

City of Fort Lauderdale



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

5:30 PM

City Hall is closed to the Public.

OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE

Access Meeting via:

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

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Cable Television - Comcast Channel 78 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD

***FORT LAUDERDALE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS***

DEAN J. TRANTALIS - Chair

STEVEN GLASSMAN - Vice Chair

HEATHER MORAITIS - Commissioner - District I

ROBERT L. McKINZIE - Commissioner - District III

BEN SORENSEN - Commissioner - District IV

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, Executive Director

JOHN HERBST, City Auditor

JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, Secretary

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, General Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Trantalis called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Commissioner Heather Moraitis (participated telephonically), Vice Chair Steven Glassman (participated telephonically), Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (participated telephonically), Commissioner Ben Sorensen (participated telephonically), and Chair Dean J. Trantalis

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: Executive Director Chris Lagerbloom, Secretary Jeffrey A. Modarelli, General Counsel Alain E. Boileau, and City Auditor John Herbst (participated telephonically)

MOTIONS

M-1 [20-0469](#)

Motion to Approve Minutes for June 2, 2020 Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board Meeting - (Commission Districts 2 and 3)

Commissioner McKinzie made a motion to approve this item and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen.

APPROVED

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis, Vice Chair Glassman and Chair Trantalis

RESOLUTIONS

R-1 [20-0401](#)

Resolutions Creating the Fort Lauderdale Emergency Business Investment Program - (Commission Districts 2 and 3)

In response to Vice Chair Glassman's question, Executive Director Lagerbloom confirmed \$340,000 is available in the Central City CRA for Emergency Business Investment Program (Program). Vice Chair Glassman noted the initial low \$10,000 limit prior to additional CARES funding. Executive Director Lagerbloom said there is no impediment to prevent an increase to the current \$10,000 Program funding limit, expounding on details and requesting input from Clarence Woods, Area Manager Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Agency.

Mr. Woods explained the \$10,000 limit was an arbitrary amount prior to

the addition of CARES funding. Further comment ensued.

In response to Vice Chair Glassman's question, Mr. Woods confirmed \$340,000 in Program funding would be available to Central City CRA businesses. Vice Chair Glassman commented on the potential for thirty-four (34) Central City CRA businesses to apply for \$10,000 Program funding within the Central City CRA.

Don Morris, Economic and Beach Redevelopment Area Manager, Beach Area Community Redevelopment Agency, clarified aspects of funding in the Central City CRA. The \$10,000 amount was put in place to ensure application and administrative consistency. He confirmed the ability to increase the current \$10,000 amount.

In response to Vice Chair Glassman's question, Mr. Woods confirmed \$500,000 in Program funding is available for the NWPFH CRA. Vice Chair Glassman noted his previous understanding regarding CRA funding. Mr. Woods explained this funding resulted from a CRA project that did not move forward and a portion was reallocated to this Program.

In response to Vice Chair Glassman's question regarding the need to address previous Board actions, Mr. Morris explained this was not necessary. There was an amendment to the NWPFH and Central City CRA Incentive Funding Programs allowing funds to be used for both CRA Emergency Business Investment Programs. Vice Chair Glassman expounded on his previous understanding.

In response to Vice Chair Glassman's question, Mr. Morris confirmed this funding would be in the form of a forgivable loan.

James Carras, Carras Community Investment, explained Program details. As long as a business meets the established investment criteria, the loan would be forgivable, expounding on details of the business model. He anticipates all Program criteria being met.

In response to Vice Chair Glassman's question regarding loan repayment should a recipient go out of business within twenty-four (24) months, Mr. Carras explained various scenarios for a business closing, citing examples. He acknowledged the need for criteria flexibility. Mr. Carras explained the Program's ability to address funding recovery from businesses that close within twenty-four (24) months for reasons other than the business failing.

In response to Vice Chair Glassman's question regarding the inability for non-profits to apply for Program funding, Mr. Carras explained how the Program was designed. Program *Best Practices* were determined from a national search of local business emergency loan programs, emergency business grant programs and emergency business equity investment programs. Most cities are targeting micro businesses who have not had success with the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). This Program targets businesses employing one (1) to ten (10) employees, i.e., sole proprietorships and *Mom and Pop* type businesses who would find \$10,000 in funding critical. Mr. Carras commented on aspects of municipal and county assistance to non-profits and noted there is not enough funding to cover both non-profit and micro business sectors.

In response to Vice Chair Glassman's question regarding small businesses applying for this Program that received PPP funding, Mr. Woods said it would be a policy decision by the Board. Vice Chair Glassman recommended keeping this option in mind should all Program funding not be utilized. He suggested the \$10,000 be increased to \$15,000.

Vice Chair Glassman inquired about flexibility regarding the use of Program funds for specific items, i.e., sanitizing products and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Mr. Woods noted the Program follows *Best Practices* to keep jobs and businesses operational. A business could use its other funds for those types of items. Vice Chair Glassman suggested increased flexibility for use of Program funds.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on the inability new businesses opened prior to COVID-19 in the Central City CRA to participate in the Program due to the requirement that a business must have been in operation for six (6) months. He recommended reexamining this requirement. Mr. Morris confirmed discussions on this topic and said this could be addressed. He discussed limitations regarding Program funding for non-profits. Mr. Morris concurred with the need for additional Program flexibility within the Central City CRA and for the Program to be applied consistently. Further comment ensued.

In response to Vice Chair Glassman's question regarding eligibility for businesses that are not structured to use W-2 tax forms, i.e., 1099 tax forms, Mr. Carras acknowledged this point. Flexibility would be built into

Program criteria and taken into consideration when reviewing applications. Mr. Carras expounded on details related to the operation of micro businesses.

In response to Vice Chair Glassman's question regarding notifying businesses following Program approval, Mr. Morris explained notice of this Program's CRA Agenda item had been sent. After CRA Board approval, the application process would be finalized and CRA Staff would communicate Program availability. Mr. Woods confirmed a July 15, 2020 target date, allowing time for notification.

Vice Chair Glassman confirmed support of the Program, encouraging as much flexibility as possible and urging all applicable businesses apply. Vice Chair Glassman thanked CRA Staff and Mr. Carras for their work on this vital opportunity.

Executive Director Lagerbloom said he would have questions regarding this item during the Commission Regular Meeting.

Vice Chair Glassman introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED for Central City CRA Area

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis, Vice Chair Glassman and Chair Trantalis

Vice Chair Glassman introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED for NWPFH Redevelopment Area

Aye: 5 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis, Vice Chair Glassman and Chair Trantalis

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Dean J. Trantalis
Chair

ATTEST:

Jeffrey A. Modarelli
CRA Secretary