



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
City Commission Agenda Memo  
CONFERENCE MEETING**

**#18-0176**

---

**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** February 20, 2018

**TITLE:** Special Survey Results

---

The purpose of this item is to present the findings from the 2017 Special Survey, as conducted by ETC Institute. The purpose of the survey was to gather information in three areas that have traditionally received lower levels of satisfaction on the annual neighbor survey: traffic flow, homelessness, and public education.

***Administration of the Survey***

The survey was conducted in the fall of 2017 with response options through mail, telephone and internet. Similar to the annual Neighbor Survey, this survey was conducted to be statistically significant at the 95% confidence level with a minimum of 600 responses equally representative of the four City Commission districts and the City's demographics. Additionally, we required that a minimum of 250 responses come from households with school age children (Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) for the public education related questions.

***Opinions and Perceptions of the City***

***Traffic Flow***

- Sixty-eight percent (68%) of Fort Lauderdale neighbors surveyed, who had an opinion, thought that distracted drivers contributed “very much” or “much” to the traffic congestion in Fort Lauderdale. Other items that neighbors, who had an opinion, thought contributed “very much” or “much” to traffic congestion in Fort Lauderdale included: poorly timed traffic signals (61%), street construction/maintenance (54%), and new development (53%). Based on the sum of their top two choices, neighbors thought the biggest contributors to traffic congestion in the City were 1) poorly timed traffic signals and 2) new development.
- Neighbors thought that improving traffic signal synchronization and implementing roadway improvements/complete street projects should be areas the City should prioritize in the next year in order to improve traffic flow.

- The roadway segments neighbors thought should be top priorities for improvement with regard to weekday travel by car were 1) Broward Boulevard from I-95 to US1/Federal Highway and 2) Sunrise Boulevard from I-95 to Andrews Avenue. With regard to weekend travel by car, the roadway segments neighbors thought should be top priorities for improvement were 1) Sunrise Boulevard from Searstown to Gateway and 2) Broward Boulevard from I-95 to US1/Federal Highway.
- The intersections in Fort Lauderdale that neighbors thought should be the top priorities for improvement were 1) Sunrise Boulevard and US1/Federal Highway (at Gateway) and 2) Broward Boulevard and Andrews Avenue.

### ***Homelessness***

- Eighty-one percent (81%) of the neighbors surveyed, who had an opinion, indicated they have observed homeless people in downtown Fort Lauderdale almost daily. Other areas of Fort Lauderdale where neighbors have observed homelessness almost daily include: parks (69%), commercial areas (56%), beaches (55%), their neighborhood (52%), and other areas (56%).
- Two actions that neighbors are most supportive of the City pursuing were 1) increasing enforcement of existing ordinances which prohibit panhandling in the City and 2) developing new (and/or expanding existing) homeless shelters in Fort Lauderdale.
- The action that neighbors supported least to address homelessness was designating land for public camping (48% “not supportive”).
- More than three-fourths (77%) of the neighbors surveyed indicated panhandling/begging was the top concern associated with homelessness in Fort Lauderdale. Other concerns include: making neighbors feel uncomfortable in public places (68%), negative impact on tourism (51%), and negative impact on business (49%). Based on the sum of their top two choices, the neighbors’ concerns associated with homelessness in the City were 1) panhandling/begging and 2) making neighbors feel uncomfortable in public places.
- More than one-third (34%) of neighbors think that the City should spend more on homelessness, 33% think that the City should spend about the same, 12% less, and 21% did not have an opinion.
- More than one-third (34%) of the neighbors surveyed, who had an opinion, thought that the City of Fort Lauderdale should have the most responsibility for addressing the issue of homelessness in the City. Other organizations that

neighbors thought should have the most responsibility include: Broward County (23%), the State of Florida (17%), the federal government (13%), non-profit/religious organizations (10%), and other organizations (2%).

### ***Public Education***

- Thirty-six percent (36%) of neighbors surveyed, who had an opinion, indicated that the ratings of elementary schools in Fort Lauderdale (grades Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup>) were “excellent” or “good,” 19% thought the quality of middle schools (grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>) were “excellent” or “good,” and 21% of neighbors thought the high schools (grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) were “excellent” or “good.”
- The top two priorities identified by neighbors for improvement in the Fort Lauderdale elementary schools (grades Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup>), middle schools (grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>) and high schools (grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) are that public schools have high quality teachers and that children are safe from bullying at public schools in varying orders depending on school level.
- More than one fourth (27%) of neighbors surveyed, who had an opinion, thought the quality of elementary schools in Fort Lauderdale had improved compared to five years ago; 41% thought the quality had stayed the same; and 33% felt it had decreased. Sixty-one percent (61%) of neighbors thought the quality of the City’s middle schools had improved or stayed the same compared to five years ago, and 61% felt the quality of the high schools had improved or stayed the same.

A copy of the survey results is attached for your convenience. The information will be helpful in guiding and furthering discussions and collaborative efforts with partner agencies, including the State of Florida, Broward County, Broward County Public Schools and others. Altogether, the City will be using this information to ensure that Fort Lauderdale moves strategically and innovatively into the future in these three areas.

The results of the survey were presented to the Budget Advisory Board at its January 17, 2018 meeting and will be presented to the Education Advisory Board at its March 15, 2018 meeting.

### **Resource Impact**

There is no resource impact associated with the presentation of this information.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Internal Support Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 11: Be a well-trained, innovative, and neighbor-centric workforce that builds community.
- Objective 3: Continuously improve and innovate communication and service delivery.

- Initiative 5: Routinely conduct a Neighbor Survey and address priority opportunities for improvement

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community*.

**Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – 2017 Special Survey Final Report

---

Prepared by: Kristin Tigner, Structural Innovation Manager

Department Director: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager