

City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
www.fortlauderdale.gov*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

1:30 PM

City Commission Conference Room

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

***JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER Mayor - Commissioner
BRUCE G. ROBERTS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District I
DEAN J. TRANTALIS Commissioner - District II
ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III
ROMNEY ROGERS Commissioner - District IV***

***LEE R. FELDMAN, City Manager
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk
CYNTHIA A. EVERETT, City Attorney***

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, Commissioner Romney Rogers, Vice Mayor Bruce G. Roberts, Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis, and Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Lee R. Feldman, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Cynthia A. Everett, City Auditor John Herbst, and Sergeant at Arms Jaime Costas

No e-comments were submitted for this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Seiler called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest.

During Commissioner Trantalis discussion of recent and upcoming events in District II, Commissioner McKinzie arrived at 1:46 p.m.

Commissioner Trantalis thanked former Commissioner Tim Smith for his work in addressing improvements to the 13th Streetscape. Former Commissioner Smith thanked the Commission and City Manager Feldman for improving 13th Street. On behalf of the City and the Central Beach Alliance, former Commissioner Smith invited all Community Builders to participate in *N.E. 13th Street Reimagined Celebration* on Saturday, October 21st from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Commissioner Trantalis announced the illumination of the 13th Street Streetscape sculpture by Florida Power and Light (FPL). He also discussed these improvements sparking the interest of developers in that area.

Commissioner Trantalis announced the Neighborhood Leadership Academy at George English Park. Mayor Seiler commented on the efforts of Luisa Agathon, Senior Management Fellow, in the Division of Neighbor Support and her team to activate community participation to become Community Builders.

Commissioner Trantalis raised the issue of the County's proposed Charter Amendment (Amendment) that would limit City authority regarding the citing of public facilities. He commented this would limit the City's participation for the expansion of the Convention Center and proposed Convention Hotel. Commissioner Trantalis recommended City Staff address this issue, noting the importance of the City and Broward County working together on this issue to ensure a successful outcome.

Mayor Seiler stated each Commission member received a copy of the County's proposed Amendment from the Broward League of Cities, commenting on the need to monitor it and stating the majority of cities in the County will likely oppose the Amendment. City Manager Feldman noted the Amendment also relates to public social services. Commissioner Trantalis read portions of the proposed Amendment, commenting on the need to know the County's motivation for the proposed Amendment. Further discussions ensued on the Amendment's impact in various areas and the importance of monitoring and inquiring further into this issue.

Commissioner Trantalis discussed his concern over an email regarding Staff vacancies, specifically the 47 Police Department vacancies that impacts overtime costs and safety issues. City Manager Feldman stated testing and hiring has been changed, expounding on those changes. Commissioner McKinzie asked Police Chief Rick Maglione to address the Commission on this issue.

Mayor Seiler recognized Police Chief Maglione who confirmed there were 32 sworn officer vacancies, expounding on revamping the police hiring process and additional details that allow hiring of more diverse and better qualified officers. Minimum requirements include being 21 years of age with a minimum of 60 credits from an accredited college or university or two years of military service with an honorable separation or two years of experience as a Certified Police Officer. He confirmed they are looking at a better source for qualified local candidates with the intention of retaining officers, commenting on the City's significant investments when hiring new officers. Vice Mayor Roberts commented on his input into the officer assessment process and the need to move more quickly. Further discussions ensued on the police hiring process, attrition and other associated issues. Chief Maglione confirmed the Police Department is accepting applications, commenting on the inability to merge the old and new candidate list which is due to different criteria and testing processes.

In response to Commissioner Trantalis's inquiry about the status of the

Police Body Camera Program, Chief Maglione stated they are awaiting the installation of network infrastructure which is estimated to be completed soon. This will be followed by police training and implementation. City Manager Feldman stated two vendors are currently working towards implementation which is part of the customized installation. Commissioner Rogers commented on the outstanding young police officers who attend his neighborhood meetings.

Commissioner Trantalis raised the issue of unauthorized plastic covered signs designating Federal Highway as *Hope and Healing Highway*. Commissioner Trantalis said they were installed without permission, commenting on neighbor concerns in District II. He requested City Manager Feldman to bring this issue before the Commission for discussion and a vote.

Mayor Seiler requested City Attorney Everett prepare a legal opinion on this matter, commenting this was done through the state legislative process. City Attorney Everett confirmed.

Mayor Seiler recommended having one central City-wide kick-off event for *Make A Difference Day*, after which each Commissioner could depart to participate in making a difference in their respective Districts. There was a consensus on this recommendation. Mayor Seiler commented on the high media visibility at the annual Boat Show Kick-Off Breakfast.

Vice Mayor Roberts discussed the main topics at the Coral Ridge Homeowner's Association Meeting held at George English Park which included debris pickup, Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) reimbursement for debris pickup, and FPL outages. He noted the major concern being additional items put out for pickup in addition to storm debris.

In response to Commissioner Trantalis's question about why regular bulk trash collection has not yet resumed, City Manager Feldman stated the second run for storm debris collection has begun, confirming the first run was for vegetative storm debris. He commented on what was put out for pickup and collected. City Manager Feldman confirmed the second pass will be for items such as concrete, expounding on the numerous ongoing efforts to address damage done by the storm, i.e., fallen trees, tree stumps, etc. These efforts are occurring seven days a week. If necessary, there will be a third pass.

City Manager Feldman said there would be a Walk-On item at tonight's Regular Commission Meeting regarding the approval of a contract for

disposal of chipped storm debris that would be picked up and transported to the Monarch Landfill. Mayor Seiler confirmed he received a call from a company interested picking up and transferring the debris at no cost to the City.

Commissioner Rogers commented on the possibility of selling the chipped debris (mulch). Commissioner Trantalis also confirmed there have been inquiries from the community to utilize the debris for mulch. Further discussions ensued on safety concerns of neighbors coming to the debris site for mulch pickup. It was confirmed that a safe location could be determined for mulch pickup by neighbors. There was a consensus not to have a Walk-On item on this issue.

Vice Mayor Roberts asked City Manager Feldman if the amount of FEMA's reimbursement for the impact of Hurricane Irma (Storm) is still approximately \$26,000,000. City Manager Feldman stated the estimated out of pocket expense to the City will be approximately \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000. City Manager Feldman confirmed federal reimbursement details have been clear. The state reimbursement has been less clear.

Vice Mayor Roberts discussed heavy equipment picking up storm debris and damaging neighbor swales and sprinkler systems, stating there needs to be a central point person at the City for referring these issues. Commissioner McKinzie discussed this issue impacting District III, noting the need for FEMA vendors to appropriately communicate to residents. Further comments and discussions ensued on this topic. Mayor Seiler said he refers these concerns to Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director - Department of Sustainable Development, and Melissa Doyle, Program Director Sanitation - Department of Sustainable Development, commenting 95% of which have been resolved. Commissioner McKinzie discussed the need for a uniform answer to neighbor calls. Comments and discussed ensued on this topic.

Mayor Seiler recognized Dr. Nancy Gassman, who discussed the special manner in which this should be addressed. Dr. Gassman confirmed there is a special code in the customer service line relating to this specific type of complaint, commenting on the procedure to report these issues. Dr. Gassman stated neighbors should call the Customer Service Line, 954-828-8000, to report a complaint confirming Customer Service Staff are trained to address these concerns.

Dr. Gassman discussed the procedures for the vendor to address complaints, confirming they are discussed with the contractor.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on debris pickup issues in District III and an unsatisfactory response received by a District III neighbor when reporting a problem to the City's customer service representative.

City Manager Feldman stated Code Enforcement debris violations are being abated for 90 days. Code Enforcement is addressing non-storm related violations. There was a consensus for the need for a clear message to all stakeholders regarding this policy.

Vice Mayor Roberts discussed the success of the City's gun buy-back program. Police Chief Maglione commented on the specific types of guns surrendered as part of this program.

Vice Mayor Roberts raised the issue of the Performing Arts Capital Improvements Funding Agreement and Parker Playhouse. He confirmed the Commission's desire to move the concept forward, commenting it will need to be reviewed by City Manager Feldman and City Attorney Everett.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on FPL related issues in District III, including the lack of lighting on NW 7th Avenue, which is causing safety concerns and contributing to crime. There was a consensus these street lights need to be fixed by FPL.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed details on Lincoln Park drug related arrests and the need to continue pursuing these issues in City Parks. Commissioner McKinzie and Commissioner Trantalis commented on the addition of rooftop amenities for new developments in the City allowing for unique event experiences. Commissioner McKinzie acknowledged new development and redevelopment in District III commenting on the demographics involved in supporting these new businesses.

Commissioner Rogers discussed awards won by neighbors for their philanthropic, volunteer work. He also discussed the success of his telephone Town Hall Meeting. Issues discussed related primarily to the recent Storm and the importance of offering surveys that serve to engage the community. Commissioner Rogers noted the need to be aware of the remaining calendar dates for the 2017 King Tides: October 17th - 22th, November 2nd - 9th, and December 2nd - 6th. Dr. Gassman commented on the impact of wind events on King Tides and the importance of using of social media to inform residents. Mayor Seiler commented on the need to also inform the public of environmental events such as wind that would impact the severity of the King Tides.

Commissioner Rogers announced October 30th as the next meeting on

the 17th Street Causeway Transportation and Mobility Working Group.

Mayor Seiler commented on the outstanding efforts of Staff and the community at the Breast Cancer Awareness event at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE). He also noted the success of the Dillard High School Homecoming Tailgate and Parade, noting the importance of the Commission supporting local high schools.

[17-1247](#)

Communications to the City Commission

DRAFT

City of Fort Lauderdale Infrastructure Task

Force Committee

October 2, 2017

**Communication to the
City Commission**

1. *Member Fred Stresau made a motion, seconded by member Norm Ostrau recommending that the City Commission authorize the stormwater rate structure presentation [by Michael Burton of Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.] to be updated to reflect the 2018 rates. In a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.*
2. *Member Edward Kwoka made a motion, seconded by member Roosevelt Walters recommending the City Commission consider adopting a new stormwater rate methodology based upon the trip generation cost apportionment and to consider using the bond validation process immediately thereafter to validate the methodology. This recommendation is made with the provision that there be no transfer of stormwater enterprise funds into the General Fund. In a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

City Manager Feldman gave background on this communication, commenting on previous conversations with the Budget Advisory Board (BAB) about Storm Water Rates and altering the rate methodology. As requested by the Commission, the BAB reviewed two recommendations. The BAB acknowledged there will be an adjustment for 2018 rates.

In response to Mayor Seiler's request for clarification, Paul Berg, Director

of Public Works, confirmed the Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) recommended the trip-based rate structure methodology with the proviso that no Return on Investment (RIO) funds would be removed from the Stormwater Utility System. City Manager Feldman stated the Stormwater Master Plan will be due in December 2017 and will require approximately \$200,000 in Stormwater funding. To move forward in addressing this funding need, Stormwater rates will need to be resolved.

Mr. Berg discussed the consultant's evaluation of the best process prior to implementing new rates. This was another part of the Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) recommendation. Further discussions ensued on this process. Mayor Seiler asked Staff to review the recording of the ITF meeting to confirm if their recommendation is to *adopt* or *consider* the new trip-based methodology. City Manager Feldman commented on the differences in the two methodologies. Further discussions ensued on the ITF's determination and the City being the beta site for this type of methodology.

Commissioner Trantalis requested City Manager inform the Commission in writing the amount the trip-based methodology is expected to generate. He noted this will impact the amount of funding the City will need to borrow for the recommended Stormwater improvement projects.

Commissioner Rogers commented on the need for additional research on the possibility of using a hybrid methodology for the Stormwater rate structure. Mayor Seiler confirmed a consensus on the ITF's request in paragraph one of their communication.

Mayor Seiler reiterated the need for clarification on the wording *consider* or *recommend* contained in paragraph two of the ITF communication. He stated the ITF was very clear on its recommendation there should be no transfer on ROI funds. Commissioner Trantalis recommended these three points be reviewed. There was a consensus on Commissioner Trantalis's recommendation that these three points be verified and clearly stated in the ITF's meeting minutes.

DRAFT
Charter Revision Board (CRB)
October 5, 2017

Communication to the City Commission

In order to facilitate the City's ability to promote from within it ranks to

the offices of Chief of Police and Chief of Fire, the following language is recommended to be added to the first paragraph of Charter Section 6.03:

In the case of the Police Chief and Fire Chief, the person appointed has a permanent civil service classification in the Police Department or Fire Department of the City, in the event the incumbent is removed, for reasons other than for misconduct in office, the incumbent shall automatically be returned to the highest civil service classification held prior to appointment as Police Chief or Fire Chief.

In response to Mayor Seiler's question, City Clerk Jeffrey Modarelli confirmed the vote by the Charter Revision Board was unanimous. Commissioner Rogers commented this communication addresses the issue of hiring from within, commenting that adopting this via ordinance is the preferred route versus changing the Charter. There was a consensus on this point. Discussions ensued on the proposed language, the Charter's language relating to reasons for termination, the need for a correct listing of CRB attendees, and listing and correcting the CRB vote for this communication.

Mayor Seiler stated the minutes require updating prior to any action by the Commission. Further discussions ensued on the language, civil service rules, the impact on tenure and the influence of political changes to the Commission. Mayor Seiler commented that this request was initiated by the Commission to address hiring concerns within the Police Department. Mayor Seiler confirmed there was a consensus on the concept, noting the need to readdress the language.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [17-1016](#)

Emergency Purchase - Riverwalk Seawall Emergency Design - \$83,404

In response to Commissioner Rogers' inquiry regarding the context of the word scour, Director of Public Works Paul Berg confirmed it is undermining washout beneath the seawall.

There were no further questions or comments.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [17-1269](#)

Discussion of High Impact Events on Beach Property

There was a consensus that this item be deferred until after the upcoming meeting with the Beach Business Improvement District Advisory Committee (BID).

BUS-2 [17-1279](#)

Rescheduling City Commission Meeting Dates for 2018 Holidays

Mayor Seiler asked the Commission if there were any concerns with the December 2017 Commission Meeting dates. There were no concerns.

The Commission discussed adjusting the January 2018 Commission Meeting dates. City Manager Feldman recommended adjusting the January Commission Meeting dates to January 3, 2108 and January 23, 2018. There was a consensus on adjusting these Commission Meeting dates in January 2018. City Manager Feldman recommended adjusting the July 2018 Commission Meeting dates to July 10, 2018, and August 21, 2018. There was a consensus on adjusting these dates.

City Manager Feldman stated the two 2018 Budget Meeting Hearings need to occur before September 15, 2018, suggesting the week of September 3, 2018, and the week of September 10, 2018. He noted these will need to be determined following the scheduling of the County and School Board Budget Hearings. City Clerk Jeff Modarelli stated there needs to be an additional March Commission Swearing In Meeting, scheduled for March 20, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BD-1 [17-1246](#)

Board and Committee Vacancies

Commissioner Rogers discussed issues related to the Unsafe Structures Board (USB) and the recommendation by City Attorney Everett and City Manager Feldman to utilize Building Codes as the measure.

Commissioner Rogers asked for statistics regarding demolishing unsafe structures in the City. City Manager Feldman stated he would provide this information. Discussions continued on this issue. Vice Mayor Roberts commented on interaction of the USB's expertise with other departments.

Mayor Seiler appointed David Parker to the Historic Preservation Board.

City Clerk Modarelli read the names of the Board and Committee Appointments to be adopted via Resolution at tonight's Regular Commission Meeting.

A copy of these appointments is attached to these minutes.

City Clerk Modarelli announced a change to the Bahia Mar representative on the Beach Business Improvement District (BID) Advisory Committee, adding Lisa Namour. He noted the importance of amending tonight's Resolution to allow Ms. Namour's participation in the Commission's Joint Workshop with the BID scheduled for tomorrow, October 18, 2017. Mayor Seiler confirmed tonight's Resolution should be amended to include Ms. Namour.

In response to Commission Rogers inquiry, City Clerk Modarelli confirmed there were two vacancies on the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee. There are currently a total of 13 members on the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

Mayor Seiler noted there is a Village Square on Affordable Housing Meeting tomorrow night at the Funky Buddha. The head of the Sarasota Housing Board will be speaking along with former Florida State Senator Nan Rich.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Seiler adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.