

City of Fort Lauderdale

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

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***

***CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk
ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney***

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:43 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 Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, Interim Assistant City Manager Rhoda Mae Kerr, Interim Assistant City Manager Linda Logan-Short, City Attorney Alain Boileau, City Auditor John Herbst and Sergeant at Arms Heather Lee

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Commissioners Moraitis and McKinzie discussed Certification Program opportunities available for Fort Lauderdale High School students. Commissioner Moraitis confirmed the Commission's ability to inform neighbors of these opportunities.

Commissioner Moraitis asked about the duration of Spring Break and dockless mobility (scooter) use in specific areas. Mayor Trantalis confirmed that the larger focus is on "high impact" events as determined by the City Manager. City Manager Chris Lagerbloom confirmed that based upon Commission action at tonight's Commission Regular Meeting, the six-week timeline for Spring Break would begin on March 2, 2019.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding a senior and low-income tax exemption for property taxes, Interim Assistant City Manager Rhoda Mae Kerr said it is a combined exemption applied for through the Broward County (County) Property Appraiser's Office. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on the increase in the homeless population and panhandling in District I. Comment and discussion

ensued on those locations and addressing the individual needs of the homeless. Commissioner McKinzie explained procedures to address panhandling.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the Seven Isles Homeowners Association's request to move forward with electrical utility undergrounding. He noted the upcoming Las Olas Mobility Working Group Meeting on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. Commissioner Glassman requested consideration of President's Day as a City holiday. City Auditor John Herbst noted employees had asked for a holiday on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday in place of President's Day. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman commented on discussions with State legislators who were receptive to allowing scooters to use roadway bike lanes. He said that Representative Chip LaMarca has had a discussion with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on this topic. Further comment and discussion ensued on State legislative items, including preemption and a tobacco use ban on the beach tied to restricting the purchase of tobacco products to 21 and older. Commissioner Moraitis requested including JUULing (vaping) in those restrictions.

Commissioner Glassman requested an update from Brightline on Quiet Zones. It was confirmed that an update on this topic will be on or before March 15, 2019.

Commissioner Glassman requested an update on the County's Transportation Surtax (Surtax). Discussions ensued on Transportation and Mobility (TAM) liaisons and the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) work in this area. Commissioner McKinzie commented on details related to shovel-ready projects. Further explanation and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed the Surtax funding an increased reimbursement rate for Sun Trolley providers. Further comment and discussion ensued on the City's list of shovel-ready projects, MPO priority projects funded by the federal government and other projects currently in the planning phase. City Manager Lagerbloom discussed efforts by municipalities located in the western portion of Broward County to have the 10 percent municipal portion of the Surtax distributed based on population. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed concerns relating to utility bill water

payments at City Hall, expounding on details. Interim Assistant City Manager Linda Logan-Short explained payment options at the kiosks and the Customer Service Desk. Further comment and discussion ensued. Interim Assistant City Manager Logan-Short said Staff would contact the kiosk vendor to address multiple water bill payments and other concerns.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed spikes in District I resident water bills in the October-November 2018 timeframe. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis recognized Kirk Buffington, Director of Finance. Mr. Buffington commented on efforts to address this concern. He emphasized the need for education regarding the tiered-rate structure for water usage, expounding on details.

Commissioner Moraitis recommended the installation of two water meters to reduce water bills, a sprinkler meter, and an interior home meter. Mr. Buffington confirmed, discussing details. Commissioner Moraitis requested Staff develop a brief education piece on the tiered-rate water billing system and information on the two-meter option to be distributed with Commission Member Newsletters. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed Staff would address this request. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Buffington confirmed Staff would attend neighbor meetings to explain the tiered-rate water billing system.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on items related to the annual Snyder Park barbecue recognizing City employees. Comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on the opening of homeless respite centers, expounding on details. He confirmed his membership on the Broward League of Cities Task Force on Climate Change which will meet on Thursday, February 21, 2019. Vice Mayor Sorensen said there is continuing progress with the County towards a bypass road on SE 17th Street. The final plan is not yet official. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen confirmed an upcoming public meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 to discuss items related to raising the Cordova Road seawall. Mayor Trantalis commented that homeowners living across from the Cordova Road seawall area would like to purchase the property and fund seawall improvements. City Manager Lagerbloom said further investigation with Staff is needed to determine the viability of this option and he would report back to the Commission. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director. Dr. Gassman explained that homeowners could not purchase the property due to the property's ownership structure. The right-of-way must stay in the public realm. The public right-of-way includes Cordova Road, the swale and the sea wall. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Attorney Alain Boileau explained they could not be separated, expounding on details. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Attorney Boileau confirmed further research would take place on this topic and he would report back to the Commission. Dr. Gassman discussed the current Dock Permit Ordinance, confirming drafting a new proposed dock permit ordinance, expounding on details related to public access. Further comment and discussion ensued.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [19-0175](#)

Update on Initiatives Addressing Homelessness in Fort Lauderdale

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jeri Pryor, Homeless Initiatives Administrative Supervisor - Division of Neighbor Support. Ms. Pryor updated the Commission regarding highlights of the homelessness initiatives as discussed in the Commission Agenda Memo (CAM).

A copy of the CAM and Exhibits are attached to these minutes.

Ms. Pryor confirmed hiring a Community Court Coordinator. The Salvation Army's family day Respite Center will be opening soon, and the capacity will be 35 individuals per day. The Hope South Florida Day Respite Center's family capacity is 15-20 and is expected to open today. Ms. Pryor commented on the food sharing program, confirming showers are available three days a week.

Ms. Pryor introduced other homelessness service providers, Kathleen Cannon, President /CEO of United Way of Broward County, and Rebecca McGuire, Homeless Initiative Partnership Section (HIP), Community Partnerships Division of Broward County. Commissioner McKinzie confirmed his support of homeless initiatives. He commented regarding addressing homeless individuals relocating to areas in District I and District III, expounding on details and concerns. Mayor Trantalis acknowledged this concern. He noted the need to have a clear understanding of each stakeholder's role, commenting on the disconnect between Community Court and Broward County (County) housing services. Ms. Pryor explained the purpose of the Community Court. It is a tool to connect individuals with services.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Kathleen Cannon, President and CEO of the United Way of Broward County. Ms. Cannon discussed providing housing for Community Court participants. She reviewed the financial commitments planned through 2019 and other program details. Ms. Cannon explained that chronic homelessness and family homelessness are addressed differently, commenting on concerns discussed earlier by Commissioner McKinzie. Further discussion ensued on this topic.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Rebecca McGuire, Homeless Initiative Partnership Section (HIP), Community Partnerships Division of Broward County. Ms. McGuire discussed efforts to address homelessness in the area near the Broward County Library and other pockets of homelessness, commenting on details.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' earlier question, Ms. McGuire explained the new procedures to ensure a connection between the Community Court and providing housing. The need for additional housing funding was confirmed.

Commissioner McKinzie left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding funding, Ms. Pryor explained details of the Broward Business Council's \$150,000 in uncommitted homeless funds and work towards coordinating housing, expounding on details. Further comment and discussion ensued on hiring a coordinator to address multiple elements of the initiative. Mayor Trantalis asked about a per person budget amount for funding from both the private and public sectors. The approximate cost for permanent housing is \$18,000 for the first year. One year is the amount of time needed to determine other avenues of sustainability. Administrative costs are approximately \$30,000 - \$35,000 annually. Further comment and discussion ensued on continuing efforts to obtain additional funding and expectations moving forward.

Ms. McGuire explained aspects of short-term rapid rehousing versus permanent housing, expounding on details. Further comment and discussion ensued on future federal grant funding for the Community Court and housing funding from the private sector.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. McGuire confirmed funding available from the *Continuum of Care*, expounding on details. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding how other County municipalities are addressing homelessness, Ms. McGuire explained that the City of Pompano Beach has a dedicated revenue

source, commenting on their additional efforts to address homelessness. She discussed the City of Hollywood's efforts and the utilization of the *Point In Time Count* data. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding all County municipalities' coordinating efforts to address homelessness.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, Ms. McGuire said she is not aware of any other Broward cities duplicating the Broward Partnership for the Homeless's 100-unit project. The dedicated revenue in Pompano Beach is a portion of the utility tax. In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, Ms. McGuire explained services that assist the homeless with obtaining additional funds. The services include assistance with completing a disability packet, assistance with disability appeals and connecting with day respite centers. Further comment and discussion ensued. Ms. McGuire confirmed the email address for neighbors to report those in need of homeless services: Homelessinitiativepartnership@broward.org. Further comment and discussion ensued on procedures and volunteer services.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, Ms. Cannon discussed homelessness budget expenditures for 2019, confirming they would provide a document monetizing the cost. Comment and discussion ensued on costs for next year.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed the Community Court being one gateway for homeless services, commenting on the broader population of homeless individuals who are not in the court system. He noted the need to also support those not in the Community Court system.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Scott Palm. Mr. Palm commented on his experience as a homeless individual, requesting assistance and commenting on the addiction aspect of homelessness. Mayor Trantalis introduced Mr. Palm to Ms. Cannon, confirming she would assist with his needs.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. King commented on his perspective on the topic of homelessness and the Community Court.

BUS-2 [19-0018](#)

Discussion Regarding 2019 Federal Legislative Priorities and Funding Requests for the City of Fort Lauderdale

Mayor Trantalis recognized the federal lobbyist for the City, Maurice Kurland, Alcalde & Fay, Ltd. Inc. Mr. Kurland confirmed meetings held with City Manager Chris Lagerbloom and Staff regarding the federal

legislative priorities. He gave the Commission an update on those legislative priorities and funding requests, expounding on related details. Mr. Kurland recommended that when Commission members visit Washington, D.C., they visit with the staff of local Congressional representatives and targeted key Federal Agencies to address legislative priorities and funding opportunities.

A copy of the draft of the legislative priorities is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Kurland confirmed \$190,000,000 has been approved for the Federal Court House, expounding on details. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the availability of federal grant funding for a Public Safety Facility, Mr. Kurland said there is currently no federal funding specifically for construction, commenting on possible funding for emergency responses to a declared state of emergency. Discussions ensued on moving the Emergency Response Center currently located at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport to Police Station Headquarters. Mr. Kurland confirmed he would research this federal funding opportunity.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding federal funding for water management and water quality needs, Mr. Kurland commented on possible opportunities to obtain funding for water projects. Further comment and explanation ensued.

BUS-3 [19-0154](#)

City of Fort Lauderdale General Employees Retirement System ("GERS") Cost-of-Living-Adjustment ("COLA") Analyses

Mayor Trantalis recognized Kirk Buffington, Director of Finance. Mr. Buffington updated the Commission on efforts to address the Commission's request to research a Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) for the General Employees Retirement System (GERS). He commented on three options and the high-expense. This resulted in City Manager Chris Lagerbloom's recommendation of a fourth option, a one-time thirteenth check payment. Commissioner Glassman suggested a tiered manner for a one-time thirteenth check option. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Nick Schiess, GERS Pension Administrator. Mr. Schiess gave a historic review of prior consideration and criteria for an award of a COLA, expounding on details. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Schiess explained details of funding the COLA increase options. City Auditor John Herbst confirmed that a Commission unanimous vote is required to amortize funding for a COLA. A super majority Commission vote is required to fund a COLA in the current

budget year for a future COLA. Past unfunded COLA increases cannot be made. City Auditor Herbst expounded on actuarial details regarding the determination of an unfunded liability plan, expounding on details regarding pension obligation bonds. City Manager Lagerbloom discussed the COLA analyses. Further discussion and explanation ensued on costs and available options.

The analyses for funding a COLA increase are attached to these minutes.

Mayor Trantalis reviewed the options. In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding how recent stock market fluctuations impact pension fund decisions, Mr. Schiess confirmed that meeting plan performance criteria is based on September 17, 2018 results. Further comment and discussion ensued on efforts to reduce the impact of down-market years and details related to assumed rates of return. City Manager Lagerbloom reviewed the available options based on the financial impact. He explained the impact on the General Fund. City Auditor Herbst commented on providing Staff direction for future budgets. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Auditor Herbst said that other retirees have not received COLAs.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on the financial impact of the options. City Auditor Herbst discussed the options and other related details. Discussion ensued on GERS contributions towards retirement COLAs. Mr. Schiess said the GERS COLA is an ad hoc and there is no pre-funding. In response to Commissioner Glassman's earlier comment, Mr. Schiess confirmed that a thirteenth check could be tiered, expounding on details. Discussion ensued on the COLA benefit being included in the GERS and amortized over five (5) years.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed the costs and amortization details should one of the three options be selected. City Auditor Herbst discussed pension obligation bonds. Further discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about the amount paid towards the General Obligation Bond, it was confirmed that the current liability is approximately \$243,000,000. Commissioner Moraitis commented on COLAs for retiree pensions, noting that the Police and Fire Pensions are now making contributions for future COLAs. Further comment ensued on the costs of the three options, budget concerns and the one-time thirteenth check option.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Hattie Brinson, 23328 SW 58th Avenue. Ms.

Brinson said the last COLA received by retirees was in 2001. She commented on the equitability of a one-time thirteenth check for retirees receiving minimum monthly pension payments and related details. In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen, Ms. Brinson commented on the tiered one-time thirteenth check payment based upon years of retirement.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Eve Bazer, 3020 NE 32nd Avenue. Ms. Bazer commented on distributing the one-time thirteenth check option in a tiered manner, thanking the Commission for their consideration.

Mayor Trantalis commented that employee contract negotiations could have included negotiations for a COLA benefit. City Auditor Herbst confirmed, stating that the GERS plan is closed and commented on related details.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding reestablishment of a pension plan, City Auditor Herbst commented on having a pension plan to attract experienced employees and encourage retention. City Auditor Herbst confirmed Commissioner Glassman's suggestion to contemplate the State of Florida's Retirement System (FRS). Further comment and discussion ensued on the FRS.

Mayor Trantalis requested input from each Commissioner. Commissioner Glassman suggested consideration of a one-time thirteenth check. Vice Mayor Sorensen concurred with Commissioner Glassman, commenting on the financial impact to the General Fund. Further comment and discussion ensued on funding. In response to Commissioner Glassman's inquiry regarding property tax revenue, City Manager Lagerbloom commented on the expected revenue increase. Mayor Trantalis noted additional revenue being assigned to other budget items.

Commissioner Moraitis left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

BUS-4 [19-0121](#)

Traffic Signal System Assessment

Mayor Trantalis recognized Christine Fanchi, Engineering Design Manager, Transportation and Mobility Department (TAM). Ms. Fanchi gave an overview of the Traffic Signal System Assessment noting it included feedback from neighbor surveys. She commented on efforts to improve traffic flow working in conjunction with the Florida Department of Transportation, Broward County (County), the Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) located on West Commercial Boulevard, and the City of Boca Raton who manages its traffic signalization. The presentation reviewed traffic signalization alternatives, including the City

taking over traffic signalization infrastructure.

A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Kevin Lee, Associate Engineer - Kittelson & Associates, Inc. Mr. Lee expounded on available transportation signalization scenarios illustrated in the presentation. Mayor Trantalis commented on the County's Surtax to fund improvements and the appropriate timing for the City's management of traffic signalization. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commission Glassman's question, City Manager Chris Lagerbloom confirmed that information in the presentation is being shared with the County. Mr. Lee recommended that Staff participate in conversations with the County regarding traffic improvement projects.

In response to Mayor Trantalis, Ms. Fanchi said the City is currently not involved with signalization discussions with the County, commenting on recommended participation. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, City Manager Lagerbloom commented on progress towards coordination with the County and having a Staff member involved with County traffic signalization plans. Additional comment ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Peter Partington, 1521 NE 51st Street. Mr. Partington commented on the importance of collaboration and having a Staff person involved with the County's traffic signalization. Due to workloads and priorities at the County, he recommended having a Staff Signal Timing Engineer based at the County.

BUS-5 [19-0212](#)

Discussion - Budget Hearing Dates

Commissioner Glassman confirmed the September 3, 2019 and September 12, 2019 dates work for the Budget Hearing dates. Laura Reece, Budget Director, gave a historic review of previous Budget Hearing dates, explaining related details. Comment and discussion ensued. The September 3, 2019 and September 12, 2019 Budget Hearing dates were reconfirmed, commencing at 5:01 p.m.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

REOPEN MEETING

Mayor Trantalis reopened the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

Vice Mayor Sorensen confirmed receipt of an email from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) stating they are pursuing a study for a Pedestrian Bridge over the New River (District IV Project). Comment and discussion ensued on this topic. Greg Stuart, Executive Director of the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) commented on the procedural nature of the FDOT email communication. City Manager Chris Lagerbloom concurred with Vice Mayor Sorensen's position in opposition to the District IV Project. Mr. Stuart commented on MPO's input. City Manager Lagerbloom discussed the next steps in the process. The Commission will confirm its official position via Resolution at the March 5, 2019 Commission Regular Meeting and will be communicated to FDOT prior to their March 14, 2019 Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m.