



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
City Commission Agenda Memo  
REGULAR MEETING**

**#21-0049**

---

**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** January 21, 2021

**TITLE:** City Manager Annual Performance Review - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

---

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Commission review the performance of City Manager Chris Lagerbloom in accordance with his employment agreement.

**Background**

I continue to be privileged to serve as the City of Fort Lauderdale's City Manager since my formal appointment effective January 1, 2019, pursuant to Resolution No. 18-255. In accordance with the Employment Agreement dated November 6, 2018, this item is intended to be the annual performance review for the City Manager.

2020 was a year of many challenges for the City of Fort Lauderdale. Many circumstances outside of our control impacted the City's operations and finances including:

- A Major Force Main Break
- A National State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Nationwide Demonstrations

Despite the challenges presented, as a City we continued to effectively serve our neighbors, respond to emergency events, move major initiatives forward, and achieve progress towards priorities identified by the Commission. The 2020 Strategic Plan Annual Progress Report is attached as Exhibit 1 to illustrate the advancement toward the City's five-year goals as outlined in Press Play 2024.

Progress updates for Commission Priorities, identified and articulated by the City Commission in January 2020, have been provided through the monthly Top Priority LauderTrac newsletters and Quarterly Priority Summary Reports. The LauderTrac newsletters may be accessed online at [www.fortlauderdale.gov/laudertrac](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/laudertrac); the latest quarterly summary report is attached as Exhibit 2. These documents demonstrate the successes and progress we have made towards addressing the highest priorities of the City Commission.

I would also like to highlight several Citywide achievements that could not have occurred without the City Commission's leadership and support.

### **COVID-19 Responses**

Organizations in the public and private sectors experienced varying levels of financial and operational impacts related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. COVID-19 threatened to impact services for neighbors and the City's financial health. However, through swift intervention, the City positioned itself to adapt to the changing circumstances to best serve our neighbors and to position the City to recover as quickly as possible. Key accomplishments this year to adjust to COVID-19 created challenges that include:

- Prompt transition to a "virtual" environment that allowed City staff to maintain operations during stay at home orders and allowed the City Commission and Advisory Boards and Committees to meet while maintaining public interaction to continue City operations.
- Creation of an Emergency Business Loan program to financially assist eligible small businesses in the Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights and the Central City Community Redevelopment Areas
- Development and implementation of a Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance Program to financially assist eligible neighbors
- Coordination of regular food distribution events
- Coordination and support for the operation of two COVID-19 testing sites at City parks (Holiday Park and Mills Pond Park)
- Partnered with the State of Florida to construct a field hospital on property at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) to address surge capacity
- Worked with Broward County to secure CARES Act Funding for the City of Fort Lauderdale
- Analyzed the impacts of COVID-19 related closures on the City's revenues and expenses and implemented budget balancing strategies that allowed the City to end the fiscal year in a strong financial position

### **Strong Financial Management**

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, more than ever, the physical and financial health of individuals and organizations cannot be taken for granted. Without adequate resources, the City cannot deliver the services that our neighbors need. The City has taken proactive measures to maintain and enhance its financial health.

The ratings and opinions of Wall Street's credit rating agencies this year signaled strong confidence in the management of the City of Fort Lauderdale. High bond ratings enable the City to borrow and repay money at much lower interest rates which translates into millions of dollars in savings for taxpayers and rate payers. Our fiscal discipline and vigilance have been instrumental in building a strong financial foundation and positioning the City for a bright future. Key financial accomplishments this year include:

- Produced a structurally balanced budget for FY 2021 which was adopted unanimously by the City Commission. The FY 2021 budget eliminated the transfer of the Return on Investment (ROI) from the Utilities' funds to the General Fund. The General Fund revenues from ROI have been reduced by \$20.4 million since FY 2018.
- For the first time, the City obtained AAA rating from Standard & Poor's for both the City's special obligation refunding bonds and General Obligation (GO) bonds. Moody's Investor Services assigned an Aa2 rating and positive outlook to the City's 2020 special obligations refunding bonds and affirmed the Aa1 rating on the City's outstanding general obligations unlimited tax (GOULT) debt.
- Issuance of \$80 million General Obligation Bonds for Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Issuance of \$100 million General Obligation Bonds for Public Safety Facilities
- Issuance of a \$70.5 million Stormwater Line of Credit
- Issuance of \$170 million taxable pension obligation refunding bonds resulting in net present value savings of over \$16 million and annual savings of \$1 million
- Secured \$32.9 million in grant funds. Grant funding was used for necessary purchases, which allowed for City funds to be redirected to other high priority needs such as facilities maintenance, infrastructure improvements, and transportation enhancements.

### **Other Key Accomplishments**

There are numerous accomplishments that the City achieved this past year despite the challenges presented. The items highlighted below demonstrate the successes made in alignment with the City's strategic goals and the City Commission's priorities:

- Developed and implemented a new stormwater rate structure to support a revenue bond in the amount of \$200 million to fund Phase II of the Stormwater Master Plan to address flooding throughout our City.
- Activated a section of the seven-mile, \$65 million redundant sewer line extending from the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant to a lift station at the Coral Ridge Country Club. The project has reached over 60% completion and is on schedule to be completed within the 18-month timeline.
- Presented an ordinance to amend the City's Comprehensive Plan that was adopted by the City Commission. The Comprehensive Plan provides the City with long-term direction for future land use and serves as the basis for the City's zoning and land development regulations.
- Developed and presented the Downtown Master Plan with the City Commission approving an ordinance to codify the design standards of the plan. The design standards will promote consistency and positive redevelopment throughout the downtown area.
- Achieved a perfect score on the Human Rights Equality Campaign scorecard for the second consecutive year for our efforts to address issues critical to the LGBTQ community.

- Completed the bargaining process, ratifying agreements with the International Association of Fire Fighters and Fraternal Order of Police bargaining units.

Specific achievements of the City Manager's Office Divisions are included as Exhibit 3.

In my second year as your City Manager, I would like to thank you for trusting me to lead the City in addressing our organization's highest priorities. I look forward to working with you, our neighbors, and our amazing team of public servants as we continue to move the City forward.

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 - Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan, 2020 Annual Progress Report

Exhibit 2 - 2020 City Commission Priorities – Quarterly Progress Report (December 2020)

Exhibit 3 - City Manager's Office Division Accomplishments

---

Prepared by: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

Charter Officer: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager