

# 2022 | State Legislative Program



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**



**CITY COMMISSION**

**Dean J. Trantalis**

Mayor

**Heather Moraitis**

Vice Mayor/Commissioner | District 1

**Steven Glassman**

Commissioner | District 2

**Robert L. McKinzie**

Commissioner | District 3

**Ben Sorensen**

Commissioner | District 4

**Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM**

City Manager

---

**Government Affairs Manager**

Daphnee A. Sainvil, J.D., LL.M

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction and Strategic Goals.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Fundamental Principles.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Commission Legislative Priorities.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Appropriation Requests .....</b>	<b>6</b>

## Introduction and Strategic Goals

The 2022 Legislative Priorities reflect the general position of the City Commission pertaining to upcoming legislation that would impact operations. Most importantly, this Program integrates the Commission's Strategic Goals: *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024*, which brings focus and coordination to what we do every day as we make this community a place to live, work, play, and invest. This framework enables our employees to collaborate and innovate together to achieve a set of aspirational goals, objectives, and initiatives over the next five years.



### Infrastructure

**GOAL 1:** Build a sustainable and resilient community.

**GOAL 2:** Build a multi-modal and pedestrian friendly community.



### Public Places

**GOAL 3:** Build a healthy and engaging community.



### Neighborhood Enhancement

**GOAL 4:** Build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods.



### Business Development

**GOAL 5:** Build an attractive global and local economic community marketplace.



### Public Safety

**GOAL 6:** Build a safe and well-prepared community.



### Internal Support

**GOAL 7:** Build a values-based organization dedicated to developing and retaining qualified employees.

**GOAL 8:** Build a leading government organization that manages all resources wisely and sustainably.

## Fundamental Principles

### HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Address homelessness and the creation of housing opportunities including evaluation of activities and initiatives that can address the root cause of homelessness while identifying ways to create additional housing opportunities in the City.

The Commission *supports* full funding for the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP); and other housing programs which aid income eligible residents, including individuals with disabilities.

### FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

*Support* the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Legislative Priorities and Policy Statements, unless specific issues conflict with the City's approved Legislative Priorities.

### WORKFORCE EDUCATION/EARLY LEARNING

*Support* funding for early learning education; and full funding for workforce readiness programs.

### SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

*Oppose* legislative efforts to increase or eliminate the monetary limits on the waiver of sovereign immunity in current law.

### UNFUNDED MANDATES

*Oppose* legislation which shifts the financial burden from the state to local government, specifically municipalities.

### TAXES AND FEES

*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.

## Commission Legislative Priorities

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATIONS

The Commission *supports* legislation:

- Allowing local government to regulate short-term rental properties, vacation rentals, and sober homes.
- That would change the date for the non-ad valorem assessment roll public hearing from September 15<sup>th</sup> to September 25<sup>th</sup> to avoid a special meeting of the City Commission regarding the budget.
- To amend Sec. 286.011, Florida Statutes allowing closed-door meetings on pre-suit liability claims.

### FIREARM REGULATIONS

The Commission *opposes* the Legislature's attempt to prohibit local governments from implementing firearms regulations.

### INFRASTRUCTURE, RESILIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Examine and address infrastructure needs related to water, wastewater, and stormwater. Integrate resilience in all decisions relating to current and future City operations, so that the city can effectively plan for, respond to, and quickly recover from disruptive events. Develop programs and implement strategies to improve traffic flow and evaluate new solutions that will alleviate congestion within the city.

The Commission *supports* legislation and funding for transportation enhancements focused on greenways, complete street initiatives, pedestrian safety, improving traffic flow, and mass transit development. The Commission further supports legislation that:

- Requires flood disclosures upon the sale of a property;
- Promotes energy conservation and alternative energy development; and
- Supports the inclusion of municipalities in the state environmental permitting process.

### ***Plastic Bag & Styrofoam Bans***

The Commission *supports* the repeal of state regulations prohibiting local governments from banning the use or sale of polystyrene products.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

The Commission *supports* initiatives that focus on a fair and equitable justice system, which can be achieved through statewide comprehensive criminal justice reform. The Commission further *supports* 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.

**\*NEW/PENDING\*** The Commission *supports* legislation that would allow municipalities building code inspectors to inspect buildings of a certain age and enforce violations found on repeated occasions.

## Appropriation Requests

### ARTS AND CULTURE

The Commission *supports* increased funding for historic preservation, and the restoration of full funding for the cultural arts. As a city known for its arts and culture, the Commission supports all efforts to restore state funding to pre-recession levels.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Commission *supports* funding for Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport capital projects, and the collaboration between the marine and aviation industries to promote economic development and tourism. Furthermore, the Commission *supports* VISIT Florida and the transfer of the spending authority of the Tourism Development Tax to municipalities based on tourism activity.

### EDUCATION

#### **\*NEW/PENDING\* Summer Enrichment Program | \$500,000**

The Summer Enrichment Program is a tri-fold strategy designed to:

- 1) Academically enrich the City's Parks and Recreation camps;
- 2) Launch an extended day camp to compliment Broward County Public School's half-day Summer Academy; and
- 3) Deliver college and career readiness workshops.

Children will maintain or increase their academic performance during the summer months and build social and emotional skills that will prepare them for academic success.

### HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

#### **Community Court Program | \$100,000**

The goal of the Community Court program is to reduce the daily jail population by addressing the needs of homeless, petty crime and municipal ordinance offenders. Community Court focuses on the root causes of each defendant's issues, applying appropriate therapeutic and community service-based punishments. Participants must choose to take an active role in their rehabilitation. Furthermore, funding will support the operational expenses of the weekly court sessions in the City of Fort Lauderdale's Commission Chambers.

The program will provide participants with access services specific to their needs including hygiene kits, bus passes, birth certificates, and state issued identification in addition to access to social service and treatment agencies. Supplies for court participants including hygiene kits, bus passes, birth certificates, and state issued identification. In addition to Court operating costs such as advertising, office equipment, office supplies, parking fees for services providers, etc.

#### **Rapid Rehousing Program | \$500,000**

For over five (5) years, the City of Fort Lauderdale received \$1.15 million leading to the success of the Rapid Rehousing program. Along with local resources, we provided housing to limited income individuals and families. We have provided move-in assistance, first and last month's rent, security deposits, temporary hotel stays, utility deposits, support services, step down rental assistance, and case management services.

## RESILIENCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Support full funding for infrastructure projects that fight sea level rise; fighting sea level rise, and funding existing infrastructure projects. Specifically, the Commission supports:

- The identification of adequate funding for water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure improvements.
- Legislation that requires flood disclosures upon the sale of a property.
- Legislation that promotes energy conservation and alternative energy development.
- Legislation that supports the inclusion of municipalities in the state environmental permitting process.
- Maintaining, at minimum, \$50 million recurring for beach re-nourishment, revitalization, and enhancement efforts.

### **\*NEW/PENDING\* Tarpon River Environmental/Maintenance Dredging | \$100,000**

Water quality is a top priority of the Commission with 165 miles of waterways. The Tarpon River contains designated uses of fish consumption, recreation, and propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife. A Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Class III waterway, approximately 11,000 linear feet requires dredging of 23,000 cubic yards of sediment. The river has not been dredged in over 25 years impacting tidal flow. The July 2021 Tarpon River West Assessment Report, there are some heavy metals in the sediment that may have adverse impacts on the biological community within the river.

The project would remove an estimated 23,000 cubic yards of sediments, heavy metals, and other harmful toxins that compromise water quality. Removing the sediments would result in the restoration of the original navigable depth. The project will also increase flow and water quality.

### **\*NEW/PENDING\* Melrose Manors Neighborhood Improvements | \$1,000,000**

Due to the lack of stormwater infrastructure, the City Commission has made the Melrose Manors Neighborhood a top priority. During the October and November rainfall, in 2020, Melrose was the most impacted of all neighborhoods within the City of Fort Lauderdale – in fact – it remained flooded for several weeks after the rainfall, until finally percolating into the ground. Furthermore, after such flooding, an emergency declaration was issued, and the commission unanimously voted to begin the design of a comprehensive drainage system for this area.

There are some challenges to building the drainage system because the area is devoid of stormwater infrastructure and positive outfalls to a waterbody. As rainfall continues, it will continue to flood until stormwater improvements are put in place. The requested funding will initiate much needed improvements that will reduce the incidence of flooding caused by high tides and/or precipitation in the Melrose Manors neighborhood.

## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation in any city is a critical component to stability and growth. The Commission *supports* full funding for all transportation projects within the FDOT Workplan.