

City of Fort Lauderdale

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

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***

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Seiler called the Conference Meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

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 Tarek Bazzi

No e-comments were submitted for this meeting.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Mayor Seiler announced that there would be a Moment of Silence at tonight's Regular Commission Meeting in recognition of the recent tragedy at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School (High School). The Invocation will also be dedicated to the victims of the tragedy. He discussed what both the City and the community can do to assist those affected, including a City Commission Resolution.

In light of this recent event, Mayor Seiler said he reached out to the owners of the upcoming Gun and Knife Show (Gun Show) at the War Memorial Auditorium (Auditorium) scheduled for March 17th and 18th, 2018. As a courtesy to the community, the Gun Show owners had voluntarily agreed to cancel this event. Mayor Seiler passed out a letter on this topic. He confirmed this request from the Commission was not a directive or an order. Mayor Seiler confirmed that the Gun Show would not be charged fees associated with reserving the Auditorium.

A copy of this correspondence is attached to these minutes.

Mayor Seiler discussed an email from Mayor Mike Ryan of Sunrise,

Florida, regarding a resolution to address recent events at the High School. Commissioner Trantalis circulated the email to the Commission. Mayor Seiler requested the City Attorney's Office review and prepare a resolution tailored to the City. Commissioner Trantalis commented on the City of Sunrise's resolution.

A copy of this email is attached to these minutes.

Mayor Seiler announced that comments from the Commission members on recent events at the High School would be followed by a discussion about the proposed resolution.

Vice Mayor Roberts concurred with the decision of the Gun Show, stating it is a step in the right direction. He discussed the need to address the issue of gun violence at the local, state and federal levels. Vice Mayor Roberts noted his request for City Manager Feldman to communicate with the City's lobbyists about addressing the issue of gun control at the state and federal levels.

Vice Mayor Roberts commented on the need to work directly with the Broward County School Board (School Board) to address gun violence in schools, i.e., additional School Resource Officers, greater security and consideration of a single source of ingress and egress. He commented on past communications to the School Board and the need to train school administrators.

Vice Mayor Roberts discussed a cell phone application (Application) that communicates school information in real time, commenting that this would hinder law enforcement efforts to address an incident. He recommended that the School Board's position should be in opposition to this Application. Further discussion ensued on this topic. As discussed by state legislators, Vice Mayor Roberts stated that arming teachers is not a good idea due to its negative implications for law enforcement. He commented on assault weapons and the need to place restrictions going forward. Vice Mayor Roberts commented on the need to address mental health concerns and allowing law enforcement more latitude in addressing this issue. He also commented on the need to address the issues of background checks and waiting periods for gun purchases.

Commissioner McKinzie concurred with Vice Mayor Roberts' comments relating to guns, noting other incidents of school violence. Commissioner McKinzie discussed the failure of the system in dealing with the reported mental health concerns of the person involved in the High School

incident. Mental health concerns contributing to these acts of violence need to be addressed at the state legislative level. Commissioner McKinzie confirmed his support of the young people impacted by this incident and commitment to work with them for change.

Commissioner Rogers noted the negative emotional impact of the recent High School incident and the need for action. Making schools safe is a top priority. He commented on his support of the Second Amendment though emphasizing the need to address mental health concerns and the restriction of gun access to individuals who would harm others. Commissioner Rogers confirmed his support of doing whatever necessary to assist in preventing these types of incidents.

Commissioner Trantalis commented on his agreement with the Commission's comments, the need to move forward to find solutions and his consistent opposition to the Gun Show. He discussed legislators who are not addressing the issues and concerns surrounding this topic. Commissioner Trantalis commented on his hope for the incoming Commission in addressing the issues of the sale of guns, gun violence and mental health.

Commissioner Trantalis requested City Attorney Everett draft a Resolution regarding the Commission's position on this issue. Commissioner Trantalis thanked Mayor Michael Ryan for taking the initiative to circulate a proposed resolution encouraging other City Commissions and the Broward County Commission to endorse a resolution stating their positions on this topic. He commented on the efforts of high school students around the State to address this issue, emphasizing the importance of the Commission's work to support those efforts.

Mayor Seiler reviewed the concepts and immediate action plan steps to address this issue. These include: working with City schools on active shooter training, informing lobbyists that the gun issue is a priority and passing a resolution stating the City's position on this issue.

Commissioner McKinzie thanked the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Officers for their support in keeping the City's schools safe.

In response to Mayor Seiler, City Manager Feldman elaborated on the actions of SWAT Medics in conjunction with the deployment of the SWAT Team. He also discussed training, deployment and work of appropriately equipped Fire Department personnel at an active shooter scene. The City has requested the School Board to do active shooter training with

school staff and the ability to utilize school campuses on the weekends to allow law enforcement to familiarize themselves with school buildings current floor plans.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on the limitations placed on School Resource Officers and pursuing other options such as a single point of entry and exit at schools. City Manager Feldman commented on the possible option of placing police dogs at schools as a deterrent.

Discussions ensued on modifying the language in the City of Sunrise's resolution (Sunrise Resolution) to make it applicable to the City. The Commission gave direction to City Attorney Everett regarding portions of the Sunrise Resolution applicable to the City's Resolution.

Vice Mayor Roberts noted his attendance at the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Annual Awards Dinner as well as other events in District I. Commissioners McKinzie commented on his attendance at the FOP Awards Dinner and other events.

The Commission discussed the success of Neighbor Support Night and its increased attendance.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on concerns about points of entry for the upcoming Sistrunk Festival, requesting actions to mitigate sidewalk concerns. Alan Dodd, Deputy Director of Public Works, confirmed he would address. Commissioner McKinzie noted the need for action regarding infrastructure issues in Melrose Park. He requested either Alan Dodd, Deputy Director of Public Works, or Paul Berg, Director of Public Works, attend the next Melrose Park Homeowner's Association Meeting to address this area's infrastructure concerns. Commissioner McKinzie thanked the Public Works Department for the good job they are doing in District III. He commented on details and reviewed the schedule of events at the upcoming Sistrunk Festival. Commissioner McKinzie commented on the need to follow-up on vendors at the Sistrunk Festival who do not have the required permits.

Commissioner Rogers noted that the Edgewood community's entrance-way signs should be installed by April 2018. He commented on the upcoming 30th anniversary of Riverwalk and the events taking place. He also discussed on the 17th Street Mobility Plan Working Group's meeting next week which will include meeting with the County for discussions on alternative routes for 17th Street.

Commissioner Trantalis commented on the recent incident at Middle

River Terrace Park and its impact on the neighborhood. He recommended addressing this in a more preemptive manner, including installing lighting and cameras in darkened areas, and other proactive measures. Discussions continued on similar incidents in the City.

Commissioner Trantalis noted concerns by residents in the Isles during a recent marathon. He recommended Staff being more involved in these types of events to include Police directing traffic. Police Chief Rick Maglione spoke about adjustments to the marathon logistics due to ongoing construction. Commissioner Trantalis commented on the importance of keeping open access on roads during these events. Further comments ensued on this topic.

Commissioner Trantalis discussed the lengthy timeline involved in receiving a building permit. Assistant City Manager Chris Lagerbloom confirmed he is handling the matter. Commissioner McKinzie asked Staff to follow-up to determine the reason for the lengthy delay.

Commissioner Trantalis confirmed residents are concerned with an odor emanating from water in street drains along Las Olas Boulevard. Vice Mayor Roberts noted that the same dewatering issue occurred in his District. City Manager Feldman explained the reasons, stating it is not raw sewage. For those listening, Commissioner Trantalis announced the smell is ground water resulting from the dewatering process.

Commissioner Trantalis commented on the two bids received from the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Aquatic Complex. He requested City Manager Feldman come back to the Commission to address the high-bid responses.

Mayor Seiler commented on the recent Employee Recognition Ceremony, noting the outstanding group of employees honored. As discussed earlier, he reiterated the need to address traffic concerns surrounding the recent marathon event. Mayor Seiler acknowledged the 50th Anniversary of TravelHost and the work they have done for the City's tourism industry. He also discussed the Cancer Ride event in honor of Police Sergeant Jack Lokeinsky. During this event, a constituent thanked Mayor Seiler for the efforts of the Police Department's Special Drunk Driving Task Force (Task Force). Mayor Seiler thanked Police Chief Maglione for his efforts on this issue. Chief Maglione discussed working with the constituent who will participate in a ride-along with the Task Force. Mayor Seiler commented on the lowering of fatalities as a result of these efforts. Chief Maglione discussed aspects of the Task Force. Discussions ensued on the reasons for the reduction in fatalities.

[18-0187](#)

Communications to the City Commission

BEACH REDEVELOPMENT BOARD (BRB)

Monday, January 22, 2018

Communications to City Commission

Motion made by Mr. McManus, seconded by Mr. Luz, to request that the City begin or continue negotiations with Broward County to extend the CRA past the sunset date to allow for the CRA to complete its ongoing projects, and that the City continues TIF contributions to the CRA until those projects are complete. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

City Manager Feldman explained that the BRB is requesting the City work with the County to extend the Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) beyond its sunset date. He explained issues relating to Tax Incremental Financing (TIF). Commissioner Trantalis noted the need to move quickly in light of the high bid responses for the Aquatic Complex. Comments ensued concerning this request and any impact it could have on the current litigation going on between Broward County and the City of Pompano Beach.

Commissioner McKinzie followed up on the discussion regarding Building Department delays brought up during Commission Reports, noting a big part was caused by Broward County. He said information relating to this is available online.

Mayor Seiler recognized Ina Lee, Vice Chair of the Beach Redevelopment Board. Vice Chair Lee commented on the importance of the Beach CRA being extended due to deadlines involved with completing Beach CRA projects. With regard to the TIF, Vice Chair Lee commented on her understanding that if the TIF continues, funding for Staff currently working on these projects can continue. Mayor Seiler confirmed the Commissions understanding on the issue. Vice Chair Lee confirmed her willingness to assist in working with County on this request.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [18-0202](#)

Appoint the Election Board to Certify the Civil Service Board Election

Results

City Manager Feldman explained that the Commission needs to designate two Commission members to the Election Board to supervise the counting and certification of the Civil Service Board election results. The vote has taken place. Mayor Seiler suggested that he and Commissions Rogers be the designees. In response to Commissioner Trantalis' question, City Manager Feldman explained the procedures and timeline involved.

BUS-2 [18-0176](#)

Special Survey Results

Mayor Seiler recognized Kristin Tigner, Structural Innovation Manager. Ms. Tigner explained the history and purpose of this Survey was to collect information in three areas that have traditionally received lower levels of satisfaction in the Annual Neighbor Survey. They include traffic flow, homelessness, and public education. Ms. Tigner confirmed this presentation has been given to the Budget Advisory Board (BAB) and will be presented to the Education Advisory Board (EAB) next month.

Ms. Tigner announced that Chris Tatum, CEO of ETC Institute and the conductor of the survey, was on speaker phone and would give the results of the Survey to the Commission. Mr. Tatum explained the details of the survey in 2017 as illustrated in the presentation. Traffic signalization was cited as the primary contributor to traffic congestion. Cars are the preferred method of travel. The Survey's results regarding the impact of homelessness was reviewed. District III was the most supportive of providing grants to non-profit organizations for homeless services. The Survey's ratings and ranking of the City's public schools were examined. The top concerns/priorities at the elementary, middle school and high school levels included the need for high-quality teachers, bullying and crime. The Survey did not indicate a clear direction on the development of Charter Schools.

A copy of the complete presentation is attached to these minutes.

In response to Mayor Seiler's question about Mr. Tatum's ability to answer any additional questions from the Commission, he confirmed. Vice Mayor Roberts commented that special events were not noted as a contributor to traffic flow. In response to Commissioner Rogers' question, Mr. Tatum reviewed the Survey's response to alternate means of transportation and traffic congestion. City Manager Feldman reconfirmed this information has been shared with the BAB and EAB. Vice Mayor Roberts requested City Manager Feldman share this

information with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Transportation and Mobility Department. Ms. Tigner confirmed she would also share this information with the Infrastructure Task Force Committee (ITF).

Mayor Seiler said there was no consensus on solutions. City Manager Feldman said that Staff needs to do more advance work to identify solutions. As discussed with the BAB, three positions need to be added for internal studies about a traffic signalization program. Further discussions ensued on working with the County on traffic signalization.

City Manager Feldman announced the departure of Samantha Timko, Assistant Structural Innovation Manager. Ms. Timko was one of the City's original Fellows. The Commission wished Ms. Timko the best.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BD-1 [18-0186](#)

Board and Committee Vacancies

Brief comments ensued on upcoming board and committee appointments.

City Clerk Jeffrey Modarelli read the names of appointees for Resolution R-1 being voted on tonight at the February 20, 2018 Commission Regular Meeting.

A copy of the Resolution is attached to these minutes.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Seiler adjourned the Commission Conference Meeting of February 20, 2018 at 3:43 p.m.