# Fort Lauderdale Starbucks closes permanently

### **By Ben Crandell**

It isn't often that you see a Starbucks closed, but perhaps more incongruous is the sight of the coffee shop stripped of its iconic name at the one of the busiest corners in South Florida.

Yes, the Starbucks at the corner of Broward Boulevard and Federal Highway in downtown Fort Lauderdale, is closed permanently.

A Starbucks corporate representative declined to go into detail, beyond saying the closing was a business decision. She made no mention of the new coronavirus.

"We continually evaluate our business to ensure a healthy store portfolio. After careful consideration, we determined it was best to close the store," she said. "As difficult as this is, we must make the right business decisions for the sake

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**City of Fort Lauderdale** 

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CARES ACT

of Starbucks' long-term growth." All employees at the store

were offered jobs at nearby locations and Starbucks has no plans to close any other store in the area, she said. Starbucks has 20 stores

in and around Fort Lauderdale, including a nearby shop on Las Olas Boulevard and a popular drivethrough location on Federal Highway, south of the New River. But the Broward Boulevard location was different.

With windows and doors on two-and-a-half sides, the boxy shop glowed with a particular kind of warmth and community. When it opened 20 years ago, it felt like a statement from a brand associated with sophisticated urban living on a signature downtown corner in the city.

A darkened Starbucks at the center of an area

bustling with new residential construction and millennial energy defies logic.

"It's one of the best corners in Broward County. You can't get corners like this," says Charlie Ladd, president of Barron Real Estate, owners of the property.

But it was the popularity of its location that, ironically, made it difficult for Starbucks to do business.

For more than two years, the streets and alley on all sides of the shop have been covered in dust, rerouted or closed altogether as construction took place on the 327-unit Laureate Las Olas tower, the 100-room Fairfield Inn & Suites next door and a 475-unit residential project still going in south of the Fairfield.

Parking was an issue, says Ladd, who secured space for employees in a lot on the north side of Broward Boulevard to augment the 22

spaces that Starbucks shared with a now-empty building Ladd owned next door, formerly home to Scotty's Dry Cleaning.

Ladd acknowledges that the area was "a nightmare," but believes it was a mistake for Starbucks to walk away just as these new units are being filled. Construction also recently began on the Related Group's RD Las Olas residential tower just across Federal Highway.

Starbucks first closed the shop as the coronavirus hit in March and made the move permanent when the exterior signs were removed about two weeks ago. The company had a lease running until September, as well as an option to extend the deal another five years, Ladd says.

He is unsure what he'll do with the corner - there is a "For lease" sign in front of the old Scotty's building BEN CRANDELL/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEI

The Starbucks at the corner of Broward Boulevard and Federal Highway in downtown Fort Lauderdale is closed

– but he is happy to get the property back.

"When we did the deal originally, Starbucks brought in somebody who was close to [then Starbucks CEO] Howard Schultz. We were showing them the site and they were saying the rent's high," Ladd says.

"The guy told them, 'If you never sell a cup of coffee, you're making money, just from the branding to be on this corner.""

Staff writer Ben Crandell can be reached at bcrandell@sunsentinel.com.



JOHN MCCALL/SUN SENTINEL

would encompass the entire population

of persons and property for which elec-

tricity is supplied," Warner wrote. "We

do not think it is foreseeable that the

failure to restore electricity poses an

'unreasonable' risk of harm to the entire

population. We have found no case

holding that a utility owes a general

duty to the public or noncustomer for a

continuous supply of power. Indeed,

the few cases which have touched on

the issue have all determined that no

Hurricane Irma knocked out power to the The Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills' air-conditioning system for three days, with authorities attributing as many as 12 resident deaths to conditions in the building.

### COURT Continued from Page 1B

Cooper sued FPL and the nursing home, seeking damages from the utility for bodily injury and emotional distress. The complaint alleged, in part, "that FPL had a general duty to the public to maintain and operate the electric grid so that power is supplied," the appealscourt ruling said.

"But in this case, by accepting Coop-er's allegation of duty, the 'zone of risk'

NOTICE OF DESIGNATING **GREEN REUSE AREA** 

such duty exists."

The City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, proposes to adopt the following resolution:

### GYMS Continued from Page 1B

"We felt it would be unfair to fine them," Geller said, citing the confusion stemming from the two competing orders

County officials plan to send letters to gyms that opened advising them they are in violation of the county order and could be fined if they don't close.

"We expect gyms to open sometime next week as long as they follow safety protocols," Geller said. "We brought in a doctor [at Tuesday's county meeting] who said gyms should require a 10-foot separation between machines or put up plastic separation or have people wear masks. All we are trying

### SCAMMERS Continued from Page 1B

Consumers can also visit the Check-A-Charity website to learn if a charity is properly registered and if your money is going to bene-

to do is follow safety protocols." Jonathan Larkin, owner of Upload Fitness, said he in-

tends to stay open on Thursday. "We're advocates of fit-

ness," he said. "People build up their immunity system by working out. And we're adhering to the mayor's comments that gyms can stay open. If we hear differently, we may have to seek legal

counsel." Trantalis said he plans to send out a newsletter telling gyms they need to close to avoid being fined.

Susannah Bryan can be reached at sbryan@ sunsentinel.com or 954-356-4554 or on Twitter @Susannah\_Bryan

fit victims of the coronavirus. Also report concerns to the Federal Trade Commission at FTC.gov/complaint.

wkroustan@sunsentinel.com or 954-356-4303 or Twitter @WayneRoustan

Selected Tuesday Pick 2 (midday): 6-8

FLORIDA'S LOTTERY

Pick 3 (midday): 0-4-1 Pick 4 (midday): 9-2-5-7 Pick 5 (midday): 8-9-0-4-4 **Selected Monday** Pick 2 (evening): 1-6 Pick 3 (evening): -3-2-7 Pick 4 (evening): 8-7-8-6 Pick 5 (evening): 4-3-1-7-3 For more results, call 1-850-921-7529

Selected Monday Fantasy 5: 4-12-13-15-23 Payo

;	2	\$94,026.10
	317	\$95.50
	8,973	\$9.00

Cash 4 Life: 7-12-24-38-60-1 Nos 5+CB 4+CB \$500.00 \$100.00 \$25.00 \$10.00 201 1,132 2+CB

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## **CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE** ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AND CONSOLIDATED PLAN **PROPOSED CARES ACT Amendment** (Seven - Day Public Comment Period)

Insertion Nu Ad Number Size:

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05/21/2020 **Publication Date:** 

page indicated. You his E-Sheet confirms that the ad appeared in Sun-Sentinel on the date and

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND DESIGNATING THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 900 NORTHWEST 7TH AVENUE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33311, FOLIO NUMBER 494234059750. AS A GREEN REUSE AREA PURSUANT TO SECTION 376.80(2)(C), FLORIDA STATUTES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REHABILITATION, JOB CREATION AND PROMOTING ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT; AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE TO NOTIFY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF SAID DESIGNATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

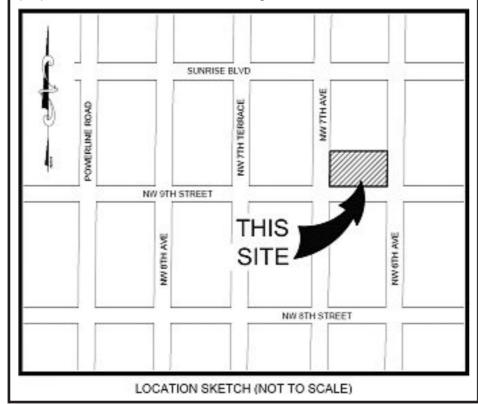
Public hearings will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as possible, and on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as possible, at the City Commission Chambers, 100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and through communication media technology accessible through the City's website (www.fortlauderdale.gov).

The location of the proposed Green Reuse Area is as presented on the map published with this notice.

All interested parties may appear electronically at said meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed Resolution. The proposed Resolution may be inspected by the public online at https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at the public hearing, that person will need a record of the proceedings and that for such purpose affected persons may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made and that such record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for the introduction or admission into evidence of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law.

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance in inspecting the resolution or to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk of the City of Fort Lauderdale at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at (954) 825-5002 or <u>Jmodarelli@fortlauderdale.gov</u>.



The City of Fort Lauderdale is considering amending grant years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Annual Action Plans and Consolidated Plan 2015-2020 for its Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) program, Community Development Block Grant CDBG and HOME Investment Partnerships program. The plans are being amended to incorporate the anticipated resources allocated to the City of Fort Lauderdale under the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116-136).

In accordance with the Substantial Change Policy of the City's HUD approved Consolidated Plan, any changes in activity as a result of the addition or cancellation of a program or a change in the purpose, scope, location or beneficiary of an activity, funding allocation, requires a program amendment to the Annual Action Plan of the Consolidated Plan. The City of Fort Lauderdale's program amendment and substantial change policy requires Commission approval and public input at a public hearing after proper notice has been published for a seven-day public comment period as provided by waivers under the CARES Act.

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) To expand services by providing fiscal support to prevent, prepare for, Purpose: and respond to impacts of Coronavirus-19 in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

The proposed amendments as proposed by the Fort Lauderdale City Commission are as follows:

### HOPWA CARES Funding: 2019-2020 \$1,035,298.00

\$1,035,296.00 will be used for eligible COVID-19 activities to include a short-term rent or mortgage, utilities, food, hotel vouchers and transportation assistance, as defined by the CARES Act waivers for HOPWA

### HOPWA 2018-2019 Entitlement \$1,000,000.00

Additionally, the City proposes to use uncommitted HOPWA funds from FY2018-2019 in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 to increase service levels for current approved HOPWA Services. Broward County HOPWA providers who are under an active contract period, and incurred expenditures beyond their normal 2019-2020 budgets will be awarded additional funds to ensure that providers remain whole.

The funds will be used for reimbursement of costs incurred beyond normal 2019-2020 budgeted program capacity. Examples of cost include increases in the agency's Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) agency portion, increase in hotel assistance expenses in excess of the CARES Act Allocation, increases in Project Based and Facility Based rental assistance and increase support services.

### CDBG FY 2019-2020 Entitlement

The City will amend the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan for CDBG to reallocate \$63,240.80 from residential rehabilitation and \$15,000.00 from CDBG project delivery for a total of \$78,240.80

This \$78.240.80 will be used to fund the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, Inc to provide technical assistance and training workshops for small businesses impacted by COVID-19 that are located in the City limits of Fort Lauderdale. Alternatively, funds be awarded to the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) as emergency assistance to eligible small businesses in accordance with the CARES Act.

### CDBG - CARES Act Funding: 2019-2020 \$934,515.00

Program Administration \$26,903.00 Public Services \$507,612.00 Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Small Business Loans \$400,000.00

The Housing and Urban Development office has not provided additional funding under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. However, due to the demand created by COVID-19 Pandemic the City of Fort Lauderdale proposes to amend the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan for HOME Investment Partnerships program as described below.

The City of Fort Lauderdale proposes to reallocate Fiscal Year 2019-2020 HOME entitlement funds up to \$292,607.50 and use HOME program Income in the amount of \$130,000.00, at total of \$422,607.50, to create a Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program and to provide assistance to eligible families that reside in the City of Fort Lauderdale HOME assisted rental units that are still in the HOME affordability period.

In accordance with federal regulations, the City is hereby establishing a Seven-day public comment period to receive input on the proposed amendments. Comments on the proposed changes may be submitted to the City of Fort Lauderdale, Housing & Community Development Division, 914 Sistrunk Blvd. Suite #103, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311. Public comments on these items will be accepted during the 7-day public comment period from April 30, 2020 to May 8, 2020. All comments must be received by May 8, 2020. The City will evaluate all comments received during the comment period, and the final amendment will be submitted to the Commission at a public hearing. Please forward all comments to KBlack@FortLauderdale.Gov.

Informacion disponible en espanol telefono 954-828-4530. Pou plis kesyon ki nan kreyòl, tanpri rele 954-828-4527. If you desire oral interpretation of at any public meeting or hearing, please advise the City of Fort Lauderdale that you have Limited English Proficiency (LEP) within 10 days prior to the meeting and we will ensure the appropriate person is available to assist you and interpret for you at the meeting or hearing.

The programs offered through Housing and Community Development Division do not discriminate based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, familial status, or disability.