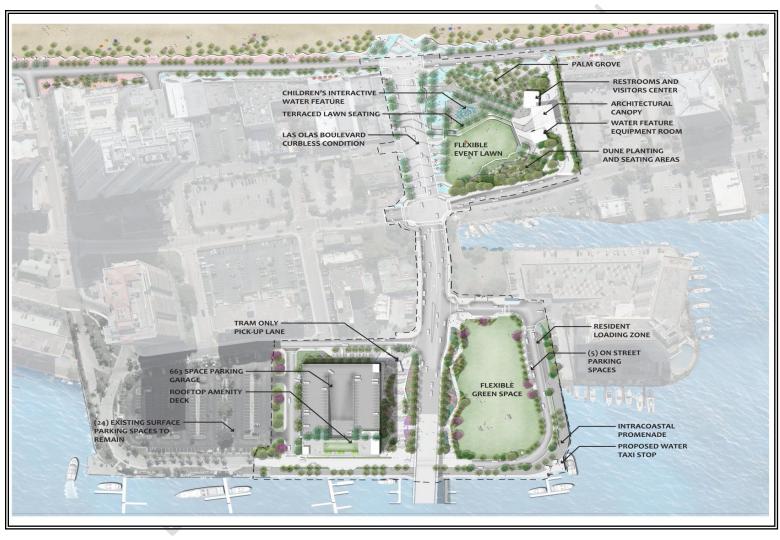


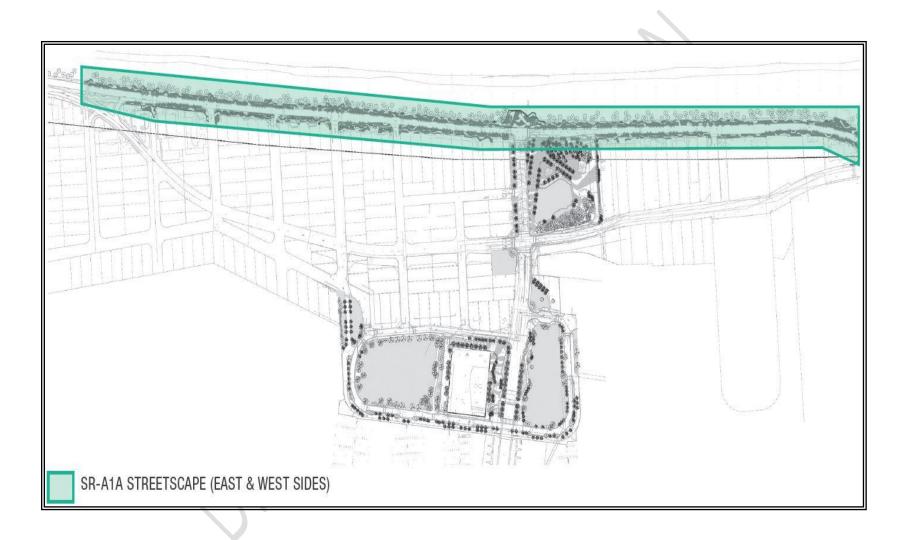
Figure 2: Las Olas Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project

## The SR A1A Streetscape Improvement Project includes:

- Streetscape improvements to the west side of SR A1A including new turtle compliant lighting, hardscape, landscaping and shifting the impediments in the sidewalk to within 18 inches of curb, thus creating an unobstructed sidewalk to improve safety and enhance the pedestrian experience.
- Streetscape improvements to the east side of SR A1A including new pavers and new landscaping.

See Figure 3a & 3b for a schematic of the SR A1A Streetscape Improvement Project

Figure 3a: SR A1A Streetscape Improvement Project



FDOT Clear Zone = 4'-0"
Shown with Requested Design Variance at 2'-6" Sidewalk 8'-6" Pintg 4'-0" FDOT Sidewalk Café Limit North Bound (13'-0" from Curb) **Travel Lane** Sidewalk Café Paving Sidewalk

Figure 3b: SR A1A Streetscape Improvement Project

Paving

# Renovation of the Fort Lauderdale Aquatics Center includes:

Renovations to the competition swimming pool, the divewell and platform to bring the facility into compliance with national and international swimming and diving competition standards.

See Figure 4 for a schematic of the Aquatic Center Renovation Project

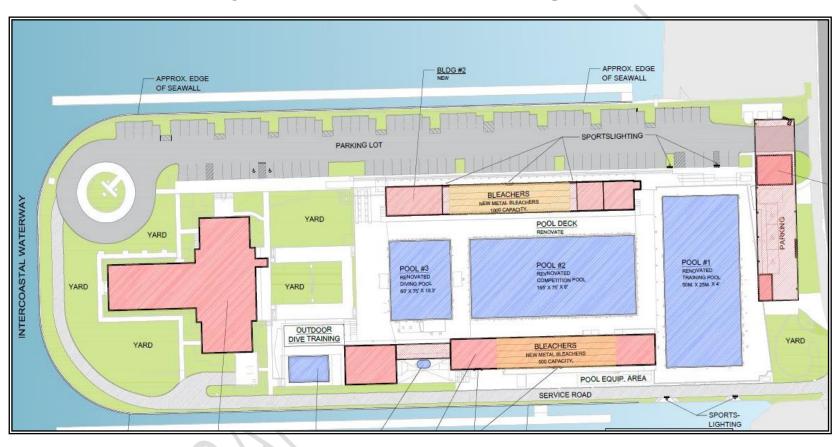


Figure 4: Renovation of the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center

#### Expansion of the Las Olas Marina includes:

A  $\pm$  5000 linear foot facility which includes an expanded and deepened marina basin; a state of the art floating dock system; a marina operations building of fering a ship's store, showers, restrooms, laundry and lounge area; one or more waterfront restaurants and a water taxi stop.

See Figure 5 for a schematic of the Las Olas Marina Expansion

Alternate Restaurant Location 68666 Alternate Boater Services Location

Figure 5: Expansion of the Las Olas Marina

II. ELEMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

2.1 Land Use Element

2.1.1 Land Use Plan/Development Program

Existing Land Use

The existing land use pattern and functional districts that comprise the Community Redevelopment

Area were analyzed in the Phase I Report: Fort Lauderdale Beach Community Redevelopment

<u>Plan</u>. With the exception of the Illini Condominium, virtually all oceanfront parcels in the

Community Redevelopment Area are occupied by tourist-relates uses, including hotels, restaurants,

retail shops and bars. The blocks north and south of Las Olas Boulevard that front on SR A1A are

intensively developed with these commercial uses.

The central, non-waterfront blocks are occupied by a mix of smaller motels and some commercial

and residential uses, while the Intracoastal Waterway frontage north of Las Olas Boulevard is

developed primarily with large residential condominiums. Waterway-related commercial and

marina uses are found along the Intracoastal south of Las Olas Boulevard. Immediately north of

Las Olas Boulevard along the Intracoastal is the Las Olas Marina and Birch Parking Lot. The

present land use pattern reflects the intensive tourist nature of the Central Beach area. The mixes

of uses are almost all related to the area's proximity to the beach.

Proposed Land Use/Development Program

Even though this Plan and the illustrated Redevelopment Plan Concept described herein

identify a program for the next four years, it is anticipated that these improvement will spur

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additional privately-funded redevelopment projects, which will further eliminate the current

conditions of blight.

2.2 Transportation, Circulation and Parking Element

Mobility and Traffic Circulation

The City of Fort Lauderdale is working towards transforming into a fully connected

multimodal City of tomorrow that improves pedestrian, bicyclist, and vehicular mobility and

safety through a **Complete Streets** approach. This goal was one of the top priorities in the

City's Vision and Strategic Plan, as well as being a Redevelopment Objective identified in this

Plan.

In order to achieve this goal, the City passed *Connecting the Blocks*, a comprehensive plan that

outlines the necessary infrastructure improvements throughout Fort Lauderdale – including in

the barrier island. The City also adopted *Vision Zero Fort Lauderdale* to not only address our

infrastructure needs, but also to make safety a priority by combining the 5 E's (Engineering,

Education, Enforcement, Encouragement and Evaluation) of transportation safety when

improving the built environment.

Some of the first projects to address mobility and safety in the Central Beach include a

pedestrian and vehicular wayfinding program to direct the movement of people and cars, the

design of future streetscape improvements identified in this Plan, the Central Beach Master

Plan, and the development of the Beach Mobility Master Plan to address traffic and circulation

concerns in the area. The Beach Mobility Master Plan is currently being developed and will

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build off of the Fort Lauderdale Beach Revitalization Plan and the Fort Lauderdale Beach

Transportation Study.

The City also recognizes the need to improve the Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) operational

plans for special events so that both the event attendees and the beach residents can move in,

through and out of the barrier island. To address event-related traffic issues, the City analyses

each event on a case by case basis and works with private and public partners to create an

operational plan to circulate traffic and appropriately plan exiting the barrier island after an

event.

A multimodal city focuses on improving all transportation and mobility options. By fully

utilizing alternative mass transit systems, such as our Community Bus Service program,

operated by the Transportation Management Association, or the upcoming Tram shuttle for the

new Las Olas Parking Garage, we can begin to move people to their desired destinations

without the use of their cars. Due to an increase in popularity in ride share private

transportation companies, the disruption of traffic flow caused by stopping for drop offs and

pickups has also increased. To address this issue, the City has begun to manage, regulate and

collaborate with our vehicles for hire throughout the Central Beach to ensure the success of

these mass transit programs while promoting the use of alternative transportation options.

Advocating for more multimodal travel through the use of bicycles can also help to relieve

traffic throughout the Central Beach area. By promoting the use of bike share programs,

residents and tourists can travel throughout the Central Beach without utilizing an automobile.

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Ensuring that there are adequate bike facilities, such as bike racks and bike valets for special

events, will also facilitate traffic circulation within the Central Beach area.

**Parking** 

A critical aspect of managing traffic circulation and improving mobility in the Central Beach is

ensuring that there are adequate and easy to navigate public parking facilities. To facilitate

movement within parking facilities, a parking wayfinding program is in development to

improve mobility throughout the beach parking lots and garages.

In order to ensure the public is aware of available public parking facilities, the City has created

a citywide wayfinding sign program to designate public parking from private parking options.

These signs will ensure that residents and tourists are aware of public and affordable options

for parking to decrease the automobiles circulating through the Central Beach area searching

for low-priced parking options.

The City is developing a smart phone application that will allow anyone to view vacant public

parking spaces and rates at facilities throughout the City and the Central Beach. This

application will allow the public to drive directly to the available parking location and decrease

their time in traffic while looking for parking.

The City is also actively assessing the utilization of current parking facilities in order to

determine the adequate placement and amount of parking options. As a part of a 2011 study,

the City analyzed the current utilization and inventory of parking on the barrier island. The

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LATIIO

study determined that at the time there were adequate parking options throughout the barrier island. The City and the CRA will continue to monitor the available parking inventory as redevelopment along the beach occurs, and where appropriate explore opportunities to provide

additional parking.

2.3 Residential Use and Neighborhood Impact Element

Pursuant to this Plan, the CRA will not acquire, or initiate the acquisition of any of the existing viable condominium buildings in the Community Redevelopment Area. These existing residential land uses are anticipated to be retained as they exist prior to the adoption of the Community Redevelopment Plan. There are estimated to be approximately 1,000 dwelling units in the Central Beach Area. Relocation of any residential uses that might occur as a result of redevelopment activities in the Community Redevelopment Area will be carried out within the policies set forth in

Section 2.6.1.

There are no low or moderate income housing uses existing in the Community Redevelopment Area as referred to in the Redevelopment Act. There is, however, a

periodic population of homeless and transient persons within the Central Beach. If and

when any such persons are dislocated as a result of the implementation of this

Community Redevelopment Plan, the CRA will cooperate with local agencies and civic

organizations to mitigate the impacts to these persons.

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The general environmental quality of the entire Central Beach Area will be improved as a result of the proposed redevelopment projects. The removal of the blighted properties at the core of the area has enhanced the quality of the Central Beach Area and the

projects outlined in the Redevelopment Plan Concept will further enhance the area. The

addition of two new waterfront parks, an Intracoastal Promenade, new streetscapes on

Las Olas Boulevard and SR A1A, the renovation of the Aquatic Center and the

expansion of the Las Olas Marina provide for increased recreational opportunities and

pedestrian/bicycle amenities.

The infrastructure needs of future development can be met by the existing systems in the

Central Beach Area. The City's Comprehensive Plan indicates that adequate sanitary

sewer, potable water, parks and recreation, drainage, and solid waste services and

facilities will be available to serve proposed new development in the Central Beach

Area. However if necessary, the CRA may explore opportunities to replace/improve

aging and antiquated infrastructure to increase capacity for future development. Also,

there are areas within the CRA that are impacted by sea-level rise and tidal flooding. The

CRA may explore opportunities to mitigate these impacts.

The effect on the school population as a result of the implementation of this Community

Redevelopment Plan is expected to be minimal. While residential uses are not precluded

in the Community Redevelopment Plan, they will only be developed in compliance with

the City of Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan. The seasonal nature of many of the

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existing residents of the Central Beach Area would indicate that this type of resident would be the likely market for new residential development.

2.4 Regulatory Element

2.4.1 Conformance with the City of Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan and the Broward County Land Use Plan

The Fort Lauderdale Beach Community Redevelopment Plan conforms to the City of Fort

Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan has designated the entire 425 acre

Central Beach from Sunrise Boulevard south to Holiday Drive as a Regional Activity Center

(RAC). The definition of a Regional Activity Center, common to both the City and County, is:

The Regional Activity Center land use designation is intended to encourage

development or redevelopment of areas that are of regional significance. The major

purposes of this designation are to facilitate mixed-use development, encourage mass

transit, reduce the need for automobile travel, provide incentives for quality

development, and give definition to the urban form. This designation will only be

applied to areas that are of regional significance.

The purpose of the Regional Activity Center designation for the Central Beach was to provide

the flexibility necessary to facilitate the previously adopted Fort Lauderdale Central Beach

Redevelopment Plan. The proposed land uses described in the Community Redevelopment

Plan are in conformance with this designation.

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Numerous objectives and policies outlined in the City's Comprehensive Plan under the various

elements of the Plan support the Community Redevelopment Plan. Climate resilience and

addressing the impacts of rising sea levels is supported by the adaptation action area policies in

the Coastal Management Element. The Coastal Management Element contains other policies

that recognize the role of the Central Beach area to the economic growth of the region,

providing for resort and hotel development aimed at the tourist and conference markets.

Marine uses are also recognized as economic resources of the City, and the RAC provides for

these uses. The Comprehensive Plan states that the Central Beach Redevelopment Area is

proposed to be "comprised of commercial and residential uses, including hotels/motels,

restaurants and retail uses, and any other priorities deemed appropriate pursuant to the

Community Redevelopment Plan."

Other Comprehensive Plan policies reflected in the Community Redevelopment Plan include

the provision of non-beach public space, Intracoastal Plazas, and pedestrian linkages between

the Intracoastal and the beach. Public beach access sites and the provision of passive and

active recreational activities on or adjacent to the City's beaches are also consistent with the

Community Redevelopment Plan.

In alignment with the Regional Activity Center land use designation, the Community

Redevelopment Plan also supports Comprehensive Plan policies regarding energy efficiency,

mobility and multi-modal connectivity that lends to the overall success of the redevelopment

area

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2.5 Resiliency and Sea-Level Rise Element

Sea Level Rise (SLR) and tidal flooding are major threats to the long-term viability of the

CRA. In the last century, sea level rose 8-10 inches based on measurements from the Key West

tide gauge. Since 1992, SLR in south Florida has increased by three inches. The City of Fort

Lauderdale has adopted the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact's 2015

Unified Sea Level Rise projection for Southeast Florida. Based upon this projection, by 2030

the SLR is expected to increase an additional six to 10 inches, and up to 14 to 26 inches or

more by 2060.

The City is also experiencing an increase in tidal flooding. The number of tidal flooding

events is expected to increase from 10 events to 180 events in 2030 and to 240 events by

2045\*. These tidal events currently impact the low-lying areas on Birch Road and Seabreeze

Boulevard within the CRA as well as overtopping seawalls at Birch Road. The projected

increases in both SLR and tidal events will further threaten these areas unless improvements to

existing infrastructure are completed.

The City is undertaking an effort to mitigate the effects of SLR and tidal flooding City-wide.

These mitigation efforts include the adoption of a new seawall ordinance that sets a minimum

height for seawalls, installing tidal valves in storm drains, raising the elevation of the

roadways, constructing berms and installing stormwater pump stations. The CRA should

explore opportunities to provide mitigation to SLR and tidal flooding in the identified low-

lying areas.

\*Encroaching Tides - Union of Concerned Scientists, October 2014

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2.6 Implementation Program

2.6.1 Property Acquisition

The Community Redevelopment Agency shall acquire real property by purchase, condemnation,

gift, exchange or other lawful means in accordance with, and as necessary to implement, this

Community Redevelopment Plan.

**Relocation Procedures** 

The Community Redevelopment Agency will assist residents displaced as a result of the

redevelopment actions carried out pursuant to this Plan. The Community Redevelopment

Agency does not anticipate the relocation of any residents as a result of the implementation of

this Plan, however:

When necessary, the Community Redevelopment Agency shall identify comparable

replacement housing that may be available to any persons displaced from housing

facilities as a result of actions carried out pursuant to this Plan.

Demolition and Site Preparation

The Community Redevelopment Agency may demolish and clear structures and other

improvements from any real property acquired by the Community Redevelopment Agency for

the purpose of carrying out this Community Redevelopment Plan.

The Community Redevelopment Agency may construct, cause to be constructed, or request that

the City of Fort Lauderdale or other public entity construct or repair utilities, streets, sidewalks,

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landscaping, street furnishings or other public improvements and beautification programs as

necessary to carry out this Community Redevelopment Plan.

**Property Disposition** 

The Community Redevelopment Agency may sell, lease, exchange, assign, pledge,

encumber by mortgage or deed of trust or otherwise dispose of real property in

accordance with the intent of this Community Redevelopment Plan and with applicable

Federal, State and local laws.

Disposal by sale, lease or exchange of real property shall be at fair value in accordance

with the development proposed by the Community Redevelopment Plan. The Community

Redevelopment Agency will provide opportunities for present owners to participate in the

redevelopment effort through equity participation subject to satisfactory negotiations

between landowners and the selected developer(s).

Property will be disposed of by a competitive process whereby interested developers will

submit proposals including plans and specifications, financial statements, time schedules

and proposed purchase and lease rates. Selected developers shall be required to execute

binding agreements, which will safeguard the provisions of this Community

Redevelopment Plan.

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It shall be the policy of the Community Redevelopment Agency to strive to secure

binding agreements with developers prior to expenditures by the Community

Redevelopment Agency for real property acquisition, relocations and site preparation.

The Agency shall have the right to review and approve detailed site and construction

plans and to refuse approval of those plans found not in conformance with applicable

disposition agreements, covenants, policies, ordinances, or provisions of the Community

Redevelopment Plan.

2.6.2 Community Investment Plan

To the extent that Tax Increment revenues are not required to finance any of the Capital

Projects listed below, Tax Increment revenues may, at the discretion of the CRA, be used to

finance, hold, or in part finance other public facilities and projects in the Community

Redevelopment Area which further implements the provisions of this Plan. These projects

may include those listed as committed or pending in this Plan.

**Community Investment Program** 

The CRA considers the following list of capital projects important to the successful

redevelopment of Fort Lauderdale's Central Beach area. Where feasible, the CRA will

encourage private developers to undertake some of these projects, but may also choose to

publically fund some or all of the projects pursuant to the Community Redevelopment Plan.

The CRA and the City of Fort Lauderdale completed feasibility studies of many of the

following Planned Public Improvements and after an extensive planning process approved four

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major capital projects that include many of these Planned Public Improvements. These four

major capital projects include the Las Olas Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project, the SR

A1A Streetscape Improvement Project, the Renovation of the Aquatics Center and the Las Olas

Marina Expansion.

**Planned Public Improvements** 

Central Public Parking Structure - (±660 spaces) A centrally located parking garage to

accommodate those spaces removed from SR A1A (Oceanside lot) and the Birch lot.

Marina Facilities – A + 5000 linear foot facility which includes an expanded and deepened

marina basin; a state of the art floating dock system; a marina operations building offering a

ship's store, showers, restrooms, laundry and lounge area; one or more waterfront restaurants

and a water taxi stop.

<u>Intracoastal Promenade</u> - Pedestrian-oriented outdoor gathering space along the Intracoastal

Waterway which relates to both the marina and the Intracoastal Park planned for this area. The

Intracoastal Promenade should also provide public viewing facilities for the City's holiday boat

parade and other Intracoastal events.

Oceanfront Plaza - Outdoor plaza with an architectural canopy, restroom facilities and

information center/security monitoring office which relates to the oceanfront uses in this area

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and improves the pedestrian experience along the ocean.

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Utility Relocation on or near Birch/Las Olas Parking Lot - Relocating and rerouting of various

water mains, gravity sewers, force mains, and some storm drainage modifications. This may also

require the relocation of a sewage pump station.

Streetscape Improvements to Las Olas Boulevard and SR A1A - Roadway resurfacing,

improved sidewalks, special intersection paving treatments, landscaping and irrigation.

DC Alexander Park Improvements - Walkways, fountain, playground, site furnishings, grading,

and landscape improvements to create a "front door" urban park for the Fort Lauderdale

Aquatics Center.

Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center Renovation – Renovations to the competition swimming pool,

the divewell and platform to bring the facility into compliance with national and international

swimming and diving competition standards.

The CRA considers this list of Planned Public Improvements important to the successful

redevelopment of Fort Lauderdale's Central Beach area. However, no single project from the

list above is considered to be essential to the successful redevelopment of the Central Beach

area; however, both the public parking structure and marina facilities are considered important

elements of the Community Redevelopment Plan.

2.6.3 Project Budgets and Financing

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At its adoption, the Community Redevelopment Plan identified a program of desired new uses and development opportunities integral to the creation of an "Urban Beach Village" based upon market analysis and public input. This development program included hotel, retail/entertainment, marina and ancillary office uses. Other elements of the redevelopment program include streetscape improvements, utility relocation, a visitor's center, and a variety or public amenities. Since 1989, large upscale and luxury hotels, restaurants and commercial uses have been introduced to the area and have transformed the market from relying primarily upon "Spring Break" revenues to a year-round family-oriented tourist destination. However, improvements in the public realm have not kept pace with the private investment. Public amenities that build upon the private investment and achieve the Redevelopment Goals, Objectives and Policies, many of which are identified in the Planned Public Improvements, have yet to be completed. The following section provides overall costs associated with the four major public improvement projects, the funding sources that are proposed to finance the projects and revenue projections from FY 2017 to FY2020.

#### Project Costs

Project Name	TIF Revenue Funding	Other Funding Sources
Las Olas Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project	\$36,379,324*	\$13,000,000 (Parking Revenue Bond)
Renovation of the Fort Lauderdale Aquatics Center	\$20,425,000	\$3,425,000 (City General Fund or Other Financing)
SR A1A Streetscape Improvement Project	\$6,800,000	N/A
Las Olas Marina Expansion	N/A	\$25,129,433 (Private Investment)

The Las Olas Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project is fully funded using tax increment financing (TIF) revenues and a parking revenue bond. This project is under contract and construction has begun. The Renovation of the Fort Lauderdale Aquatics Center is partially funded with \$12,370,676 in TIF revenues and \$3,425,000 from the City's General Fund or other financing. Anticipated TIF revenues of \$8,054,324 from FY 2018 and FY 2019 will fund the remaining TIF contribution to this project. This project is scheduled for construction in FY 2018. The SR A1A Streetscape Improvement Project will be funded with \$6,800,000 in anticipated TIF revenues from FY 2019. Construction will begin on the project in FY 2019. Finally, the Las Olas Marina Expansion will be funded using private funds pursuant to the lease agreement between the City of Fort Lauderdale and Suntex Marina Investors, LLC. The anticipated construction date has yet to be determined.

#### Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

The Community Redevelopment Agency is using tax increment financing as a major funding source for the above projects. Tax increment financing involves the diversion of revenues to a redevelopment trust fund established as of the date of the district's creation. The funds can be used to finance development projects, to repay bond financing and/or to finance operations specifically focused on the properties within the tax increment district. New revenues resulting from the private investment attracted by public improvements and actions are used to repay the cost of those improvements. Projected TIF revenues and expenses for FY2017 – FY2020 are provided in **Figure 6**.

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Figure 6: Projected TIF revenues and expenses for FY2017 – FY2020

	Fisco	ıl Ye	ear 2017 -	· Fi	scal Yea	r 2020 Pro	jection		
			FINAL	Р	ROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	To	otal Projected
			FY2017		FY2018	FY2019	FY2020		Revenue
Revenues									
	Tax Increment Revenue (TIF) (6.9% Annua	ıl İnci	<b>A</b>		$\bigcirc$				
	City of Fort Lauderdale	II IIICI	2,993,632		3,200,193	3,421,006	3,657,055	\$	13,271,88
	Intergovernmental		5,383,795		5,755,277	6,152,391	6,576,906	- 1	23,868,36
	Total Tax Increment Revenues	\$	8,377,427	\$	8,955,469	\$ 9,573,397	\$10,233,961	\$	37,140,25
	Other Revenues - Alt. Funding Sources								
	Earned Interest		34,113		34,113	34,113	34,113	\$	136,45
	Total Other Revenues		34,113		34,113	34,113	34,113		136,4
	Total Revenues	\$	8,411,540	\$	8,989,582	\$ 9,607,510	\$10,268,074	\$	37,276,70
					<u> </u>				
vnandituras									
xpenditures									
xpenditures	Operating Budget								
xpenditures			1,281,367		1,294,180.67	1,307,122	1,320,194	\$	5,202,86
xpenditures	Operating Budget Operating Expenditures (1% Annual Increase) Special Events Budget		1,281,367 371,000		1,294,180.67 371,000	1,307,122 371,000	1,320,194 371,000	-	
xpenditures	Operating Budget Operating Expenditures (1% Annual Increase)	\$		\$				\$	1,484,00
xpenditures	Operating Budget Operating Expenditures (1% Annual Increase) Special Events Budget Total Operating Expenditures	\$	371,000	\$	371,000	371,000	371,000	\$	1,484,00
xpenditures	Operating Budget Operating Expenditures (1% Annual Increase) Special Events Budget	\$	371,000	\$	371,000	371,000	371,000	\$	1,484,00 <b>6,686,86</b>
xpenditures	Operating Budget Operating Expenditures (1% Annual Increase) Special Events Budget Total Operating Expenditures  Community Investment Plan ( CIP)* Funds Available for CIP Projects	\$	371,000 1,652,367 6,759,173	\$	371,000 1,665,181 7,324,402	371,000 \$ 1,678,122 7,929,387	371,000 \$ 1,691,194 8,576,881	\$	5,202,86 1,484,00 6,686,86 30,589,84 37,276,70
Expenditures	Operating Budget Operating Expenditures (1% Annual Increase) Special Events Budget Total Operating Expenditures Community Investment Plan (CIP)*		371,000 <b>1,652,367</b>		371,000 <b>1,665,181</b>	371,000 <b>\$ 1,678,122</b>	371,000 \$ 1,691,194	\$ \$ \$	1,48 <b>6,686</b> <b>30,589</b>
xpenditures	Operating Budget Operating Expenditures (1% Annual Increase) Special Events Budget Total Operating Expenditures  Community Investment Plan ( CIP)* Funds Available for CIP Projects	\$	371,000 <b>1,652,367</b> <b>6,759,173</b> <b>8,411,540</b>	\$	371,000 1,665,181 7,324,402 8,989,583	371,000 \$ 1,678,122 7,929,387 \$ 9,607,509	371,000 \$ 1,691,194 8,576,881 \$10,268,075	\$ \$	1,484, 6,686,8 30,589,8 37,276,7

2.6.4 Plan Modification, Duration and Severability

Plan Modification

The Community Redevelopment Plan may be amended or modified at any time subject to the

approval and adoption requirements imposed under section 163.361 F.S.

Plan Duration

The duration of this Plan shall be for 30 years after the fiscal year in which this Plan was

originally adopted. All redevelopment financing using incremental revenues shall be

completed no later than 30 years after the fiscal year in which this Plan is adopted.

<u>Severability</u>

If any provision, section, or clause of this Community Redevelopment Plan is held to be

invalid, unconstitutional, or otherwise legally infirm, such decision shall not affect the validity

of the remaining portions of the Plan.

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