

City of Fort Lauderdale

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 4, 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 1:38 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 Keven Dupree

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Commissioner Moraitis commented on input from the Uptown area regarding the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) plan for a possible Andrews Avenue and Cypress Creek Road interchange (Project) ramp redesign.

A copy of slides illustrating proposed alternatives for the Andrews Avenue and Cypress Road area is attached to these minutes.

Jim Hetzel, Principal Urban Planner, Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), pointed out the core area in the vicinity of Andrews Avenue and Cypress Creek Road, giving a brief historical overview of the area's transition from an office space environment to an urban village setting. He expounded on details regarding land use, zoning districts for a mixed-use environment and proposed interchange improvements.

Karen Warfel, Program Manager, Transportation and Mobility (TAM), discussed the slide presentation illustrating the Project, explaining details regarding FDOT's interchange improvements proposed for Andrews

Avenue and Cypress Creek Road.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question about TAM's proposal, Ms. Warfel reviewed Staff's recommendations for alternatives for the Project. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Moraitis commented on additional development in this area. In response to Mayor Trantalis, Ms. Warfel and Mr. Hetzel expounded on the details of the proposed recommendations and related FDOT concerns. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman confirmed positive feedback received on the collaborative homelessness initiative. Mayor Trantalis concurred and expounded on details. Further comment and discussion ensued on additional outreach in other pocket areas of homelessness.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Assistant City Manager Chris Lagerbloom confirmed the dates of the Commission's Goal Setting Session as Thursday and Friday, January 17-18, 2019.

Commissioner Glassman discussed enforcement of the Ordinance that addresses items including noise and scooters. Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective. Commissioner Glassman discussed input from his District II Pre-Agenda Meeting, suggesting pedestrian-only zones that would not allow scooters. Further comment and discussion ensued on available options for enforcement of the Ordinance. Commissioner Glassman confirmed his request for Staff to research and provide guidance on this topic which is currently scheduled for discussion at a February 2019 Conference Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued on this topic.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the need to address street-light outage concerns with Florida Power and Light.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on parking, the kiosk and the City Hall drive-through used for payment of monthly water bills. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie acknowledged the work of Nigeria Livingston, Senior Program Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department, for the Light-Up Carter Park Event. He also recognized the work of Police Captain William Schultz for the Toy Drive effort, thanking the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) for their positive work in District III.

Vice Mayor Sorensen concurred with earlier comments on the positive

results from collaborative homelessness efforts, expounding on details and future opportunities to collaboratively solve other municipal concerns.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on the Aids Healthcare Foundation's proposal for housing which was discussed at a community meeting, expounding on comments and concerns raised. Further explanation and discussion ensued on this topic and finding Affordable Housing solutions.

Vice Mayor Sorensen confirmed the upcoming December 11, 2018 Roundtable Meeting with elected representatives from Las Vegas to share information regarding collaborative efforts to address homelessness. In response to Commissioner Moraitis, Vice Mayor Sorensen said work to address the opening of Salvation Army's Respite Center (Respite Center) is ongoing. Further comment and discussion ensued on community contributions to the Respite Center and other charitable donation efforts.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his meeting with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce confirming his discussion of the Commission's accomplishments and direction.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about the status of the Las Olas Marina (Marina Project), City Manager Feldman gave an update, commenting on the Development Review Committee (DRC) process and confirming that an approved Site Plan is necessary to move forward. Further comment and discussion ensued on working with the neighboring buildings on aspects of the Marina Project. City Manager Feldman confirmed he would work towards having the Marina Project on the December 18, 2018 Commission Regular Meeting Agenda.

[18-1277](#)

Communications to the City Commission

Budget Advisory Board Meeting (BAB)
November 14, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.

A copy of this communication is attached to these minutes.

There were no questions or comments regarding the BAB's communication to the Commission.

Planning and Zoning Board (P&Z Board)
Tuesday, November 13, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.

A copy of this communication is attached to these minutes.

There were no questions or comments regarding the P&Z Board's communication to the Commission.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [18-1272](#) Quarterly Investment Report for Period Ending September 30, 2018

Mayor Trantalis recognized Linda Logan-Short, Deputy Director of the Finance Department. Ms. Logan-Short gave a review of the Year-End Quarterly Investment Report, confirming funds under the direction of the Finance Department achieved benchmark goals. Ms. Logan-Short expounded on investment details included in this item's backup information.

In response to Mayor Trantalis, Ms. Logan-Short noted other investments which are controlled by other parties and confirmed that the benchmark was established by the previous investment advisor. She confirmed the profits are reinvested. Ms. Logan-Short commented on future investment strategy based upon input from the new investment advisors. Further comment and discussion ensued.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [18-1273](#) Zeroing In - Five Year Strategic Plan

Mayor Trantalis recognized Julie Leonard, Interim Director of Transportation and Mobility (TAM). Ms. Leonard introduced Josette Severyn, Planner II - TAM. Ms. Severyn gave a presentation entitled *Zeroing In - Five Year Strategic Plan*. Ms. Severyn gave a brief historical overview of the Vision Zero Program.

A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Severyn expounded on concerns regarding traffic fatalities. In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen about how the City's *Vision Zero* data compares on a per capita basis, Ms. Severyn expounded on the City's ranking. She discussed contributing factors which include distracted driving resulting from cell phone usage. Further comment and discussion ensued on *Vision Zero's* goals to eliminate traffic fatalities, efforts regarding *Complete Streets* and the overall goal of safety. City Manager Feldman discussed enforcement, best practices and addressing contributing factors, i.e., efforts to have distracted driving being a primary violation. Other items

include better lighting and improved traffic signalization to address jay walking on roadways which are under the control of Broward County and the State of Florida. Further comment and discussion ensued on the cost of *Vision Zero* and leveraging funding from the Florida Department of Transportation, the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization and Broward County. Staff also commented on low-cost public information efforts and leading pedestrian interval signalization on Las Olas Boulevard at 8th Avenue, and on SE 17th Street.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on major east-west corridors having the highest amount of incidents, including Broward Boulevard and Sunrise Boulevard. He recommended instituting a pilot program for improvements on these roadways followed by a determination of effectiveness. Ms. Severyn concurred stating TAM is working with FDOT to institute some creative solutions. Commissioner McKinzie concurred, discussing the need to address West Sunrise Boulevard adjacent to Carter Park. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Severyn expounded on continued efforts going forward that will include data evaluating, controlling speed with engineering solutions, marketing education efforts, encouraging pedestrian safety and enforcement. She commented on efforts to address lighting and other improvements.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question about *Vision Zero* funding, Assistant City Manager Chris Lagerbloom commented on the amount of funding. City Manager Feldman suggested that this may be an item for discussion at the January 17 and 18, 2019 Commission Goal Setting Session.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding dockless mobility (scooters) and street solicitation, Ms. Severyn expounded on future efforts to research, track and compile data. City Manager Feldman commented on a previous study on street solicitation and the related Ordinance. Ms. Severyn confirmed that street solicitation is often related to homelessness. She confirmed TAM is partnering with the Police Department and will be participating in Community Court for outreach to educate the homeless population on safe pedestrian behavior. Staff also discussed educational efforts for those using dockless mobility.

BUS-2 [18-0517](#)

Discussion Regarding 2019 State Legislative Priorities and Funding Requests

City Manager Feldman discussed the 2019 draft of State legislative priorities and funding requests reflecting the official position of the City.

These items will be modified based on Commission feedback and will subsequently be presented for adoption by the Commission.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ron Book, Esq., Ronald L. Book, P.A. Mr. Book reviewed recent and upcoming anticipated actions of the Florida State Legislature. He commented on the transition teams for incoming Governor DeSantis and other related details. Mr. Book discussed the topic of general revenue, the impact of recent hurricanes, the history of hurricane reparations, and the impact on the State's economy.

Mr. Book commented on the State Legislature's moving away from economic incentives for development of businesses and attracting businesses, expounding on related details. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about seeking economic incentives for mass transit and flood prevention, Mr. Book concurred that these types of incentives should be pursued, explaining the reasons and noting that this would include items such as seawalls for City-owned areas, i.e., the Riverwalk.

Mr. Book commented on Affordable Housing, details related to the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act and funding for homelessness initiatives statewide, expounding on details. He noted the availability for criminal justice funding and efforts to better address stormwater protection programs. Mr. Book commented that the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Emergency Operations would be priorities going forward.

Mayor Trantalis recognized, Dave Ericks, Ericks Consultants, Inc. Mr. Ericks commented on the political dynamics with the incoming Governor, the State House Speaker and State House President. He discussed funding for hurricane damage in the Panhandle area. Mr. Ericks commented on expectations regarding home rule and area representatives in the State Legislature. Mayor Trantalis commented on the need for representatives addressing School Resource Officers (SROs) and other opportunities.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding action on vacation rentals and preemption, Mr. Book expounded on plans to address this topic. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman requested an update on last year's priorities. Candice Ericks, Ericks Consultants, Inc., confirmed she would provide this to the Commissioners. City Manager Feldman commented on giving Staff and the lobbying team some flexibility during the State Legislative Session. Mr. Book concurred, expounding on this topic. Commissioner

Moraitis concurred with the legislative priorities listed within this item's agenda backup, expounding on recouping funding for SROs. Mr. Ericks commented on the shortage of law enforcement officer resources. Mr. Book discussed his recommendations regarding the responsibility of School Boards for SROs. Mayor Trantalis commented on the increase in the millage rate to fund SROs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Candice Ericks, Ericks Consultants, Inc., confirmed progress on distracted driving (texting while driving) legislation.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. King commented on his perspective on lobbying efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

BUS-3 [18-1262](#)

WAVE Refund Policy Consideration

City Manager Feldman gave an update on the refund policy for the Wave Special Assessment (Special Assessment) that funded the State Infrastructure Bank's loan for the Wave project. He requested guidance on the interest rate to be refunded and those taxpayers receiving refunds, the taxpayer who paid the assessment or their successors in interest.

Mayor Trantalis recommended refunding the amount of interest earned by the City. There was consensus on this recommendation. In response to Mayor Trantalis, City Attorney Alain Boileau commented on refunds to those properties with no transfer of ownership.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Albert del Castillo, Esq., Greenberg Traurig. Mr. del Castillo updated the Commission on work with the Office of the City Attorney and the Finance Department to address concerns relating to the refund of Special Assessments, expounding on related details. There was consensus that refunds should begin for the eighty percent of taxpayers whose properties have had no change in ownership. Mr. del Castillo commented on the process, including presenting the reimbursement roll to the Commission for approval.

Vice Mayor Sorensen concurred on the need to move forward with refunds to the eighty percent of taxpayers followed by a good faith effort to locate and refund taxpayers who paid the Special Assessment during their ownership of the properties, explaining his perspective. Mr. del Castillo confirmed there will be a good faith effort to identify previous

owners. Notice will be published in newspapers and U.S. Mail notices will also be mailed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Feldman confirmed the General Fund will pay associated costs, commenting on related details. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about deducting costs from interest earned, Mr. del Castillo confirmed this was an option. Further comment and discussion ensued on deducting costs associated with locating taxpayers due a refund who no longer own an assessed property, the timeline for reimbursements and details relating to refunding interest. City Attorney Boileau commented on the need to address shortfalls and equitably address interest refunds. Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on the need to fully refund assessments including interest. There was a consensus on this recommendation.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Stan Eichelbaum, 411 N. New River Drive. In response to Mr. Eichelbaum's question, it was confirmed there would be a full refund of assessments for the Wave, including interest.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. King discussed his perspective, recommending refunds to current property owners of the assessed properties.

BUS-4 [18-1127](#)

Update on Sign Code Amendment to Address Content Neutrality

Mayor Trantalis recognized Anthony Fajardo, Director of Sustainable Development. Mr. Fajardo gave a slide presentation updating the Commission on the need to address and amend the current Code regarding the topic of signage content neutrality and signage located on rights-of-way. He expounded on Staff's recommendations listed in the presentation, requesting Commission direction.

A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on signage located on rights-of-way, confirming his opposition. Mayor Trantalis commented on the impact of this recommendation on the real estate industry. Mr. Fajardo commented on the need to be impartial regarding all signage on rights-of-way. Further comment and discussion ensued on restrictions and signage types. Commissioner McKinzie discussed enforcement. Commissioner Glassman commented on self-regulation. Commissioner Moraitis discussed concerns.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen, City Manager Feldman confirmed Code's current 24-hour limit on signage in rights-of-way and details

related to monitoring by Code Enforcement.

Mr. Fajardo discussed the right-of-way signage's impact during Parks and Recreation maintenance of medians and swales. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question about campaign signage, Mr. Fajardo explained how Code addresses this type of signage, noting it is content driven and needs to be addressed. It was confirmed that campaign signage should only be on private property and must be for less than one year. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Feldman commented on the need for the public to differentiate a front lawn from a swale when placing signage. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need to maintain the ability to remove signage on rights-of-way after 24 hours, confirming no change to this portion of the Ordinance. Mr. Fajardo confirmed Staff will move forward with the other amendments listed in the presentation.

Commissioner Glassman commented on previous discussions regarding the Adopt-a-Median Program. City Manager Feldman commented on budget details regarding median maintenance. He also discussed the Adopt a Median Program's signage. City Manager Feldman confirmed he would update the Commission on these items.

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

[18-1293](#)

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

Irons, Zilla B. vs. City of Fort Lauderdale
Case No.: CACE 17-008406 (18)

Gouseen, Marcia vs. City of Fort Lauderdale
Case No.: CACE 17-007425 (18)

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the Commission Conference Meeting at 4:36 p.m.