

RESOLUTION NO. 21-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE'S 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, at its Conference Meeting of December 2, 2020, the City Commission discussed the City of Fort Lauderdale's 2021 State legislative priorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, hereby approves the 2021 State legislative priorities as set forth in Exhibit 1 to City Commission Agenda Memo No. 21-0001, a copy of which is attached hereto.

SECTION 2. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon final passage.

ADOPTED this 5th day of January, 2021.


Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:



City Clerk
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI



Introduction

The 2021 Legislative Priorities reflect the general position of the City Commission pertaining to upcoming legislation that would impact operations:

Fundamental Principles

- **SUPPORT** the Legislature's efforts to secure funding for – and prioritizing testing and vaccination processes for first responders, senior citizens, and medical staff. Also support proposals that include flexibility provisions for local governments to use COVID-19 funds for lost revenue.
- **SUPPORT** full funding for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP); and other affordable housing programs which aid income eligible residents, including individuals with disabilities.
- **SUPPORT** the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Legislative Priorities and Policy Statements, unless specific issues conflict with the City's approved Legislative Priorities.
- **SUPPORT** funding for early learning education; and full funding for workforce readiness programs.
- **OPPOSE** legislative efforts to increase or eliminate the monetary limits on the waiver of sovereign immunity in current law.
- **OPPOSE** legislation which shifts the financial burden from the state to local government, specifically municipalities.
- **OPPOSE** legislation that modifies, restricts, or eliminates a municipality's ability to levy and collect or spend franchise fees, communications service taxes, local business taxes, or other revenues.

Smart Growth Infrastructure

- **SUPPORT** the identification of adequate funding for water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure improvements.
- **SUPPORT** legislation and funding for transportation enhancements focused on greenways, complete street initiatives, pedestrian safety, improving traffic flow, and mass transit development.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that requires flood disclosures upon the sale of a property.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that promotes energy conservation and alternative energy development.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that supports the inclusion of municipalities in the state environmental permitting process.

Water Quality and Resiliency

- **SUPPORT** maintaining at minimum \$50 million recurring for beach re-nourishment, revitalization, and enhancement efforts.
- **SUPPORT** adequate funding for waterway quality improvement projects.
- **SUPPORT** funding for resiliency efforts which include flood prevention, hazard mitigation, and climate change mitigation.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that assists in meeting sustainability objectives including energy and water efficiencies.

Quality of Life

- **SUPPORT** legislation allowing municipalities to reach a "net zero" homelessness outcome.
- **SUPPORT** continued funding for the Rapid Rehousing Program.
- **SUPPORT** funding for the continuation of Community Courts.
- **SUPPORT** legislation and adequate funding to bolster pilot programs increasing awareness about the environment, proper nutrition, and regular physical activity.



City of Fort Lauderdale 2021 Legislative Priorities

- **SUPPORT** maintaining level, or increased funding for Kindergarten through 12th grade education, vastly improving the quality of early learning education in the State.
- **SUPPORT** funding for the development of recreational programs and facilities.
- **SUPPORT** increased funding for historic preservation, and the restoration of full funding for the cultural arts.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that allows municipalities to make parks and beaches smoke-free.
- **SUPPORT** legislation strongly limiting vaping options for minors.

Public Safety Initiatives

- **SUPPORT** comprehensive criminal justice reform consistent with federal guidelines.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that modifies the Law Enforcement Trust Fund's (LETf) evidentiary standard in a forfeiture proceeding and use of future forfeitures, which may result in an increase in amounts collected.
- **SUPPORT** legislation to offset costs of placing School Resource Officers in schools.
- **SUPPORT** funding for street light improvements.

Economic Stability and Business Development

- **SUPPORT** funding for Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport capital projects.
- **SUPPORT** legislation promoting tourism; support VISIT Florida; and transfer the spending authority of the Tourism Development Tax to municipalities based on tourism activity.
- **SUPPORT** funding for the promotion of Fort Lauderdale's marine industry and Riverwalk activation.

Intergovernmental Collaborations

- **SUPPORT** legislation allowing local government to regulate short-term rental properties, vacation rentals, and sober homes.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that would change the date for the non-ad valorem assessment roll public hearing from September 15th to September 25th to avoid a special meeting of the City Commission regarding the budget.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that would reduce the impact of the Governor's emergency declaration extensions, which result in the extension of permits (i.e. building permits) in jurisdictions not impacted by the emergency event.
- **SUPPORT** legislation to amend Sec. 286.011, Florida Statutes allowing closed-door meetings on pre-suit liability claims.