

City of Fort Lauderdale



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

1:30 PM

Access Meeting via:

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

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City Commission Conference Meeting

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 1:36 p.m.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Trantalis announced details regarding the virtual format of this meeting, including how members of the public can view and participate.

[20-0750](#)

Communications to the City Commission - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

***FIRE-RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE BLUE RIBBON
COMMITTEE (Committee)
August 27, 2020***

Communication to City Commission

The Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee provides the following Communication to the City Commission: The Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee sent a letter to the Commission back in February 2020, in reference to fire impact fees on new construction in the down town area of Fort Lauderdale. The previous letter was received and reviewed by the committee. It was agreed that the letter should be revised and sent to the Commission for review. Motion to advance the above communication to Commission made by Mark Booth, seconded by Frank Snedaker. Motion passed unanimously.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained he is working with Susan Grant, Director of Finance, regarding *Fire Impact Fees (Fees)* for new construction in the downtown area. Discussions include a determination of whether the current Fees are adequate or if a review study is needed.

Vice Mayor Glassman noted the *Committee* is taking a proactive approach on this topic, commenting on related details.

City Manager Lagerbloom acknowledged the impact of future development along U.S. Route 1/Federal Highway on Fees and would be addressed with a *Fire Impact Fee Study (Study)*. He explained Ms. Grant would take the lead on this *Study*.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Attorney Alain Boileau explained the procedure for this recommendation and details regarding *Fees*. Mayor Trantalis recommended addressing this soon due to ongoing new development.

Ms. Grant confirmed Staff would move forward with a *Study*, commenting on the process and details for presentation to the Commission.

Planning and Zoning Board (P&Z Board)
September 16, 2020

Communication to City Commission

Motion made by Vice Chair Fertig, seconded by Mr. Cohen, to request a presentation from Public Works, to better understand the City's infrastructure capacity analysis process and how it relates to the quality of the City's waterways. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Mayor Glassman noted a similar communication to the Commission from the *P&Z Board* in 2019. He discussed his perspective in support of allowing the *P&Z Board's* requested presentation, expounding on details.

Mayor Trantalis said the *P&Z Board's* previous request was focused on a review of the *Downtown Master Plan*, commenting on prior input from City Attorney Boileau. Further comment ensued regarding interpretation of the communication relating to term *capacity* and *waterway quality*.

D'Wayne Spence, Assistant City Attorney III, explained the context of the *P&Z Board* communication to utilize presentation information to reconcile anecdotal information regarding infrastructure system capacity versus information received at *P&Z Board Quasi-Judicial Hearings* that do not provide a basis for denials. Further comment and discussion ensued. Assistant City Attorney Spence explained the *P&Z Board*

request relates to providing *Capacity Letter* clarity.

City Attorney Boileau commented on a presentation in a general *P&Z Board* setting, recommending the requested presentation be part of a *quasi-judicial* proceeding. Mayor Trantalis explained his perspective and support of including the proper context upon which a *Capacity Letter* is based.

Commissioner Sorensen recommended Staff be available at *P&Z Board* Meetings to answer questions regarding *Capacity Letter* determinations, including formulas and other details. Mayor Trantalis concurred.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Mayor Trantalis acknowledged Commissioner Moraitis' recent Op-Ed in the *Sun-Sentinel Newspaper*. Commissioner Moraitis recognized the efforts of Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director, and Staff for efforts to implement four (4) *Supervised E-Learning Sites at Carter Park, Croissant Park, Osswald Park and Warfield Park* noted in her Op-Ed. She thanked Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer, for related funding raising efforts with the *United Way*.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on her desire to recognize and memorialize the initial *Fort Lauderdale High School* and *Stranahan High School* football season at their new home field (*High School Sport Field*) at the *Lockhart Site (Site)* on Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., requesting Commission input. Mayor Trantalis confirmed.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed naming *High School Sports Field*, explaining her understanding that *Miami Beckham United, LLC (Inter Miami)* controls naming rights. Comment and discussion ensued on working towards maintaining the Lockhart name for the High School Field at the *Site*.

City Manager Lagerbloom commented on his recollection of previous discussions. He noted City Attorney Boileau indicated this topic was not addressed in the *Inter Miami Comprehensive Agreement*. City Manager Lagerbloom said he would work with *Inter Miami* to memorialize the Lockhart name at the *High School Sports Field*. Mayor Trantalis concurred on the need for City Manager Lagerbloom to pursue.

Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed her understanding that *Inter Miami* had naming rights to the larger field at the *Site*, noting her understanding of naming rights for the High School Sports Field. Mayor Trantalis confirmed City Manager Lagerbloom would pursue.

Commissioner Moraitis requested Commission input regarding a ban on beach smoking be included within the Resolution addressing a vaping ban. She explained her position that municipalities should have the opportunity to control and regulate smoking on the beach. Commissioner Sorensen concurred. City Manager Lagerbloom recommended adding this item to the Lobbyist Legislative Agenda. Further comment and discussion ensued.

At the request of Commissioner Moraitis, City Attorney Boileau confirmed the Office of the City Attorney is drafting a Resolution to ban smoking on the beach. Vice Mayor Glassman and Commissioner Sorensen concurred on the need for this Resolution.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed a *Broward League of Cities (League of Cities)* initiative opposing Broward County (County) preempting municipalities' approval of transportation projects (*Amendment Two on the November 3, 2020 Ballot*).

City Attorney Boileau discussed related materials sent by the *League of Cities (Materials)* and expounded on details and his legal perspective. He confirmed these *Materials* would be sent to Commission Members.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, City Attorney Boileau clarified Commission Members should only send out these *Materials* using their personal social media and/or email accounts, stating Staff should not assist.

Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed participation with the artist selection for the *Andrews Avenue Bridge* and noted there would be a future presentation to the Commission.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on community input at the *District 2 Pre-Agenda Meeting* regarding a recent death on the beach. He explained related feedback from Police Department personnel and confirmed residents have requested increased police presence at the beach.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the Parks Bond Manager is engaged with Parks and Recreation Staff and related work is ongoing.

Vice Mayor Glassman said Anthony Fajardo, Department of Sustainable Development Director, confirmed work and public outreach regarding the *Central Beach Master Plan* would begin soon.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question about receiving a detailed report addressing financial assistance for businesses in the *Central City Community Redevelopment Agency (Central City CRA)* and the *Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Agency (NWPFH CRA)*, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed. City Manager Lagerbloom expounded on details regarding a collective effort with other Broward County (County) municipalities to address business assistance needs and would keep the Commission updated.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested an update regarding the *Dockless Mobility Permit Program (Program)*. City Manager Lagerbloom said City Attorney Boileau and Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Director, are working to review the *Program* to determine if amendments are appropriate or a new process is needed. Mr. Rogers confirmed, noting there are no further updates. Vice Mayor Glassman requested this conversation occur.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on the need for local historical designation of the *Waverly Place Rivermont Site (Waverly Site)* to include applying to the *National Register of Historic Places*. He expounded on his perspective and related details. There is a good report on the *Waverly Site* in the *Florida Master Site File*. Further comment ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie said he did not have a report but would share a topic later in the meeting.

Commissioner Sorensen acknowledged the importance of *October - Breast Cancer Awareness Month*.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding an update on the *2020 United States Census (Census)*, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed an increase in participation to fifty-seven percent (57%). Further comment ensued on this topic and related efforts. City Manager

Lagerbloom confirmed the *Census* deadline had been extended to October 31, 2020. He explained additional messaging efforts to increase *Census* participation.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on the multiple steps involved in dock extensions. He suggested exploring the possibility of streamlining the process with State and County Agencies. Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective and need to maintain control of waterways and restrict what is allowed in communities. He cited input from the *Marine Advisory Board* to maintain the current process. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sorensen noted dock extensions must adhere to State and County standards. Mayor Trantalis explained the need for additional criteria from the City to maintain waterway integrity, citing examples. Vice Mayor Glassman said he had not received community input on this topic.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed efforts of municipalities to reduce their *carbon footprint* to net zero. He requested an update from Staff on efforts to achieve this goal. City Manager Lagerbloom said he would provide an update to the Commission. Commissioner Sorensen provided examples. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need for a comprehensive plan for integration into the *Development Review Committee (DRC)* process and expounded on his perspective. Further comment ensued. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed a presentation would be made to the Commission, including progress and future opportunities to reduce the City's *carbon footprint* to net zero.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding an update of *Himmarshee Core Drilling Impact Testing*, similar to *Tarpon River*, City Manager Lagerbloom said a contract had been awarded for pollution mitigation.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's request for an update on the *Joint Government Center* discussions, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed an upcoming virtual City of Fort Lauderdale Commission and Broward County Commission Unified Direct Procurement Authority Meeting (*UDPA Meeting*) on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. The *UDPA Meeting* would be held before the Commission Conference Meeting. There is an opportunity to brief the Commission next week before unveiling the design criteria at the October 20th *UDPA Meeting*.

Commissioner Sorensen gave an update on efforts and options for naming a portion of *Davie Boulevard* in remembrance of the July 19, 1935 lynching of Rubin Stacy, commenting on proposals to rename a

portion of *Davie Boulevard, i.e., Rubin Stacy Road*. Mayor Trantalis concurred, noting the importance of this initiative.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his opportunity to meet with Mr. Stacy's grandniece, expounding on her understanding of the incident as detailed by her ninety-six (96) year old mother. He confirmed a collaboration with the *Trail Blazers of Broward County* for a documentary and book on this tragic incident. He explained his perspective regarding Districts 3 and 4 sharing a portion of *Davie Boulevard* and naming a portion for Mr. Stacy. Discussion ensued on the next steps in the process and related costs. Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Director, is researching this topic to update the Commission.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed *Governor DeSantis' Executive Order* addressing a physical requirement for Commission quorum expires on November 1, 2020 and requested an update. City Manager Lagerbloom discussed Staff efforts to resume Commission Meetings on October 1, 2020, confirming the Governor's thirty-day (30) push back. He explained social distancing measures implemented in *Commission Chambers* for *Commission Meetings*. City Manager Lagerbloom discussed adhering to social distancing and other safety measures for *Advisory Boards and Committee Meetings*, citing examples. Currently, City Hall is only open to the public for Utility Billing. Further comment and discussion ensued on safety measures in *Commission Chambers*. Commissioner Sorensen commented on his perspective regarding safety concerns.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed the successful co-chairing of *LauderTrail* with Commissioner Moraitis and progress made with all stakeholders.

Mayor Trantalis commented on continued efforts to minimize the impact of COVID on the community. This includes work with other municipalities to implement uniform *Best Practices* during *Governor DeSantis' Phase Three (3) Reopening*. The current topic under discussion in County municipalities is bars reopening. Mayor Trantalis confirmed his message to the community is to continue to wear face masks in enclosed settings and maintain social distancing. People in City Hall are required to wear masks. Commission Members would be adequately distanced during Commission Meetings. Commission Members would wear a mask during Commission Meetings at their discretion. Comment and discussion ensued on ensuring adequate safety measures.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [20-0772](#)

Andrews Avenue Bridge Lighting - (Commission District 2)

City Manager Lagerbloom introduced Leslie Fordham, Broward County Public Arts Administrator.

Ms. Fordham narrated a presentation provided by the Broward County Cultural Division for the *Andrews Avenue Bascule Bridge Rehabilitation Project (Project)* entitled *Conceptual Artwork Design Proposal Andrews Avenue Bridge*.

A copy of this presentation can be found in the backup to these Meeting Minutes.

In response to Commission Sorensen's question, Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed his participation on the *Artist Selection Committee* for this *Project*.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Fordham estimated the Project would be completed in approximately one (1) year.

BUS-2 [20-0621](#)

Henry E. Kinney Tunnel Top Park Project Presentation -
(Commission District 4)

City Manager Lagerbloom provided a brief overview of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) presentation entitled *SR 5/US-1/Federal Highway from SR 869/I-595 to SR 842/Broward Boulevard Henry E. Kinney Tunnel (Tunnel) Rehabilitation (Project)*. FDOT is the Project Manager in coordination with City Staff.

City Manager Lagerbloom introduced Fausto Gomez, P.E., Project Manager FDOT District 4. Mr. Gomez narrated the Presentation. Mr. Gomez discussed community outreach efforts that included resident participation in a question and answer session.

Mr. Gomez introduced individuals who would also presenting portions of the presentation, Naldo Gonzalez, PE, ENV SP | Vice President, Florida Transportation Director, Gannett Fleming, Inc. and Brian Shore, R.L.A., Landscape Architect Miller Legg.

A copy of this presentation can be found in the backup to these Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Gonzalez explained the overall framework of the Project and objectives.

Brian Shore presented proposed improvements to *Tunnel Top Plaza, Laura Ward, Stranahan, Riverside Hotel and ICON Plazas* and the related *Traffic Control Plan*.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Shore explained details regarding replacement of existing fountains, including the goal of providing an improved pedestrian space and creating an improved *Stranahan House* connection in the future. He expounded on details including the opportunity for public art and lighting. Mr. Stone explained *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program* efforts with *Stranahan House* to address gateway systems and area access.

Mr. Gonzalez explained details regarding the opportunity for the *Tunnel* to be listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*, expounding on related details. He explained details of *Tunnel Traffic Control Plans* coordinated with Emergency Response and Broward County.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Maggie Hunt, 1307 SW 4th Court. Ms. Hunt commented on design aesthetics of the slide presentation. Comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis said Ms. Hunt's concerns would be considered.

Commissioner Moraitis confirmed her support of the *Project* presentation.

Vice Mayor Glassman discussed resident input at the *District 2 Pre-Agenda Meeting* questioning the impact of using artificial turf for areas of the *Tunnel Top Project* and explaining related environmental concerns.

Vice Mayor Glassman inquired about mitigation efforts addressing the impact of *Project* changes above and around the *Tunnel* as it relates to its ability to be listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*. Mr. Gomez confirmed FDOT has an individual addressing environmental aspects of the *Project* who coordinates historical mitigation aspects with the State. There will be a related Historical Mitigation Agreement among the City, FDOT and the State which the City would be required to maintain. Mr. Gomez said he report back to the Commission regarding historical designation details. Vice Mayor Glassman requested Mr. Gomez forward this information to his office, commenting that the *Tunnel Top Project* went before the *Historic Preservation Board* for review and comment. He requested confirmation that the *Tunnel* would still be

eligible for historical designation on the *National Register of Historic Places* with the proposed changes. Mr. Gomez said he would address this request.

Mr. Shore explained aspects of the artificial turf, confirming the next generation of artificial turf is being used and expounding on improvements.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on his positive perspective of the presentation, thanking all stakeholders for their work.

Mayor Trantalis addressed aesthetics concerns, questioning details of pavement design on slides sixteen (16) and seventeen (17). Mr. Shore explained the evolution from pavers to concrete and colors for the *Tunnel Top Project* and related details. Comment and discussion ensued on the latest rendering. The City is responsible for the fountain expense, located in the ICON space. Mayor Trantalis discussed efforts to reduce City expenses. Comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis requested input and agreement from *Stranahan House* prior to moving forward with proposed fountain changes. Mr. Shore explained presentation pavers and concrete changes.

City Manager Lagerbloom requested clarification of the latest rendering as the most current. Mr. Shore confirmed slide thirteen (13). Mayor Trantalis commented on aspects of elevation and pedestrian safety concerns. Mr. Shore explained the road is being raised to the current curb height east and west of Las Olas Boulevard. There would be bollards to address pedestrian safety. He confirmed this area reflects the same safety features utilized along the beach area of A1A and Las Boulevard. The west bound lane of Las Olas Boulevard in the *Tunnel Top* area would be one (1) lane. The overall vision for this area of Las Olas Boulevard heading east is to tie into the Corradino Group, Inc., (Corradino) Conceptual Streetscape Design for Las Olas Boulevard. Comment and discussion ensued.

Ben Rogers, Department of Transportation and Mobility Department Director, clarified details of the Tunnel Top extension that includes a Las Olas Boulevard parking lane on both sides of the *Tunnel*. The Las Olas Boulevard westbound parking lane would be available as a right turn lane heading north onto A1A. Mayor Trantalis commented on concerns. Comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Rogers explained existing parking lanes are also in place along areas of Las Olas Boulevard during the day. He commented on the delineation and bollards between pedestrian and traffic areas.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on concerns discussed earlier by Mayor Trantalis regarding *Stranahan House*. Mayor Trantalis discussed the position of *Stranahan House* in the past. City Attorney Boileau explained aspects of earlier litigation with ICON related to this topic, expounding on details. The intent was to open up the plaza to enhance *Stranahan House* visibility. Further comment ensued. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the position of *Stranahan House* would be determined.

Mayor Trantalis thanked Staff and FDOT personnel for their work on the *Project*.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Lagerbloom discussed the *State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection* request to review an *Amended Consent Order* with the City. He gave a brief review of this topic and related details. This request for an amendment was due to sanitary sewage spills into Himmarshee Canal, the George English body of water and Tarpon River. To avoid possible future litigation, a Walk-On Agenda Item addressing this topic will be brought forward at the Commission Regular Meeting tonight for consideration.

City Attorney Boileau discussed the Commission request to regulate leaf blowers. Currently there are two (2) Ordinances addressing this topic that include prohibition of noise and discharge of materials, i.e., materials and grass clippings into sewers, gutters and storm drains. He commented on topic discussions, including a full prohibition of gasoline powered leaf blowers or modified prohibited hours of operation. City Attorney Boileau expounded on efforts of other Florida municipalities and Palm Beach County regulating leaf blowers. He requested Commission input regarding amending current Ordinances or moving forward with full prohibition.

Commissioner Moraitis suggested initially modifying prohibited hours of leaf blower usage and banning the blowing of landscape debris into storm drains.

Vice Mayor Glassman concurred with Commissioner Moraitis' comments, acknowledging this topic compounds water quality issues.

Mayor Trantalis agreed with Vice Mayor Glassman's comments, expounding on concerns and commenting on other ways to address landscape debris to ensure the ecology of waterways and stormwater

drainage systems are maintained.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed his perspective, noting all areas of the City do not have canals and waterways and those areas may not apply. He questioned the ability to regulate and enforce. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed his recommendation to ban all types of leaf blowers, reiterating that blowing landscape debris into storm drains and waterways impacts efforts to maintain stormwater infrastructure and waterway quality.

Mayor Trantalis said he would continue to address this topic, requesting Commission Members pursue community input.

Commissioner McKinzie suggested landscapers utilize other methods to collect landscaping debris. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner McKinzie cited examples of various types of debris and waste disposal into the storm drainage system he had witnessed and he noted the need for enforcement. City Attorney Boileau concurred the key issue is enforcement and the need to include waterways.

City Attorney Boileau requested Commission input regarding exploring participation with the City of Weston in litigation against Broward County regarding *Amendment Two on the November 3, 2020 Ballot*. The more municipalities participating in the litigation would result in a greater impact. The Commission confirmed unanimous support of joining this litigation.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Attorney Boileau explained an Ordinance amendment addressing leaf blowers would be brought back to add waterways. City Attorney Boileau explained details about enforcement, lawn maintenance equipment and the need for Commission input regarding a ban on leaf blowers.

Commissioner Sorensen recommended exploring a ban on leaf blowers. Mayor Trantalis reiterated the need for Commission Members to pursue community feedback on this topic.

Commissioner Moraitis concurred with the idea of changing to vacuum systems for landscape debris collection. She requested input regarding the economic impact of utilizing vacuuming systems on businesses, commenting on the option to phase-in any changes. Mayor Trantalis

confirmed a phased-in process could be implemented. Further comment ensued on addressing the times allowed for use of leaf blowers.

Mayor Trantalis reiterated this issue relates to the negative impact on waterways and stormwater infrastructure. He commented on the option to limit times for use leaf blowers. Commission Moraitis concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding limiting the use of fertilizers during summer months, Mayor Trantalis and City Attorney Boileau confirmed.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained the manner in which the Commission would participate in the upcoming *Shade Meeting* following the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.