

City of Fort Lauderdale



Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 11, 2020

1:30 PM

City Hall is Closed to the Public Workshop

can be accessed:

<https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

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CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II

HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III

BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV

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 1:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Heather Moraitis (participated telephonically), Vice Mayor Steven Glassman (participated telephonically), Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (participated telephonically), Commissioner Ben Sorensen (participated telephonically), and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau, City Auditor John Herbst (participated telephonically)

OLD/NEW BUSINESS[20-0388](#)

COVID-19 Update

Mayor Trantalis provided brief introductory remarks regarding Workshop purpose and goals. Staff would provide an update on various emergency orders and the medical status of the City and Broward County. He thanked Commission Members for community communication efforts, noting positive feedback from residents.

Mayor Trantalis commended Staff for their initiative and efforts to address homeless needs. He commented on soliciting donations from the private sector and related details.

Mayor Trantalis discussed upcoming participation in a conference call scheduled later today with Broward County Mayor Holness, Broward County Administrator Bertha Henry and Broward County municipal mayors. Discussions will focus on reopening. Mayor Trantalis expounded on his perspective, confirming previous conversations with adjacent beach municipalities about simultaneous reopening.

City Manager Lagerbloom said Paula Thaqi, M.D., M.P.H., Broward County Director of the Florida Department of Health, is anticipated to participate in this meeting to provide a County-wide COVID-19 briefing.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding reopening based on County *Emergency Orders* and State *Executive Orders (Orders)* in

place, City Attorney Alain Boileau expounded on existing *Orders* and associated details. City Attorney Boileau confirmed Broward County and Palm Beach County Administrators could modify or remove *Orders* regarding beach closures as warranted. Further comment ensued.

City Attorney Boileau said the Governor permitted Palm Beach County to begin *Phase One* reopening. Miami-Dade County and Broward County remain under *Executive Order 20-112*. Further comment ensued on the timeline of announcements and issuing *Orders*. The latest *Executive Order* was issued on May 9, 2020.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Attorney Boileau confirmed May 18, 2020 as the anticipated target date for reopening Miami-Dade County and Broward County. Further comment ensued on communication and direction from Broward County Administrator Bertha Henry and the Broward County Commission.

Mayor Trantalis discussed an email from Broward County Commissioner Lamar Fisher, stating the County Commission would hold a Workshop tomorrow to discuss reopening. Mayor Trantalis commented on his overall perspective and the need to target May 18, 2020 as a reopening date.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his perspective regarding the *Orders* expiration and future actions of Broward County Administrator Henry, noting the lack of planning and communications.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, City Attorney Boileau explained the Palm Beach County Commission wrote Governor DeSantis to request removal of Palm Beach County from the previous *Executive Order* governing Broward County, Miami-Dade County and Palm Beach County. Palm Beach County can now begin a *Phase-One Reopening*. Further comment and discussion ensued on health data benchmarks.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, City Attorney Boileau confirmed there has been no lapse in the *Governor's Executive Orders*. Further comment ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on City of Hollywood Mayor Josh Levy's plan for opening beaches, expounding on details. Commissioner McKinzie discussed the need to adhere to factors related to the protection and safety of all residents, i.e., large gatherings. He commented on related concerns.

City Manager Lagerbloom summarized the most recent communication received from Broward County Administrator Bertha Henry. Twenty-two (22) of the thirty-one (31) Broward County municipal mayors participated in a Broward County reopening survey. Comment and discussion ensued. He recommended putting together a Working Group comprised of Staff targeting different industries and methods for a reopening process. City Manager Lagerbloom suggested a phased approach to reopening, recommending beaches open later, based on direction from Broward County.

Commissioner Sorensen concurred with the recommendation to open retail, restaurants and beaches in tandem with Miami-Dade County.

Mayor Trantalis shared his discussion with the Mayor of Miami Beach concerning reopening beaches, expounding on details that include the decision to open beaches after *Memorial Day Weekend*. He discussed opening beaches for recreational activities, i.e., walking and exercise, emphasizing adhering to social distancing guidelines.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed discussions with faith-based community *Working Group* members regarding reopening. Further comment ensued on reopening all establishments in a phased approach.

Phil Thornburg, Director of Park and Recreation, commented on reopening conversations with regional area Parks and Recreation Directors. He discussed recommendations from Martin County based on its experience during recent beach reopening, explaining related details and concerns. Details include social distancing challenges and efforts to keep individuals moving.

Vice Mayor Glassman discussed his recommendations for reopening beaches, restaurants and retail businesses in his paper entitled *Relaunch Lauderdale*. He commented on details and urged Commission review.

Vice Mayor Glassman urged Mayor Trantalis to communicate the Commission's position regarding reopening, commenting on his perspective and future options. Mayor Trantalis explained his efforts that include meeting required criteria and the need for reopening protocol.

Vice Mayor Glassman discussed his perspective regarding meeting required criteria, questioning recourse with Broward County.

City Attorney Boileau confirmed the City remains under the *Emergency*

Order of Broward County Administrator Henry and commented on relaxing regulations relegated to the County. He confirmed reopening is under the authority of the Governor, citing examples and explaining details.

Vice Mayor Glassman reiterated his perspective regarding allowing condominiums, co-ops and private rental buildings to manage building amenities.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed opening the City and beaches only for residents, noting the lower COVID-19 data for Broward County compared to Palm Beach County. She explained her overall perspective and details regarding reopening, citing examples and stating the City was the first municipality to close. Commissioner Moraitis emphasized the need to reopen businesses, acknowledging criteria met and noting Federal stimulus measures would soon run out. She concurred with Vice Mayor Glassman's comments regarding condominiums, co-ops and private rental buildings.

Mayor Trantalis agreed with Commissioner Moraitis' comments, confirming direction and recommendations in *A Plan to Reopen Fort Lauderdale Phase One (Working Group Plan)*.

Vice Mayor Glassman inquired about meeting minutes from County Administrator Bertha Henry's meetings with Broward County mayors. Mayor Trantalis discussed the format of those meetings, commenting on related details.

Mayor Trantalis said he would provide an *Executive Summary* of today's meeting with County Administrator Bertha Henry and Broward County municipal mayors. Further comment ensued. City Attorney Boileau explained the authority under Florida Statute regarding Broward County, the State and the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his perspective and the importance of generating meeting minutes and communications to ensure all parties are informed.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on resident input to allow residential construction projects, explaining related concerns and noting the upcoming hurricane season.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed hotel reopening plans noted in the *Working Group Plan*.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the need for Broward County to have reopening plans and protocols in place, acknowledging Broward County's jurisdiction over the City. He recommended looking for direction from Broward County over the next twenty-four hours.

City Attorney Boileau explained details regarding hotel activities permitted under the *Governor's Executive Order*, confirming the County does not allow the opening of hotel pools and other amenities. Further comment ensued on *Executive Orders* and the need to clarify details to hotel operators. City Attorney Boileau confirmed he would provide Mayor Trantalis with an email clarifying details and would include related *Executive Orders*.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed his perspective, noting the need for clear public communications, a well-defined message and equal treatment during the phased reopening.

Commissioner Sorensen requested confirming Commission consensus regarding May 18, 2020 target date for *Phase-One Reopening* in coordination with mayors of Broward County and Miami-Dade County. Mayor Trantalis agreed.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on input from the Mayor of Miami-Dade County regarding beaches. Commissioner Sorensen said beaches were not included in a Miami-Dade *Phase One Reopening*. He discussed his viewpoint regarding following Miami-Dade County protocols for a *Phase-One Reopening* due to Miami-Dade County health data and density issues.

Vice Mayor Glassman discussed support of reopening when the *Governor's Executive Order* expires on Friday, May 15, 2020 and a slow approach to reopening beaches on Monday, May 18, 2020. He referenced his paper entitled *Relaunch Lauderdale* and the *Working Group Plan*. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis suggested using protocols in the *Working Group Plan* for *Phase-One Reopening*, commenting on the manner in which Broward County differs from Miami-Dade County and reopening on May 18, 2020.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed his perspective to begin reopening restaurants and retail, confirming opposition to reopening beaches on May 18, 2020 and explaining related details.

In response to Commission Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed weekend closure of the northbound vehicle lane of State Road A1A from Las Olas Boulevard to Sunrise Boulevard going forward, allowing resident outdoor activity. Commissioner Sorensen suggested opening the *Las Olas Garage* to allow residents not residing in the State Road A1A area access this outdoor activity. City Manager Lagerbloom and City Attorney Boileau confirmed this is achievable. Comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Lagerbloom requested an opportunity to review this request with Parking Enforcement Staff to ensure no unintended consequences. He confirmed working towards opening the *Las Olas Garage* and would keep the Commission updated.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding opening of parks and dog parks, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the opening of large parks and their passive aspects. Smaller pocket parks would remain closed. The *County Emergency Order* mandates the closing of dog parks.

Commissioner Sorensen requested an update regarding contractor access to existing residential projects addressing safety concerns. City Attorney Boileau explained the *Governor's Executive Order* governing this topic, confirming emergency construction home repairs are permitted and citing examples.

City Manager Lagerbloom provided an overview of a *2020 Fiscal Year Budget Memorandum (Memorandum)* the Commission would receive later today. The *Memorandum* addresses revenue reductions and ways to close the revenue gap, citing examples. The *Memorandum* would be discussed at the May 19, 2020 Commission Regular Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.