

# City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)*



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, December 5, 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 Romney Rogers, Vice Mayor Bruce G. Roberts, Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, 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 Tarek Bazzi

**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.***

Commissioner McKinzie and Vice Mayor Roberts arrived at 1:45 p.m.

Commissioner Rogers gave an update on the recent 17th Street Mobility Plan Meeting. The discussions included ways to limit Port Everglades ("Port") traffic ingress and egress on Spangler Avenue during specific times of the day. He commented on the United Parcel Service (UPS) Event at Laura Ward Park where they unveiled their e-bike delivery service along Las Olas Boulevard. This service may expand to the entire downtown. Commissioner Rogers and Commissioner Trantalis discussed constituent comments regarding the Riptide Music Festival (Riptide). Further discussions ensued on the Beach Improvement District's proposal to shorten setup and breakdown time for this type of event in the South Beach Parking Lot. Commissioner McKinzie commented on his attendance at Riptide, its large turnout and other positive aspects of the event.

Commissioner Rogers commented on Broward County's completion of Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC) placement signaling at 28th Street. He asked City Manager Feldman about delayed entryway signs. City Manager Feldman updated the Commission on the status of

entryway signs, stating the easement agreement had just been approved at the recent Commission meeting. Further discussions ensued on the need to address the maintenance and appearance of entryway signs in other areas of the City, opportunities to address costs and policy.

Commissioner Rogers confirmed the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for South Side Cultural Arts Center (South Side School) will be January 30, 2018. Discussions ensued on having adequate parking for this event. He also commented on the upcoming Commission Workshop with Florida Power and Light (FPL) on December 19, 2017. Comments ensued regarding FPL management issues that caused a breakdown in communications during the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

In response to Commissioner Trantalis' question regarding FDOT and The Wave, City Manager Feldman updated the Commission. He confirmed the state is rebidding the project. Further discussions ensued on rebidding and value engineering. Commissioner Trantalis discussed the importance of Staff monitoring this process. City Manager Feldman expounded on the next steps in the process. Further discussions ensued on this topic, future maintenance obligations and the timeframe moving forward.

Vice Mayor Roberts asked City Manager Feldman and City Attorney Everett to be prepared to address issues should The Wave project not move forward. Commissioner Trantalis reiterated his reasoning for being proactive and informed. Vice Mayor Roberts also discussed the need to be involved and have input into The Wave's routing. Further comments and discussion ensued on this point.

Commissioner Trantalis raised his concern about green algae in canals, information provided by Broward County (County) and its causation. Additional discussions and questions ensued on this topic. Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director, addressed the Commission, explaining aspects of the information provided by the County. The source of information provided by the County was discussed.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, Dr. Gassman updated the Commission on the analysis of previous testing. She confirmed the County does not test for algae; the state tests for algae. Discussions ensued on the history. Vice Mayor Roberts noted the need for follow-up, requesting City Manager Feldman bring this issue back for discussions at the next Conference Meeting.

Commissioner Trantalis commented on an article in the Miami Herald

about the ranking of the City. Vice Mayor Roberts said crime was not a factor in the ranking. Further comments and discussions ensued on improving issues such as affordable housing.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question about paving railroad tracks at Sistrunk Boulevard, City Manager Feldman said Staff is working with CSX and the state to address this issue. Further discussions ensued on the cause of the sinking tracks. City Manager Feldman confirmed he would get back to the Commission on this issue for both locations, Sistrunk Boulevard and 19th Street.

Commissioner McKinzie raised his concern with parking at the KC Wright Administration Building located at SE 3rd Avenue and 6th Street. Mayor Seiler noted this is primarily law enforcement. City Manager Feldman confirmed three cars were ticketed for parking on the sidewalk. He also confirmed conversations with the Broward County Sheriff's Office, informing them vehicles are not to be parked on sidewalks.

Commissioner McKinzie raised the issue of procurement goal setting for minorities. City Manager Feldman confirmed this would be before the Commission at the second Conference Meeting in January 2018.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed the demolition of the building located at 221 NW 6th Street in Progresso Village. He discussed the need to have a plan to replace demolished buildings in areas needing economic infusion. City-owned vacant lots in District III need to be adequately maintained, i.e., landscaping and irrigation, in order to avoid the appearance of slum and blight. Further discussions ensued on other opportunities for this property and the Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Agency (NWPFH CRA) recommendations regarding redevelopment. The process involved prior to demolition was reviewed and discussed.

Mayor Seiler updated the Commission on his recent meeting with the Prime Minister of Haiti. Discussions included healthcare exchanges, education, and immigration issues. Mayor Seiler said he would explore healthcare exchange opportunities with Haiti over the next few months.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

**BUS-1** [17-1401](#)

80th Anniversary Commemorative Art Project - Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale

Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation, introduced Bernadette Bruce. Ms. Bruce spoke on behalf of the Junior League of Greater Fort

Lauderdale (Junior League). She addressed the Commission regarding the Junior League's 80th Anniversary Commemorative Art Project. Ms. Bruce thanked the Commission, acknowledging the collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Department, Riverwalk and the Historic Society.

Ms. Bruce reviewed the statement by artist Leah Brown, commenting on her ties to the community and FAT Village. Ms. Bruce discussed concepts illustrated in each panel of the sculpture, its location in Tarpon Bend and it being placed on a three-foot tall pedestal with inset lighting. Ms. Bruce said the art sculpture was self-funded through the Junior League and the funding threshold had been met. The unveiling will occur on International Women's Day on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. Discussions ensued on the Junior League's traveling art exhibition being displayed at City Hall and making donations at *JuniorLeagueFTL.org*.

***A copy of the Junior League presentation is attached to these minutes.***

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### CF-1 [17-1407](#)

#### Quarterly Investment Report for Period Ending September 30, 2017

Ash Benzo, City Treasurer, addressed the Commission on this item, discussing the overall investment strategy and projections for Operating Fund. The City generated approximately \$9,000,000 of income over the last fiscal year, a 40 percent increase over the previous year. The rate of return was a combination of interest return and price return. Further comments and discussions ensued on this topic. Linda Logan-Short, Deputy Director of Finance, explained the earnings of cash and investments not yet realized. Mr. Benzo expounded on aspects of the City's portfolio that consists of fixed income assets. Further discussions ensued on outperforming the benchmark and return on investment.

***A copy of the Quarterly Investment update is attached to these minutes.***

Mr. Benzo discussed the expectations of continued revenue performance going forward, commenting on the anticipation of a rise in interest rates. In response to Commissioner Rogers' question, Mr. Benzo stated that the current investment policy does not permit this investment strategy for the balance of the portfolio. Further comments ensued on this topic.

### CF-2 [17-1039](#)

#### Central Beach Master Plan Public Improvement Projects Update

No discussion.

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

[17-1481](#)

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

Bruce LaClair v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Victor Ramirez and  
Broward County  
Case No. 17-60102-CIV-GAYLES/TURNOFF

Mayor Seiler announced the City Commission shall meet privately to conduct discussions with the City Manager and the City Attorney regarding pending litigation noted in item 17-1481.

Present at the attorney-client session will be:

Mayor, John P. "Jack" Seiler  
Vice Mayor, Bruce G. Roberts  
Commissioner, Robert L. McKinzie  
Commissioner, Dean J. Trantalis  
Commissioner, Romney Rogers  
City Manager, Lee R. Feldman  
City Attorney, Cynthia A. Everett  
Assistant City Attorney, Tania M. Amar, and a  
Certified Court Reporter with Daughters Reporting, Inc.

The estimated length of this meeting will be approximately twenty (20) minutes.

**BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**BD-1**

[17-1465](#)

Board and Committee Vacancies

See Regular Meeting item R-1.

**CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Seiler adjourned the Conference Meeting at 3:40 p.m.

