

# City of Fort Lauderdale

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, October 23, 2018**

**1:30 PM**

**City Commission Conference Room**

## **City Commission Conference Meeting**

***FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION***

***DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor - Commissioner  
BEN SORENSEN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV  
HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I  
STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II  
ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III***

***LEE R. FELDMAN, City Manager  
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor  
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk  
ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney***

## CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the Commission Conference Meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

## ROLL CALL

**Present:** Commissioner Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

## QUORUM ESTABLISHED

**Also Present:** City Manager Lee R. Feldman, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau, City Auditor John Herbst, and Sergeant at Arms Tarek Bazzi

## CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Commissioner Moraitis discussed Leadership Broward's visit to City Hall. She also announced new lighting along Northeast 32nd and 33rd Streets at Galt Ocean Mile.

Commissioner Glassman commented on attendance at the Historic Preservation Board of Trustees (Board of Trustees) Quarterly Meeting at South Side Cultural Arts Center. He confirmed the Federal Courthouse is on the State's list of endangered historic sites in Florida and the Board of Trustees will be touring that building.

Commissioner Glassman announced he and Vice Mayor Sorensen will be hosting the upcoming November 2, 2018 Las Olas Mobility Plan Stakeholder Workshop for continued discussions on the Las Olas Boulevard Mobility Plan.

Commissioner Glassman requested an update on impact fees. City Manager Feldman confirmed impact fees are part of the ongoing Water and Sewer Rate Study (Study) and will be presented in the Study's findings.

Commissioner Glassman discussed resident comments related to construction, including sidewalk conditions, the need for

additional trash receptacles and working hours and noise. Mayor Trantalis concurred. City Manager Feldman discussed how concerns are currently addressed on a case-by-case basis when reported, confirming there is no ongoing monitoring. Further comment and discussion ensued on having Building Inspectors monitor the general conditions and safety concerns at construction sites. City Manager Feldman commented on related costs, confirming this would be addressed.

Commissioner Glassman requested future discussions on a short-term plan for the One-Stop-Shop and activation of the surrounding area until a long-term plan is determined. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman confirmed he would meet with the Flagler Village Association and will present their ideas and recommendations at an upcoming Conference Meeting.

Commissioner Glassman noted the large number of items on the November 2018 ballot. He encouraged members of the public to research the items and take advantage of early voting. Commissioner Glassman discussed moving ahead with public engagement to educate residents on opportunities and actions to prevent or reduce algae blooms in City waterways.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on collective efforts of the City, Broward County (County), local businesses and the Veterans Administration to address needs of the homeless population. Mayor Trantalis commented on a recent meeting with multiple stakeholders to discuss community efforts that address downtown area homelessness.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on a recent meeting with the Office of the Broward County Sheriff regarding the Broward County Jail being a source of homelessness. The County will be implementing a program in the next several weeks entitled "Home for the Holidays," which will place homeless individuals in approximately 80 apartments. Wraparound services will also be provided. The Community Court is estimated to begin in January 2019. Mayor Trantalis discussed the narrowing of the homeless footprint near the County Library and upcoming construction in the area.

City Manager Feldman commented on the discharge process from the County Jail and the need for additional discussions with the County to provide triage services upon release. He discussed efforts to address homelessness near the County Library, the need to identify additional housing units and additional work to assemble the Community Court

triage services. City Manager Feldman reviewed the current and planned process for implementation in early January 2019.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the County's request for financial assistance to augment costs for homeless housing. Comment and discussion ensued on funding homeless outreach and the need to address the financial participation of all County municipalities.

City Manager Feldman noted the matching contribution to the County for homelessness requested annually. The remaining amount of total funding would be raised by the private sector and coordinated through the United Way and the Business Council. City Manager Feldman noted that the County would not move forward until the Program's full funding had been identified. He explained the City's current "in-kind" funding within the General Fund and current Police and Fire Department expenditures associated with homelessness.

Mayor Trantalis discussed possible funding from the Fund Balance for homelessness. Commissioner Glassman reiterated the need to address the need for all Broward municipalities to participate in the funding effort. Mayor Trantalis asked Commissioner Moraitis, Commission representative at the League of Cities, to address this at an upcoming League of Cities meeting. Commissioner Moraitis confirmed, commenting on the State's prior Rapid Rehousing Program and pursuing this funding source.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on the members of the homeless population that are employed but cannot afford housing, reiterating the importance of the commitment to address homelessness.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed the need to move forward with funding in the first year, noting the need to revisit this topic on an annual basis. Mayor Trantalis concurred, commenting on the need to reevaluate annually.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recommended deducting the amounts currently funded by the City for homelessness services from the matching contribution to the County. There was consensus to move forward with this recommendation and fund \$800,000 in the first year for homelessness services. Commissioner Glassman emphasized the need to see deliverables. Further comment and discussion ensued on possible Fund Balance funding. Mayor Trantalis expounded on the City's commitment. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, it was reconfirmed that the \$800,000 funding commitment to the County would

only be for the first year. Subsequent year homelessness contributions to the County would be determined on an annual basis.

In response to Mayor Trantalis, City Manager Feldman explained the process involved in refunding the Wave Project's assessment to residents, expounding on details.

Discussions ensued on circulating Commission event invitations and conforming all Commissioner's calendars.

Mayor Trantalis recommended the Commission host a Town Hall Meeting to educate and advise the community on the City's response to infrastructure and resiliency needs. There was consensus on this recommendation and coordinating a date with all Commission members. Mayor Trantalis requested Staff address this recommendation and all prepare relevant information.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the International Swimming Hall of Fame's (ISHOF) board position traditionally held by the Mayor or the District II Commissioner. Commissioner Glassman confirmed he would serve as a Board Member on the ISHOF.

Mayor Trantalis acknowledged Commission members engaging student interns in the local government process. He discussed the opportunity to accommodate an intern work area in the 8th Floor Lounge. There was a consensus on this recommendation. Further comment and discussion ensued on providing office equipment and associated costs. Commissioner McKinzie and Vice Mayor Sorensen explained how interns currently serve, placing them in a Department best suited to their skill set or on-line research related work from home.

#### 18-1124

#### Communications to the City Commission

#### **BEACH REDEVELOPMENT BOARD (BRAB)**

**Monday, October 1, 2018**

Commissioner Glassman explained this BRAB communication is requesting discussion and renegotiation with the construction company for the Las Olas Parking Garage, Skanska, to keep Las Olas Boulevard open between Sea Breeze Boulevard and A1A during the month of April 2019, the busiest month of the year. Mayor Trantalis confirmed conversations with City Manager Feldman on this topic. Discussions ensued on the costs associated with postponing construction. City Manager Feldman noted that there will be alternate two-way traffic routing on SE 5th Street.

***A copy of the BRAB Communication to the Commission is attached to these minutes.***

Don Morris, Economic and Beach Redevelopment Area Manager, Beach Area Community Redevelopment Agency, reviewed his discussions and conversations with the BRAB on this request, informing them on the extra costs associated with delays. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about another contractor's delays, Mr. Morris explained that contractor was able to do additional, alternate work in the area and that delay would not cause a contract extension. Mr. Morris recommended not delaying Skanska's work on the Las Olas Parking Garage.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the impact of the closure of Las Olas Boulevard between A1A and Sea Breeze Boulevard on events, Mr. Morris confirmed alternate routing on SE 5th Street and SE 6th Street to mitigate traffic.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Paul Chettle 200 S. Birch Road. Mr. Chettle discussed his opposition to the BRAB request. He recommended adhering to building the project as agreed, commenting on subsurface infrastructure.

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

### **BUS-1 [18-1141](#)**

#### **Lockhart Stadium Discussion**

City Manager Feldman gave a historic overview of the Lockhart Stadium site (Site), its current condition and previous efforts to redevelop the area, confirming the 62 acre Site is now unencumbered by the Federal Aviation Association (FAA). He noted the Site is the last City-owned area of significant size for development.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ken Krasnow, Executive Managing Director - South Florida for Colliers International. Mr. Krasnow gave a PowerPoint presentation illustrating a high-level, broad overview of the Site's marketability, demand drivers and potential uses.

***A copy of Mr. Krasnow's presentation is attached to these minutes.***

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question about use of renovated stadiums, Mr. Krasnow confirmed a demand for concerts, event

promotions and sports activities. Mr. Krasnow said that the baseball stadium is not salvageable.

In response to Mayor Trantalis, Commissioner Moraitis commented on outreach to District I constituents on this item. She submitted a color coded aerial Site photo that includes Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) and the surrounding area. The red highlighted area is the proposed Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) for 2,000 residential units in Uptown. She recommended coordinating future plans for the Site in conjunction with proposed LUPA. Commissioner Moraitis discussed the need for park greenspace and the possibility of an Aviation School on a portion of the Site.

***A copy of Commissioner Moraitis' submission is attached to these minutes.***

In response to Commissioner Moraitis, Anthony Fajardo, Director of Sustainable Development, confirmed there are no parks in the vicinity of the LUPA's proposed 2,000 residential units. He said the Site could provide park services in the proposed residential area. Commissioner Moraitis noted the importance of the LUPA illustration and the need to preserve part of the Site as greenspace.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis, City Manager Feldman explained details associated with the FAA's removal of deed restrictions and revenue formerly going to FXE that is now going to the City. Further comment and discussion ensued on amounts charged to FXE tenants pursuant to the Charter.

Commissioner Moraitis confirmed feedback from District I residents that included airport usage, residential features such as greenspace and an aviation education facility. In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis commented on resident input regarding stadium renovation, confirming this was not a priority. Residents have a desire for greenspace. Further comment and discussion ensued on options for several areas of the Site, including an income producing property, a stadium for recreational use and a passive park. Commissioner Moraitis noted the need for flexibility with stadium programming which would allow passive residential use. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Rufus James, Airport Manager, FXE. Mr. James reviewed the mission of FXE to attract businesses to the area, contribute to the prosperity of those businesses and benefit the community. He briefly expounded on the history of FXE.

Mr. James shared renderings of options for future airport expansion, including the creation of a user-friendly environment for walkability and bicycle riders. He discussed proposed design modifications for the area between Cypress Creek Road and Power Line Road that includes bike paths and wider sidewalks.

Mr. James reviewed a short aerial video illustrating the proposed expansion recommendations. He discussed the ability to accommodate a school on the south side of the Site and modifications for access to other areas of the Site. Mr. James commented on the current amount of limited hangar space.

***A copy the video is on file in the Office of the City Clerk.***

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, Mr. James explained details on the process involved with paying fair market value for hangar space. City Manager Feldman explained details involved with the FAA's removal of deed restrictions and ensuing revenue, expounding on financing details.

City Manager Feldman confirmed the FAA's position that the cost of FXE improvements would be the responsibility of the City. In response to Mayor Trantalis, City Manager Feldman confirmed improvements would come out of the General Fund, not out of the Airport Fund.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie, Mr. James explained the public private partnership (P3) approach to FXE expansion that would use Airport Funds and private developer funds for projects that benefit the FXE.

Mayor Trantalis recognized David Coddington, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance. Mr. Coddington concurred with Mr. James' recommendations, commenting that FXE is one of the top general aviation airports in the country. He expounded on the business and job opportunities provided by FXE and the positive opportunities of having an aviation school at the airport.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' questions, Mr. Coddington confirmed one-third of the Site would work for proposed businesses at FXE. He confirmed the ability of those proposed businesses to pay fair market value at FXE, expounding on the financial benefit to the City. City Manager Feldman reiterated his comments about FXE revenue and financial obligations to the FAA.



Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive. Ms. Fertig commented on the history of Lockhart Stadium, encouraging the Commission use this public property for public use. She commented on the Broward County School Board's (School Board) efforts to enhance Northeast High School located near the Site. Ms. Fertig recommended the concept supported by the public to use public land for public use, requesting the Commission make it a requirement.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Heather Brinkworth, District III Broward County School Board Member, 2609 NE 26th Street. Ms. Brinkworth voiced concern over the School Board not being included in the conversation about educational opportunities at the Site, requesting a partnership with Broward County Public Schools.

Commissioner Moraitis confirmed the Commission is looking at an education opportunity at this Site and welcomes a proposal from Broward County Public Schools, stating that there is no proposal from a Charter School entity. The Commission is looking at available options, including working with a Charter School or Broward County Public School in determining what works best for the City. She commented on economic aspects of working with a Charter School company versus Broward County Public Schools and the need to review both options. In response to Mayor Trantalis, Commissioner Moraitis confirmed her commitment to follow-up and meet with Ms. Brinkworth to discuss this topic further. Commissioner Moraitis also noted her upcoming meeting with Superintendent Robert W. Runcie.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen, Ms. Brinkworth explained communications with FXE personnel on having an education facility on the Site. In response to Mayor Trantalis, City Manager Feldman confirmed a conversation with Mr. James on this topic. Further comment and discussion ensued on the capital investment needed for a Charter School at this location, related financing details and the School Board's ability to participate.

City Manager Feldman commented on a State Statute requirement for public school campuses to be a certain size and the ability accommodate this mandate.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jackie Scott, 1626 NE 1st Street. Ms. Scott commented on the need to provide area High Schools with a stadium. City Manager Feldman commented on previous actions by the School Board with regard to high school stadiums, expounding on details.

Further comment and discussion ensued on improvements to Lockhart Stadium being included in a Parks Bond. There was consensus on this topic.

**BUS-2** [18-1108](#)

**Future Use of War Memorial Auditorium**

Mayor Trantalis discussed the future use of War Memorial Auditorium (Auditorium), commenting on entities that have approached the City for repurposing the facility. These organizations include the Florida Crushers, Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG) and the Florida Panthers. He said that none of these proposals preclude other uses.

Commissioner Glassman confirmed meeting with the Florida Crushers, a soccer team who would use the facility for indoor soccer.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jeffrey Chabon, AEG. Mr. Chabon gave a presentation of AEG's proposal illustrating the Auditorium as a concert and entertainment location. He stated that with significant renovations, the Auditorium would be a viable venue to generate revenue. The presentation illustrated proposed modifications to the facility, commenting on a possible public private partnership (P3).

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis, Mr. Chabon confirmed there would be no capital investment needed from the City. Mr. Chabon commented on the shows produced at Parker Playhouse and the ability for the Auditorium to be multipurpose. He discussed AEG's exclusive management as operator and promotor at the Auditorium.

In response to Mayor Trantalis, Mr. Chabon said there would be approximately 80-100 annual concert events, expounding on renovation and upgrade needs. Mayor Trantalis commented on the character of Holiday Park and Parker Playhouse. Mr. Chabon commented on creating synergy with those facilities, confirming AEG has produced events at Parker Playhouse.

In response to Mayor Trantalis, Mr. Chabon confirmed the need for further information from the AEG team with regard to adding space to the Auditorium to accommodate AEG's needs.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question on accommodating the public's needs, Mr. Chabon said it could be discussed and would depend upon event scheduling.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question about capacity following renovation, Mr. Chabon confirmed capacity is currently 2,000 and would depend on modifications. Mr. Chabon said events at the Auditorium would not compete with Parker Playhouse, expounding on details of proposed entertainment. Due to AEG's investment for renovations and modifications, the proposed duration of a contract would be ten years with five-year options. Further comment and discussion ensued on AEG's proposed investment.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis, Mr. Chabon confirmed AEG's consideration and interest in assisting and consulting for Lockhart Stadium, expounding on details.

Mayor Trantalis left the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive. Ms. Fertig commented on the community's contribution to the establishment of War Memorial Auditorium for community and cultural events. She expounded on its historical significance for residents. She recommended this public property for public use. Commissioner Moraitis commented on the commitment to preserve the Auditorium's history.

Commissioner McKinzie left the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis returned to the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

Commissioner McKinzie returned to the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jackie Scott, 1626 SE 1st Street. Ms. Scott commented on unique aspects of the Auditorium and its activation, expounding on details and suggestions. Mayor Trantalis commented on marketing efforts by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mayor Trantalis recognized John Milledge, Esq., 200 SW 1st Avenue, and on behalf of the Florida Panthers. Mr. Milledge acknowledged Sean McCaffrey, Chief Operating Officer of the Florida Panthers, also in attendance. Mr. Milledge confirmed the Panthers' due diligence has been completed and the Florida Panthers wish to move forward with Staff to continue the process with a term sheet for the Auditorium. He said the Panthers' proposal is compatible with what the Florida Crushers submitted. Mr. Milledge stated he would reach out and work with the Florida Crushers. He commented on possible conflicts with Parker Playhouse should AEG produce events at the Auditorium.

Mr. Milledge discussed proposed plans, including sheets of ice for youth hockey, indoor soccer and lacrosse space for public use, expounding on an overall outline of proposed details. There would be two sheets of ice for hockey clubs housed in a new addition on the east side of the Auditorium. It would allow youth hockey, public skating and would have bleachers for public viewing. The existing space in the Auditorium would be used for indoor soccer and lacrosse. Future expansion would include locker rooms and workout facilities to allow the Panthers to practice at the Auditorium and would be open to the public. Discussion of additional details ensued. Preservation of the interior and exterior décor would be priority.

Mr. Milledge requested Commission guidance to move forward with Staff and the Office of the City Attorney to work on the terms and structure of a lease agreement.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park. He gave a historic overview of the Auditorium's use, confirming support to move forward with one of the proposals presented.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dennis Ulmer, 1007 NW 11th Place. Mr. Ulmer commented on the need to preserve the architectural features of the Auditorium. He also discussed the importance of the origination of the Auditorium as a World War II Memorial and preserving those features.

In response to Mayor Trantalis, City Manager Feldman explained the next steps in the process. City Manager Feldman confirmed the first option would be to move forward with current City renovation plans. The second option would be for a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit proposals. The third option would be to accept and consider an unsolicited P3 proposal. He commented on concerns regarding the Auditorium's structure and how the Charter addresses leasing a public property to a for-profit or non-profit entity, expounding on this topic. Further comment and discussion ensued on the leasing of other public properties governed by the Charter.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Milledge confirmed the possible option of the Florida Panthers Foundation, a non-profit entity, to lease the Auditorium that would be reviewed and explored with the Office of the City Attorney.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question on the speediest and most

efficient legal manner to move forward, City Attorney Alain Boileau recommended he meet with representatives from the Florida Panthers and AEG to review and address parameters of each proposal. Further comment and discussion ensued on the timeline. City Manager Feldman commented on concerns regarding the type of facility AEG is proposing.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen, Mr. Milledge commented on the need to maintain funding currently earmarked for the Auditorium to make the economics work due to the substantial amount of improvements necessary at the Auditorium.

**BUS-3** [18-1177](#)

Presentation by Earthrights International regarding ongoing national and proposed litigation against fossil fuel companies due to their contribution to climate crisis and resulting mitigation costs to governmental entities

Mayor Trantalis recognized Marco Simons, Americas Regional Program Director and General Counsel, ERI International, Inc, (ERI). ERI is a non-profit legal organization representing communities around the world in United States Courts against major multinational oil companies (Companies) arising from the Companies' knowing contribution to the climate crisis by producing, promoting, refining, marketing, and selling fossil fuels, while concealing the dangers to the environment. ERI has been representing cities and counties pro-bono regarding climate change. These cases are also co-counseled with private legal firms at the litigation stage. He discussed the history of the impact of fossil fuels over the past 150 years and scientific studies done by the fossil fuel industry, beginning in 1968, predicting the impact of future climate change. Mr. Simons reviewed the history of legal actions filed on behalf of municipalities in the courts, expounding on details, rulings, appeals and future strategies. He reviewed a model that the City may wish to pursue and expounded on details.

Mr. Simons said there would be no cost to the City, only the cost of Staff time while working with ERI. There would be the option of joining together with other South Florida municipalities who have expressed an interest in this strategy. It would be necessary at the litigation stage to join with co-counsel from private legal firms on a contingent fee basis. He commented on push-back from Companies, explaining related details.

Mr. Simons gave a presentation illustrating climate change litigation around the country and opportunities for the City.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about the City being required to pay opposing counsel fees, should the case result in a negative ruling for the City, Mr. Simons commented that is a possibility and there has been discussion on ways to limit the City's exposure.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question on the status of currently filed cases, Mr. Simons said those filed in federal court have been remanded to state courts and no substantive proceedings have occurred, confirming cases are in the early stages. Brief comment and discussion ensued on filings by other South Florida municipalities.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question about the commitment of Staff time, Mr. Simons commented it would not be significant and would primarily focus on major impacts, costs and scope.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen, Mr. Simons commented on discussions with other South Florida municipalities and collaboration with private counsel.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie, Mayor Trantalis confirmed ERI's initiative and outreach to him, City Manager Feldman, City Attorney Alain Boileau, and Commissioner Glassman. Mayor Trantalis commented on possible benefits and risks associated with moving forward that would need to be considered.

Mayor Trantalis thanked Mr. Simons for the presentation.

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

**BUS-4** [18-1048](#)

**Discussion of Proposed Cost of Living Adjustment for the General Employees Retirement System**

Mayor Trantalis recognized Linda Logan-Short, Deputy Director, Finance Department. Ms. Logan-Short gave a brief review of the recommendation sent by the General Employees Retirement System (GERS) Board of Trustees on a retiree Cost of Living Allocation (COLA). She confirmed required criteria had been met. The 2018 GERS benchmark of 7.5 percent has been met and the market value as of September 30, 2018 is approximately \$656,000,000, an increase of approximately \$32,000,000. Ms. Logan-Short expounded on the actuaries' recommendations of a 1.5, 2.0 or 2.5 percent increase. The GERS Board of Trustees recommended fully funding a 2.5 percent

COLA increase.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Logan-Short confirmed the base year is 2017. She explained the cost of a 2.5 increase would be a lump sum of \$10,000,000 for full funding over the life-span of retirees. If funded over five years, it would be \$2,500,000 per year. Further comment and discussion on this topic. Ms. Logan-Short noted retirees have not received a COLA since 2001, commenting that the cost of living has increased 35 percent.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question about the dollar amount of the 2.5 percent COLA increase for an average retiree, Ms. Logan-Short said it would be approximately \$600 per year.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, Ms. Logan-Short explained the COLA is at the will of the Commission, expounding on criteria for eligibility. City Manager Feldman commented on each of the Ordinance's two criterion having been met. He commented on the covenant in the Pension Obligation Bond that states if funded, the Commission must approve funding with four affirmative votes. Should the funding be in another manner, the Commission vote must be unanimous.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Feldman explained the primary source of funding would be from the General Fund and other respective funds related to retirees area of work (proportioned payroll costs), i.e., the Water and Sewer Fund, Airport Fund, etc. Further comment and discussion ensued on the financial impact to those funds.

In response to Mayor Trantalis, City Auditor John Herbst discussed the financial impact, concurring with adherence to the Bond covenant, expounding on this point. He confirmed funding would need to be identified in the budget. It could come out of the Fund Balance as a one-time payment. If it is amortized, it would be added to the unfunded liability and would require a unanimous Commission vote. City Auditor Herbst expounded on future unfunded budget related obligations and challenges.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Darlene Pfeiffer, 5938 Park Walk Circle West. Ms. Pfeiffer urged the Commission to grant retirees this COLA, expounding on their contributions in service to the City.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Peter Partington, 1521 NE 53rd Street. Mr. Partington commented on the impact of the 2008 recession on retirees

and the growth of the pension plan over the past two years. He urged the Commission to approve the COLA increase.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Leonard Ackley, 1410 SW 82nd Terrace. Mr. Ackley commented on the increase in the cost of living impact on retirees, urging the Commission to support the 2.5 percent COLA increase.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Hattie Brinson, 23328 SW 58th Avenue. Ms. Brinson commented on State Statute requirements regarding retiree benefits and COLA's incorporation into the pension plan. She urged the Commission to approve the COLA increase.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Eve Bazer, 3020 NE 32nd Avenue. Ms. Bazer urged the Commission to approve the COLA increase.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Rose Klarman, 4842 NW 93rd Avenue. Ms. Klarman commented on her tenure with the City and its growth, urging the Commission to approve the COLA increase for retirees due to increases in the cost of living.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question about conditioning COLA payouts on years of service and annual payout, City Auditor commented on the justification of various options, separating recipients into groups and expounding on details.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, City Auditor Herbst discussed the criteria in the Ordinance that includes: (1) meeting the assumed rate of return; and (2) the annual required contribution consisting of the normal cost based on actuarial factors and amortization of unfunded liabilities to fully fund required contributions under State Statute.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about funding the COLA out of the difference between the total GERS Fund earnings and the 7.5 percent benchmark, City Auditor Herbst said it could compromise the GERS Fund, explaining it is based upon market performance. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented on addressing the COLA needs of retirees.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Feldman confirmed there are approximately 1,400 people in this Defined Benefits Plan and the plan closed in 2008.



Mayor Trantalis recognized Nicholas Schiess, GERS Pension Plan Administrator. Mr. Schiess clarified that State Statute does not allow surplus funds within the Plan to be used to fund a COLA increase. He confirmed there are still approximately 800 active retirees.

Mayor Trantalis commented on reducing the Plan's assumed rate of return. City Manager Feldman commented on annual increases in plan funding when the rate of return is reduced. He also explained the implications of the assumed rate of return being too high and details regarding unfunded liabilities. Further comment and discussion ensued on this topic and how it is being addressed by other municipal retirement plans around the country.

City Auditor Herbst commented on bond rating agencies close examination of municipalities and states with unrealistic assumed rates of return. He stated that failing pension systems are closely associated with unrealistic rates of return.

Commissioner Glassman reviewed the history of past COLA requests and differentials. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Auditor Herbst recommended addressing COLAs in a tiered manner. Commissioner Glassman confirmed the need to address COLA increases for retirees. Further comment, discussion and explanation ensued on employees participating in a "Drop Program" that exchanges a portion of a monthly benefit for a lump sum.

Mr. Schiess explained benefits paid out are the Funds liability. Funding is determined by an annual actuarial evaluation used to pace out the City's contribution and allow level requirements over time. Comment and discussion ensued on the funding of all City retirement plans.

Mayor Trantalis requested City Manager Feldman provide the Commission with options for a tiered approach to funding the COLA. Further comment and discussion ensued on the parameters. City Auditor Herbst commented on the option of a "thirteenth check". It would not be a permanent increase in the COLA payout nor a cumulative cost. Mayor Trantalis requested this be made one of the options.

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

[18-1160](#)

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

Fort Lauderdale Food Not Bombs, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale

Case No.: 15-60185-Civ-Zloch

**BUS-5** [18-1152](#)

Discussion of the Process for Selection of City Manager and Naming of Interim City Manager

Mayor Trantalis discussed the previous methodology for hiring a City Manager and alternative methods.

Commissioner Moraitis confirmed her support and recommendation for Assistant City Manager Chris Lagerbloom to serve as Interim City Manager. There was a consensus on the recommendation.

City Attorney Alain Boileau recommended a contractual arrangement for Assistant City Manager Lagerbloom while in the position of Interim City Manager to ensure equitable treatment when a new City Manager is hired. Commissioner McKinzie concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on the search process and recommended hiring Assistant City Manager Lagerbloom as City Manager. Mayor Trantalis confirmed he is prepared to hire an Interim City Manager, commenting on the opportunity to make comparisons. City Auditor John Herbst suggested the Commission address the salary of the Interim City Manager position.

Vice Mayor Sorensen concurred with the recommendation for Assistant City Manager Chris Lagerbloom to serve as Interim City Manager. He also suggested City Attorney Boileau bring a contract package forward that includes a salary component, protects Assistant City Manager Chris Lagerbloom and gives him the ability to apply for the position of City Manager. The package should commence on January 1, 2019.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recommended the process used for hiring the City Attorney also be used to hire the City Manager. Mayor Trantalis commented on that process. Discussions ensued on citizen participation in the hiring of City Manager Feldman. Commissioner McKinzie confirmed the need for the process to be transparent. Mayor Trantalis commented on the selection process for the Citizens Review Panel. Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on the need for an efficient timeline and setting clear expectations. Further comment and discussion ensued on recommendations for the process, job description, recruitment firm hiring and the timeline submitted by City Manager Feldman in this item's backup.

Mayor Trantalis requested City Manager Feldman submit several

recruiting firms to the Commission at the November 6, 2018 Commission Conference Meeting. Comment and discussion ensued on Commission members reaching out to citizens for participation on the Selection Committee. Further comment and discussion ensued on providing an opportunity for the Council of Civic Associations and members of the business community to participate on the Selection Committee.

City Manager Feldman discussed the procurement process for hiring a recruiter. City Attorney Alain Boileau commented on the possibility of “piggy backing” on other recruiter contracts. City Manager Feldman confirmed the creation of a Selection Committee would need to be adopted by Resolution at the November 6, 2018 Commission Regular Meeting. Appointments to the Selection Committee would go through the usual appointment process.

Commissioner Moraitis noted additional departures. Brief comment and discussion ensued.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the Commission Conference Meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.