City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

1:35 PM

Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Abdo Room - 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor
BEN SORENSEN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District 4
JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District 1
STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District 2
PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District 3

RICKELLE WILLIAMS, City Manager
SHARI L. McCARTNEY, City Attorney
PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor
DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Also Present: City Manager Rickelle Williams, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Shari L. McCartney, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

26-0298 Communications to the City Commission - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Aida Nesimi, Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) Member. Ms. Nesimi read the communication.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the implementation timeline for the SAB recommendations, Glenn Hadwen, Parks and Recreation Department Sustainability Manager, explained that the six (6) recommendations include both administrative actions and ordinance amendments. He said certain administrative measures, such as incorporating single-use plastic reduction language into new Parks and Recreation Department vendor agreements, are already underway and could be implemented within six (6) months to one (1) year, while ordinance amendments will require a longer implementation timeline. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis questioned the practicality and consistency of the recommendations, expressing concern that prohibiting both single-use plastics and glass containers would leave few practical alternatives and might not reduce litter if reusable plastic items were also discarded.

Silvia Duque Añez, Parks and Recreation Department Sustainability Coordinator, explained staff's rationale for the recommendations. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis discussed staff's recommendation regarding exemptions from the single-use plastic straw ordinance for businesses experiencing financial hardship and concerns that such exemptions would undermine efforts to eliminate single-use plastic straws. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding examples of plastic straw alternatives being significantly more expensive, Ms. Duque Añez explained the basis for that recommendation, including examples from other jurisdictions. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis questioned whether several of the other SAB recommendations were necessary and requested additional clarification regarding their purpose and anticipated effect.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Department Director. Mr. Williams said staff would continue researching and working with the SAB to refine the recommendations before returning to the Commission with a revised proposal.

Vice Mayor Sorensen noted that the proposed prohibition of glass containers would formalize the existing park safety rule. Mr. Williams confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst emphasized the need for practical regulations for beach visitors, noting that the safety concerns associated with glass containers in parks differ from those on the beach. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman acknowledged sustainability goals and emphasized the importance of identifying practical alternatives. She suggested that, for City-sponsored events, staff consider alternatives to single-use plastic bottles, such as boxed water and boxed juice products. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CITY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commission Members announced recent and upcoming community events and expounded on related information.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman proposed reorganizing City Commissioners' Reports by discussing policy matters at the beginning of Conference Meetings and reserving Commission Member informational updates until the end of Conference Meetings. Commissioner Herbst concurred. Mayor Trantalis supported streamlining Commission Reports while preserving Commissioners' ability to raise substantive policy issues during the initial Commission Report period. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst raised a policy discussion regarding parking fees for individuals with disabled parking permits. He explained that, under State law, disabled parking permit holders may park for free at on-street metered spaces, while municipalities may charge for parking in municipal parking lots. District 1 residents have requested that the City also waive parking fees in City-owned parking lots. Commissioner Herbst noted that he had previously discussed the matter with staff, acknowledged there would be a financial impact, and requested additional information from staff. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ben Rogers, Assistant City Manager. Mr. Rogers explained that staff had researched this issue and found that municipalities have discretion under State law to exempt disabled parking permit holders from paying fees in municipal parking lots but are not required to do so. He reviewed the City's on-street and off-street parking inventory, confirming that disabled parking permit holders park free at on-street metered spaces. Mr. Rogers said staff would evaluate the potential financial impact of extending the exemption to City-owned parking lots and return with policy options for Commission consideration.

Commissioner Herbst discussed his personal experience with a temporary disability and requested that the Commission consider exempting disabled parking permit holders from paying parking fees in City-owned parking lots.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions, Commissioner Herbst confirmed that the proposed exemption would apply to disabled parking permit holders using City-owned parking lots and garages and explained that eligibility would require either a disabled parking placard or disabled license plate.

Commissioner Herbst recommended exempting disabled permit holders from paying parking fees when they use regular parking spaces at municipal parking lots if designated disabled parking spaces are full. He noted that this accommodation already exists for on-street parking. Mayor Trantalis noted the recommendation is sensible.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman recognized the accomplishments of the Dillard High School Track and Field Program (Program), highlighting the team's sustained success over the past six years. Mayor Trantalis suggested recognizing the Dillard High School Track and Field team at a Regular Commission Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman discussed the importance of acknowledging the Commission's change in direction regarding the ongoing evaluation of existing buildings as potential City Hall locations. He noted that, after initially deciding not to pursue appraisals or further analysis, the Commission later authorized approximately $500,000 for appraisals and noninvasive engineering assessments. Commissioner Glassman questioned the value of those evaluations. He explained his viewpoint, cited examples, and doubted the reports would offer sufficient data to make an informed decision about the buildings' suitability as City Hall.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' request to address Commissioner Glassman's remarks, Quentin Pough, Assistant City Manager, explained details of staff's upcoming report that would provide a high-level assessment of existing buildings' potential as a City Hall facility. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Pough reiterated that the building assessments would include preliminary cost estimates and cost ranges rather than detailed construction budgets. He noted that staff expects to present this information and a preliminary City Hall funding strategy at the July 2, 2026, Commission Meeting.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions about the deferred City Hall Interim Agreement, City Manager Williams explained that work on the new City Hall project was paused at the Commission's direction while evaluating existing buildings. She confirmed staff could prepare a revised Interim Agreement sooner if directed. City Manager Williams noted the building appraisals might be available by the June 2, 2026, Commission Meeting and discussed related options. Staff planned to present the revised Interim Agreement alongside the evaluations of the existing buildings so the Commission could consider all options at once.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding whether the engineering assessments would include invasive testing, Mr. Pough said that the evaluations would be noninvasive. Commissioner Glassman reiterated his concern that noninvasive assessments would not provide sufficient information to determine whether older buildings could be renovated for use as a City Hall. He questioned the value of spending City funds on engineering studies and appraisals without detailed structural analysis or construction plans and reiterated his concerns about the delay in considering the Interim Agreement. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst explained that the ongoing evaluations represented the standard first step in a due diligence process and noted that a noninvasive property condition assessment is typically conducted before determining whether more detailed invasive testing is warranted and noted that the preliminary findings could indicate that no additional evaluation is necessary.

Commissioner Glassman responded that the Commission could ultimately be asked to authorize additional invasive testing following the preliminary assessments and reiterated his concerns regarding costs and whether the expenditures represented an appropriate use of City funds. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman raised concerns about the process used during the recent City Manager performance evaluation, noting that he had received feedback from employees and residents that it was inappropriate to invite department heads who report to a Charter Officer to speak publicly during a Charter Officer's evaluation.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding whether the practice was customary or appropriate from a Human Resources perspective, Jerome Post, Human Resources Department Director, said that while the practice was unusual, it is not prohibited. Commissioner Glassman suggested that the Commission consider establishing a different process for future Charter Officer evaluations.

Mayor Trantalis agreed that requiring department heads to publicly evaluate Charter Officers could compromise objectivity, particularly with respect to the Police Chief and Fire Chief.

Mayor Trantalis suggested that the Commission consider a Charter amendment designating the Police Chief and Fire Chief as Charter Officers, allowing voters to decide the issue at the upcoming election. Mayor Trantalis stated that the change could help preserve the independence and objectivity of those public safety positions.

Commissioner Herbst concurred, stating that employee evaluations of supervisors are most effective when conducted anonymously. He supported Mayor Trantalis' proposal to designate the Police Chief and Fire Chief as Charter Officers reporting directly to the Commission, stating that doing so would strengthen accountability, improve the flow of information to elected officials, and reinforce the independence and objectivity of those leadership positions.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman requested additional discussion on this matter and questioned how the Commission would maintain a balanced approach with five (5) elected officials providing direction.

Mayor Trantalis noted that, like the other Charter Officers, the Police Chief and Fire Chief would have a direct line of communication with the Commission while remaining accountable to the Commission as a whole, and that the proposal was intended to strengthen the independence and integrity of those public safety positions. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis directed City Attorney McCartney to prepare a Resolution proposing a Charter amendment to designate the Police Chief and Fire Chief as Charter Officers for voter consideration on the November 2026 ballot. Mayor Trantalis noted that a majority of the Commission supported moving the recommendation forward. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen supported considering Charter amendments through the established Charter Revision Board (CRB) process, noting that substantive Charter amendments should receive public input and CRB review before being placed on the ballot. Mayor Trantalis said that he did not believe the CRB had previously considered this proposal.

Commissioner Glassman supported bringing forward a Walk-On Resolution at the evening meeting proposing a Charter amendment to designate the Police Chief and Fire Chief as Charter Officers reporting directly to the Commission.

Commissioner Herbst explained that, based on his experience as the Commission's ex officio representative on the CRB, substantive Charter amendments are usually initiated by the City Commission rather than the CRB. The CRB focuses on technical or ministerial revisions and matters referred by the Commission or raised through public input. It does not develop significant policy changes independently. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman said that she did not support the proposal to designate the Police Chief and Fire Chief as Charter Officers, expressing concern that it was prompted by the recent City Manager evaluation process rather than a broader governance issue and questioned whether that warranted amending the City Charter.

Mayor Trantalis responded that his proposal was not based on one (1) incident but on observations made over several years. He explained that he believed the Police Chief and Fire Chief serve unique roles in City government and that elevating them to Charter Officer status would better protect the independence and integrity of those public safety positions.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the distinction between Charter Officers and non-Charter Officers, City Attorney McCartney explained that, under Mayor Trantalis' proposal, the Police Chief and Fire Chief would become Charter Officers, similar to the City Manager, City Attorney, City Auditor, and City Clerk, and would report directly to the City Commission. City Attorney McCartney explained additional aspects of the roles and responsibilities of Charter Officers and cited examples.

Mayor Trantalis reiterated that he believed making the Police Chief and Fire Chief Charter Officers would strengthen accountability and viewed the proposal as a positive step toward improving the City's governance structure. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding whether he believed the Police Chief and Fire Chief felt constrained by the current reporting structure, Mayor Trantalis stated that, in his view, reporting through the City Manager could limit their ability to effectively fulfill their public safety responsibilities. Mayor Trantalis restated his belief that making those positions Charter Officers would provide greater independence and enable them to perform their duties more effectively, citing the unique nature of their responsibilities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, City Manager Williams stated that she had not discussed the proposal with either the Police Chief or the Fire Chief and could not speak to whether they supported it and remarked on additional considerations. City Manager Williams noted that having Police and Fire Chiefs serve as Charter Officers is uncommon in South Florida and is more typically associated with strong-mayor forms of government.

Commissioner Herbst explained that he viewed the proposal from a long-term governance perspective and reiterated his belief that public safety is the City's primary responsibility. He said that having the Police Chief and Fire Chief report directly to the Commission would strengthen accountability and provide elected officials with a more direct line of communication regarding public safety matters. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis requested that City Attorney McCartney prepare an Ordinance for First Reading for consideration and further discussion at tonight’s Commission Meeting. City Attorney McCartney confirmed that staff would prepare an ordinance as a Walk-On Agenda item and commented on related information.

Commissioner Herbst urged a thorough review of the Charter and related City policies when drafting the proposed Charter amendment to avoid unintended gaps or conflicts, drawing on lessons learned from the creation of the City Auditor position.

Vice Mayor Sorensen reiterated his viewpoint regarding the need for broader public input through the CRB and community organizations before proceeding with the proposed Charter amendment.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed the need for a permanent Commission appointment to the Broward County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) and confirmed his willingness to serve as the Commission's representative. Mayor Trantalis said that a related Walk-On Resolution would be presented at tonight's Commission Meeting.

Vice Mayor Sorensen highlighted recent progress in improving waterway health and noted that water quality experts had identified an opportunity to enhance efforts through real-time monitoring of water temperature, salinity, and turbidity. He requested that City Manager Williams evaluate the feasibility of expanding Miami Waterkeeper's monitoring program to include real-time measurements to better inform water quality management and restoration efforts.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding the value and practical benefits of monitoring salinity, Vice Mayor Sorensen explained that salinity serves as a diagnostic tool to help experts assess ecosystem conditions.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Todd Hiteshew, Public Works Department Deputy Director. Mr. Hiteshew explained that Miami Waterkeeper already collects pH, salinity, and temperature data during its twice-weekly water quality sampling but currently reports primarily on fecal indicator bacteria.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, Mr. Hiteshew explained that salinity measurements help ensure the correct fecal indicator bacteria standards are applied for freshwater versus saltwater environments and can identify trends such as saltwater intrusion into the City's waterways.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Hiteshew clarified that the purpose of collecting salinity data is to monitor long-term water quality trends rather than to directly alter salinity levels. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, Mr. Hiteshew advised that microbial source tracking is underway, with monthly sampling conducted at five (5) locations, and that the results would be provided to the Commission.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman noted that recent Miami Waterkeeper reports showed a significant decrease in bacterial counts in the River Gardens/Sweeting Estates area. In response to her question regarding whether the improvement reflected a positive trend, Mr. Hiteshew explained that a single sampling event is insufficient to establish a trend. Continued water quality monitoring, microbial source tracking, and stormwater maintenance efforts would provide a better understanding of the factors affecting water quality and support future management decisions. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, City Manager Williams confirmed that staff would include a Walk-On Resolution appointing him as the Commission's representative to the SWA.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Trantalis announced recent and upcoming community events and expounded on related information.

Mayor Trantalis commented on Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center successes, stating that the City's investment is paying dividends by attracting world-class aquatic competitions and enhancing Fort Lauderdale's reputation as an international destination.

Mayor Trantalis said that he did not recall being informed that staff were engaged in discussions with parties expressing interest in the Transportation and Mobility (TAM) property and remarked that the surrounding civic associations should have an opportunity to provide input regarding any future use of the site. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Williams noted that the City continues to receive inquiries regarding the TAM property and provided an update on related staff discussions. Staff have only provided information regarding the required appraisal process, applicable Charter provisions, and the requirement for City Commission approval before any transaction could proceed. No negotiations have been authorized, and no proposed sale or land swap is pending.

Mayor Trantalis remarked that Commission direction had been limited to obtaining an appraisal of the TAM property. He emphasized the importance of obtaining community input, including consideration of preserving the site as public open space, and elaborated on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Glassman said that he had not yet had an opportunity to discuss the matter with stakeholders and plans to raise the matter with the Flagler Village Civic Association. City Manager Williams provided additional information regarding the matter and elaborated on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis expressed concern that the Commission had not been fully informed of staff discussions regarding the TAM property and emphasized the importance of transparent communication.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ben Rogers, Assistant City Manager. Mr. Rogers explained that developer interest in the TAM property has existed for many years and that the recent inquiries represent a continuation of longstanding unsolicited interest rather than an effort by staff to market the property.

Commissioner Herbst questioned whether an additional park near the TAM property would be necessary given its proximity to Peter Feldman Park. Mayor Trantalis responded that the significant residential development planned for the area would likely increase demand for public open space beyond Peter Feldman Park.

Commissioner Herbst questioned the value of a potential land swap with the TAM property, expressing concern that such transactions often do not provide the City with property of equivalent value. Mr. Rogers explained that staff have not proactively pursued land swap opportunities but have only responded to unsolicited inquiries by outlining the City's requirements and providing related information. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding potential future uses of the TAM property, including public open space and redevelopment.

City Manager Williams advised that staff are developing a formal process to ensure the consistent handling of unsolicited City property inquiries, timely related communication with the City Commission, and remarked on related information.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

MGR-1 26-0507 City Commission Follow-up Action Items and Letters to the Commission (LTC) - City Manager's Office (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Williams recognized members of staff for earning national honors in financial reporting and local government leadership, highlighting the accomplishments of Finance Department and Office of the City Auditor staff.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 26-0492 Broward Solid Waste Authority - City Staff Presentation - Public Works Department (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Brad Kaine, Public Works Department Director. Mr. Kaine provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a presentation entitled *Solid Waste Authority of Broward County.*

A copy of the presentation is included in the backup for this Agenda item.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed his participation at the previous day's Solid Waste Authority (SWA) meeting. The SWA plans to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit bids from private contractors, including pricing, contract terms, and other conditions. He advocated for allowing member municipalities to evaluate the results of the competitive procurement process before committing to a contract, but the SWA declined to adopt that approach. Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on the reasons for his opposition, discussed potential consequences, and cited examples, including the SWA providing the City with representation on the SWA Executive Board. He said that his proposal received little support, and that the City could obtain an Executive Board seat through the existing election process.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed his understanding of the voting requirements and stated that SWA members opposed a post-RFP opt-out provision because maintaining broad participation preserves negotiating leverage and pricing advantages. Under the proposed procurement framework, municipalities would remain committed unless the final contract exceeded an agreed-upon pricing threshold. Mayor Trantalis commented on his understanding of the proposed opt-out provisions and discussed related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the City's representation on the SWA Executive Board, Vice Mayor Sorensen reiterated that the SWA declined to provide permanent Executive Board representation for the City as its largest member and instead pointed to the existing election process as the appropriate means of obtaining a seat. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding how the SWA's recent amendment would affect municipalities that had already approved the SWA Master Plan, Vice Mayor Sorensen stated that those municipalities would still have an opportunity to consider and vote on the amendment before it takes effect.

Mayor Trantalis noted that the City represents approximately eleven percent (11%) of the total population of the municipalities participating in the SWA. Mr. Kaine confirmed that estimate and clarified that the figure is based on the 2023 population. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding the City's current disposal fees compared with those proposed under the SWA plan, Melissa Doyle, Public Works Department Division Manager, explained that the City's current annual disposal assessment would remain in effect until 2028. Beginning in 2028, an additional $2.22 per-ton tipping fee surcharge would apply to all waste streams, including municipal solid waste, recycling, commercial waste, and construction and demolition debris. Based on the City's annual waste volume, the City's current annual assessment would be replaced by approximately $1,000,000 in annual tipping fee surcharges beginning in 2028.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding whether the City receives revenue from the sale of recyclable materials to offset recycling processing costs, Ms. Doyle confirmed that the value of those materials is credited against the City's processing fees. She explained that the comparison included in the presentation excluded those credits and compared only gross recycling processing fees. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding whether the SWA model included recycling rebates, Ms. Doyle confirmed that recycling rebates would continue to offset processing costs under the current system and the proposed SWA model. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding whether the cost figures shown in the presentation represented the maximum pricing thresholds that would trigger a municipality's ability to opt out under the SWA procurement framework, Ms. Doyle confirmed.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding whether the per-household cost comparison reflected the City's net costs after accounting for recycling rebates, Mr. Kaine stated that the figures presented are gross estimates and exclude recycling rebates because the value of recovered materials fluctuates monthly based on commodity market prices.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding how long the SWA's proposed maximum pricing would remain in effect, Ms. Doyle explained that the maximum rates are expected to increase annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). She confirmed that the City's current contracts provide for annual CPI adjustments, generally capped at five percent (5%), and noted that the City's yard waste and bulk waste contracts maintain fixed pricing during their initial terms before CPI adjustments become effective upon renewal. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen expressed concern that the SWA's future Request for Proposals (RFP) could permit greater annual CPI increases than those allowed under the City's current contracts, noting that the escalation provisions would not be known until the procurement process is completed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Commissioner Beam Furr, Broward County Board of County Commissioners District 6. Commissioner Furr spoke in support of the SWA initiative, emphasizing that the proposed agreement is intended to support long-term regional solid waste infrastructure, expand organics diversion and composting, preserve landfill capacity, and promote a circular economy. He encouraged the Commission to weigh long-term environmental and operational benefits alongside the projected costs.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Sam May, Interim Executive Director, Broward Solid Waste Authority. Mr. May spoke in support of the SWA initiative and clarified that most of the proposed tipping fee surcharge would be borne by commercial waste generators, while the residential impact is estimated at approximately thirty cents ($.30) per month per household. The SWA's pricing assumptions are intentionally conservative and participating municipalities would have the opportunity to opt out if the final contract prices exceed the guaranteed maximum rates. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Stephanie Jofe, 5880 SW 37th Terrace. Ms. Jofe referenced a letter she submitted to the Commission and spoke in support of the SWA initiative.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Julie Long, 972 W. Tropical Way, Plantation. Ms. Long spoke in support of the SWA initiative.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Linda Thompson Gonzalez, 5100 N. Ocean Boulevard, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. Ms. Gonzalez spoke in support of the SWA initiative.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Grant Smith, 1201 SW 5th Court, Waste Connections of Florida, Inc. Mr. Smith expressed concerns regarding the proposed SWA initiative and urged the Commission to carefully consider the long-term implications of the proposed forty (40)-year agreement, stating that it could limit future procurement flexibility and expose the City to escalating costs without additional opportunities to opt out after the initial contract award.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Williams explained that the purpose of the discussion was to obtain policy direction from the Commission regarding whether to move forward by participating in the SWA initiative and to identify any recommendations the Commission would like staff to convey to the SWA.

Vice Mayor Sorensen stated that he supports the concept of regional collaboration through the SWA and believes there are significant benefits to municipalities working together but reiterated that his primary concern remains the long-term pricing structure.

Mayor Trantalis questioned whether the proposed SWA agreement would limit the City's future flexibility and expose property owners to long-term costs which the City would have limited control. Mr. Kaine said staff's concerns include the lack of flexibility associated with a forty (40)-year commitment, and the uncertainty surrounding future costs and changing conditions over such a lengthy period.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding whether safeguards exist to protect participating municipalities from excessive annual CPI increases, Mr. May explained that the SWA Governing Board could terminate an agreement by a two-thirds (2/3) vote if costs became excessive.

Mayor Trantalis acknowledged that such action would still depend on an Executive Board vote, noted the City represents approximately eleven percent (11%) of the SWA population, and questioned why the agreement was not structured to provide individual municipalities with greater contractual protection against escalating costs rather than requiring reliance on collective Executive Board action. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Denise Horland, Mayor of Plantation and Broward League of Cities President. Mayor Horland spoke in support of the SWA initiative and explained that its primary purpose is to address Broward County's long-term solid waste capacity challenges. She stated that the County's landfill and waste-to-energy facility are approaching capacity, making waste diversion a critical component of a regional strategy to improve long-term sustainability while helping manage future disposal costs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mayor Horland explained that, in addition to helping manage costs, the SWA initiative is intended to address Broward County's long-term environmental sustainability and waste capacity challenges through regional cooperation. Mr. May cited the existing regional waste-to-energy agreement as evidence that regional collaboration can help contain long-term disposal costs through pricing controls and stable contract terms.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recommended postponing a decision on the SWA initiative to allow additional discussion with staff before the August 15, 2026, deadline. Mayor Trantalis concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding making a decision before the Commission's summer recess.

City Manager Williams requested that the Commission appoint an alternate representative to the SWA Governing Board. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis said that the alternate position would remain vacant at this time.

Commissioner Herbst outlined his two (2) prerequisites for supporting SWA participation, an individual municipal opt-out provision at a future point during the agreement and permanent City representation on the SWA Executive Committee. He said that he would not support the agreement without those protections.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Commissioner Herbst reiterated that permanent Executive Board City representation throughout the forty (40) year agreement should be a precondition to the City's participation in the SWA.

Mayor Trantalis discussed rescheduling the remaining Conference Meeting agenda items. City Manager Williams recommended deferring Agenda Item BUS-4 to the June 2, 2026, Commission Meeting and considering the remaining items, including the Sidewalk Master Plan, during the evening session.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 26-0508 Performance Audit of the Procurement P-card Program - City Auditor's Office (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized City Auditor Patrick Reilly. City Auditor Reilly presented the results of the Performance Audit of the Procurement P-Card Program (Program). City Auditor Reilly said that the Program continues to exhibit significant internal control deficiencies first identified in 2019 and recommended strengthening internal controls, record keeping, automation, artificial intelligence (AI) based monitoring, and staff training to reduce the risk of fraud, waste, and noncompliance.

City Manager Williams acknowledged the audit findings, outlined several corrective actions underway, and reaffirmed management's commitment to improving internal controls, transparency, and compliance through continued collaboration with the City Auditor's Office.

Mayor Trantalis observed that the audit report was extensive. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Auditor Reilly confirmed that, within the auditing profession, a formal finding represents a serious matter requiring management's attention. Mayor Trantalis requested clarification regarding the discrepancy between management's written response to the audit findings concerning fraud and compliance.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Herbst explained the distinction between audit findings and observations. Findings identify conditions that are inconsistent with applicable laws, ordinances, policies, professional standards, or generally accepted internal control principles, while observations identify opportunities for operational improvement. Auditors evaluate findings to determine whether they are material and report them accordingly. Commissioner Herbst explained that auditors and management typically resolve any factual disagreements during the audit exit conference before a report is finalized and expounded on related information.

City Manager Williams said that management's response concurred with the audit findings.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about management's response to the audit findings, City Auditor Reilly explained that although management agreed with the audit findings, its response also stated that no instances of fraud had been identified and that the City remained in compliance with Florida Statutes Section 218.33 (Statute). Those statements could minimize the significance of the audit findings and the internal control deficiencies. City Auditor Reilly explained that the audit's purpose was to evaluate and strengthen internal controls to reduce the risk of fraud, waste, and misuse, not just to detect fraud, and disagreed with management's response that the City remained fully compliant with the Statute. City Auditor Reilly cited the audit's findings of internal control deficiencies, including a compromised P-Card and weaknesses in property controls.

Mayor Trantalis expressed concern that management's response appeared to understate the significance of the audit findings and questioned why it concluded that the City remained in compliance despite the internal control deficiencies identified by the City Auditor. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Yvette Matthews, Assistant City Manager. Ms. Matthews discussed management's response to the audit findings, confirmed that corrective actions are underway, and emphasized that management's response was intended to acknowledge both the need for continued improvements and the progress made in addressing the audit's findings and deficiencies.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding whether management had implemented measures to address the audit findings, City Auditor Reilly confirmed that management had implemented several corrective actions and clarified that the audit identified one (1) instance of third-party fraud involving approximately $20,000 that had not been detected through the City's normal review and approval process and discussed related details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Linda Short, Finance Department Director. Ms. Short provided context regarding a fraudulent transaction referenced in the audit, explaining that it involved unauthorized third-party use of a P-Card rather than fraud committed by a City employee. She noted that the charges were ultimately disputed and the funds were recovered.

Commissioner Glassman commended the thoroughness of the audit report and recommended conducting a follow-up audit of the Program covering the period from January 2025 to the present. He suggested shortening the audit cycle to ensure that corrective actions are implemented effectively and monitored more frequently. Ms. Matthews said that the Finance Department is evaluating technology that would enable real-time monitoring of the Program.

City Auditor Reilly said that continuous oversight of the Program is essential because of the volume of transactions and the nature of items purchased. He remarked that the audit revealed significant weaknesses in tracking, inventory records, and disposal documentation for City property, reinforcing the need to strengthen internal controls.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

BUS-2 26-0506 Presentation on Parks Bond Program Prioritization Plan - City Manager's Office (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Quentin Pough, Assistant City Manager. Mr. Pough provided an overview of this Agenda item. Mr. Pough and Colette Satchell, Capital Projects Department Director, narrated a presentation entitled *Parks Bond Program Prioritization Plan.*

A copy of the presentation is included in the backup for this Agenda item.

Commissioner Glassman expressed support for expediting the design process and combining Phases III and IV of the Holiday Park project, noting it would help fulfill commitments previously made to the community. He elaborated on his perspective and encouraged staff to relocate the occupants of the existing social center so demolition could proceed, noting that nearby facilities, such as the YMCA, could potentially accommodate those activities.

Commissioner Glassman urged staff to identify alternative funding sources to address the financial shortfall for Cooley's Landing, emphasizing the importance of completing the marina project. He advocated for additional improvements at Warfield Park, including additional parking spaces, fencing, enhanced landscaping with Florida native trees, and coordination with the School Board of Broward County on improvements associated with the joint-use agreement.

Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman encouraged staff to utilize the remaining Parks Bond land acquisition funds to pursue additional neighborhood park opportunities, particularly in Middle River Terrace and South Middle River, and requested that staff evaluate available real estate opportunities in those areas.

Vice Mayor Sorensen encouraged staff to accelerate Parks Bond projects whenever possible to maximize the value of the remaining bond funds. City Manager Williams confirmed.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the City's plan to address anticipated funding shortfalls as the Parks Bond program moves forward, Ms. Satchell explained that staff is pursuing project-specific funding strategies, including grants, impact fees, and other external funding opportunities. She noted pursuit of Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) funding for waterfront parks.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Edward Catalano, 1245 NW 2nd Avenue, former President of the South Middle River Civic Association. Mr. Catalano spoke in support of improvements to Warfield Park, urging the City to improve public access by adding parking and expanding opportunities for neighborhood use.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Olga Zamora, 1115 NW 3rd Avenue. Ms. Zamora expressed support for additional funding and improvements at Warfield Park and cited examples.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street, President of the River Oaks Civic Association. Mr. Inserra expressed support for the Parks Bond program but questioned the lack of public outreach and community input regarding the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park conceptual design.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Barbra Stern, 1929 NE 1st Avenue. Ms. Stern expressed concern regarding the timeline for improvements at Carter Park, cited examples, and inquired about unresolved maintenance issues. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed that the deteriorated community room will be demolished as part of the redevelopment project and that funding has been secured.

BUS-3 26-0444 Sidewalk Master Plan Update Presentation - Transportation and Mobility Department (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Discussed during Regular Meeting Agenda item R-2.

BUS-4 26-0531 2026 Storm Season Preparedness - City Manager’s Office and Fire Rescue Department (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.