

# City of Fort Lauderdale

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## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

6:00 PM

Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Mary N. Porter Riverview  
Ballroom - 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

## City Commission Regular Meeting

*FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION*

*DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor*

*JOHN C. HERBST Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District 1*

*STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District 2*

*PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District 3*

*BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District 4*

*RICKELLE WILLIAMS, City Manager*

*DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk*

*SHARI L. McCARTNEY, City Attorney*

*PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Ronyla Abrams - Gateway Christian Academy

**Moment of Silence**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pam Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Ben Sorensen, Vice Mayor John C. Herbst and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

**Commission Quorum Established**

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

**Employee Retirements**

Mayor Trantalis announced the following employee retirements and thanked them for their service to the City:

Aaron Burke, Police Department Officer - 20 years of service; and, James Hughes, Public Works Department Maintenance Supervisor - 28 years of service.

**Agenda Announcements**

Mayor Trantalis announced the following Agenda updates:

**WALK-ON Presentation:**

Mayor Trantalis and Commissioner Glassman to present a Proclamation recognizing *February 2, 2026, as Tu B'Shevat in the City of Fort Lauderdale.*

**REMOVED:**

M-3 - Motion Approving a First Amendment to the MicroTransit Pilot Services Agreement with Circuit Transit Inc. to add Service Areas and Transportation Services thereto - \$1,157,165 - (Commission Districts 1,

2, 3 and 4)

**REVISION:**

CR-1 - Commission Agenda Memo (CAM) pages 13-15 revised

**Approval of MINUTES and Agenda**

**26-0155**

October 28, 2025, Galleria Mall Town Hall and November 6, 2025, Federal Courthouse Meeting - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Glassman made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes and Agenda as amended and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen.

**APPROVED AS AMENDED - Minutes and Agenda**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**PRESENTATIONS**

**PRES-1 26-0177**

Chief Education Officer to Recognize Fort Lauderdale Schools Teacher of the Year Recipients

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Leon, Chief Education Officer. Ms. Leon recognized Fort Lauderdale Schools Teacher of the Year Recipients.

**PRESENTED**

**PRES-2 26-0183**

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman to present a Proclamation declaring February 2026 as Black History Month in the City of Fort Lauderdale

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman presented a Proclamation declaring *February 2026 as Black History Month in the City of Fort Lauderdale*, reading the Proclamation in its entirety.

Emmanuel George, *Old Dillard Museum* Curator, and David Paolo and Amani Warren, *Sistrunk Then and Now*, accepted the Proclamation and thanked the Commission for this recognition

Mayor Trantalis expressed concern regarding proposed legislation in Tallahassee that could restrict local governments from recognizing, sponsoring, or participating in events and festivals associated with specific ethnic, cultural, or LGBTQ+ communities and explained related information. Mayor Trantalis emphasized that the City values its cultural diversity and urged residents to contact Florida House of Representatives Member Chip LaMarca to express opposition to the

proposed legislation.

**PRESENTED**

**26-0199** WALK-ON - Mayor Trantalis and Commissioner Glassman to present a Proclamation recognizing February 2, 2026, as Tu B'Shevat in the City of Fort Lauderdale

Mayor Trantalis and Commissioner Glassman to present a Proclamation recognizing *February 2, 2026, as Tu B'Shevat in the City of Fort Lauderdale* to Ayellet Black, Deputy Consul General of Israel in Miami.

Ms. Black accepted the Proclamation and thanked the Commission for this recognition.

**PRESENTED**

## **CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Glassman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, except for Agenda item CR-5, and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen.

#### **Approve the Consent Agenda**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

## **CONSENT MOTIONS**

**CM-1 26-0006** Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Road Closure with The All-Star Classic, Inc. for the All-Star Classic, Inc. / Sistrunk 5K on Sistrunk Boulevard from NW 24 Avenue to NW 10 Terrace on February 28, 2026 - (Commission District 3)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-2 26-0007** Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Road Closure with Sistrunk Historical Festival, Inc. for the Sistrunk Historical Parade / Festival on February 28, 2026, on Sistrunk Boulevard from NW 9 Avenue to NW 15 Avenue - (Commission District 3)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

- CM-3 26-0015** Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement with SWG FTL LLC for the Rhythm and Vine 10 Year Anniversary Celebration on February 28, 2026, at Rhythm and Vine (401 NE 5th Terrace) - (Commission District 2)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

- CM-4 26-0016** Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement with Dolphins Cycling Challenge, Inc. for Dolphins Cancer Challenge XVI on February 28, 2026, to cycle throughout Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 2 and 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

- CM-5 26-0005** Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Amplified Music Exemption with Performing Arts Center Authority D/B/A The Broward Center for the Performing Arts for the Broward Performing Arts Foundation Annual Benefit on March 7, 2026, on the Wendt Terraces at Broward Center for the Performing Arts - (Commission District 2)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

- CM-6 26-0112** Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Amplified Music Exemption with Shuck N Dive, Inc. for Mardi Gras on February 17, 2026, at Shuck N Dive (650 North Federal Highway) - (Commission District 2)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

- CM-7 26-0156** Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement, Request for Amplified Music Exemption, and Request for Road Closure with The Broward County Film Society, Inc. for the FLIFF 40 Miami Night Event on February 21, 2026, at Savor Cinema (503 SE 6 Street) -

(Commission District 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-8 26-0115**

Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Road Closure with Las Olas Association, Inc. for the 38th Annual Las Olas Art Fair (Part II) on Las Olas Boulevard from February 28 - March 1, 2026 - (Commission District 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-9 26-0116**

Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Road Closures with Redline Media Group, LLC for March for Cancer on March 7, 2026, at Las Olas Oceanside Park - (Commission District 2)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-10 26-0126**

Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Road Closures with Museum of Discovery and Science, Inc. for the Visit Lauderdale Science Festival at Museum of Discovery and Science and Esplanade Park on March 7, 2026 - (Commission District 2)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-11 26-0021**

Motion Approving a Sponsorship Agreement with Core Construction Services of Florida, LLC. to be the title sponsor for the 2026 St. Patrick's Parade and Festival to be held on Saturday, March 14, 2026 - in the amount of \$9,625 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-12 26-0022**

Motion Approving a Sponsorship Agreement with Anchor Mechanical, Inc., for the 2026 St. Patrick's Parade and Festival to be held on March 14, 2026 - \$1,500 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-13 26-0019**

Motion Approving Florida Department of Transportation Occupant Protection Program Funding - \$78,000 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-14 26-0077**

Motion Approving an Interlocal Agreement with the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale to Allow Designated Housing Authority Vehicles to Obtain Fuel Using the City-Owned Fuel Islands - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-15 26-0108**

Motion Authorizing Settlement of Auto Liability Claims of Lazaro Diaz Risco, Mayra Perdomo Fee, Jose Angel Argueta Hernandez, Layma Diaz Perdomo, et al. - \$300,000 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-16 26-0158**

Motion Approving the Not-for-Profit Grant Participation Agreement with Young Men’s Christian Association of South Florida, Inc., to Provide a Summer Workforce and College Readiness Workshop Series within the City of Fort Lauderdale - \$51,200 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CM-17 26-0159**

Motion Approving the Not-for-Profit Grant Participation Agreement with Experience Aviation, Inc., to provide a Pre-Apprenticeship and Workforce Development STEM Summer Youth Employment Program to youths aged 16 through 18, within the City of Fort Lauderdale - \$150,000 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CONSENT RESOLUTIONS**

**CR-1 26-0059** Resolution Approving the Consolidated Budget Amendment to Fiscal Year 2026 - Appropriation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CR-2 26-0157** Resolution Approving Acceptance of Grant Funds in the Amount of \$350,000 from the Florida Department of Education - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CR-3 26-0105** Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Underground Electric Utility Facilities Easement with Florida Power and Light Company - Prospect Lake Water Treatment Plant - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CR-4 26-0096** Resolution Accepting Grant Funds from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program for \$2,180,314 for Joseph C. Carter Park - (Commission District 3)

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CR-6 26-0150** Resolution Approving the Appointment of Special Bond Counsel and Special Disclosure Counsel for the Issuance of Stormwater Utility System Special Assessment Revenue and Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2026, for Funding Improvements to Stormwater Utility System, and Seawalls, and Refunding the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Loan, and Prescribing

Compensation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CONSENT PURCHASE**

**CP-1 26-0038** Motion Approving an Agreement for Invitation to Bid (ITB) Event No. 532 - Enabling Works for Prospect Lake Water Treatment Plant (Re-Bid) - Basile USA, LLC - \$401,124.66 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CR-5 26-0120** Resolution Supporting the Submission of a Grant Application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program for the Las Olas Boulevard Mobility, Western Corridor from Andrews Avenue to SE 17 Avenue - (Commission District 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson spoke against this Agenda item and his opposition to the removal of the existing median along the Shops segment of Las Olas Boulevard.

Mayor Trantalis clarified that the Las Olas Mobility Project covers the entire corridor from Andrews Avenue to Southeast 17th Avenue and that earlier Commission discussions regarding removal of the existing median applied to the Shops segment. This grant funding is intended to support improvements throughout the Las Olas Boulevard corridor.

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**MOTIONS**

**M-1 26-0010** Motion Approving Increase to the Annual Construction of General

Stormwater Infrastructure Continuing Contract - Various Contractors - \$10,420,219 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman.

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

- M-2 26-0071** Motion Approving Agreements for Request for Qualifications No. 423-2, Bridge Design and Miscellaneous Structural Engineering Services, Continuing Services Contract - Various Contractors - \$2,438,000 (Three Year Aggregate) - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's request for clarification regarding the maintenance status and future plans for these bridges, City Manager Williams explained that the three (3) bridges included in this Agenda item have reached the end of their useful life, and the City plans to replace the bridges rather than continue repair efforts.

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman.

**APPROVED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

- M-3 26-0011** Motion Approving a First Amendment to the MicroTransit Pilot Services Agreement with Circuit Transit Inc. to add Service Areas and Transportation Services thereto - \$1,157,165 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

**REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

- M-4 26-0119** Motion for Discussion - Appeal - After the Fact Certificate of Appropriateness for Major Alterations for the Installation of Artificial Turf within the Front Outdoor Seating Area of a Designated Historic Landmark Located at 101 S Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard - Case No. UDP-HP25021 - (Commission District 2)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Courtney Crush, Crush Law, on behalf of the applicant. Ms. Crush explained her viewpoint that the Historic Preservation Board's (HPB) denial of a certificate of appropriateness related to the installation of artificial turf in front of the building was based on incorrect historical assumptions and misapplied review criteria.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the purpose and benefits of installing artificial turf, Ms. Crush explained that it would enhance the appearance of the space and create a more comfortable walking surface compared to the existing pavers.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Esthel Brennan, 732 SW 13th Avenue. Ms. Brennan discussed concerns regarding artificial turf.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question, City Attorney McCartney discussed pending State legislation that may preempt local regulation of artificial turf and recommended monitoring the outcome before making policy decisions. Deputy City Manager Chris Cooper provided additional information.

Mayor Trantalis recognized William Brown, 112 N. Birch Road, and Central Beach Alliance (CBA) President. Mr. Brown said the CBA does not have an issue with the artificial turf and spoke in support of setting a De Novo Hearing.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding whether the HPB had extended its authority beyond the historically designated façade area by evaluating the turf installation, City Attorney McCartney clarified that the historic protection applies to the façade. The HPB reviewed the artificial turf installation on the basis that it could visually impact the protected façade, which it considered sufficient to assert jurisdiction.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Anthony Fajardo, Development Services Department Director. Mr. Fajardo clarified that the property is subject to both a historic designation and a separate historic preservation easement with different boundaries, which contributes to confusion about the limits of the Board's oversight. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Fajardo confirmed that the artificial turf area is inclusive of the historic designated area.

Commissioner Glassman explained his involvement and history of the site's historic designation. Commissioner Glassman commented on his viewpoint that the artificial turf installation would not alter the historic façade, the structure itself, or the public right-of-way and noted that the Board had previously approved more substantial additions to the site such as shade structures and awnings. He noted that the HPB's objection to a small area of artificial turf appears inconsistent. Based on those factors, Commissioner Glassman said this matter warrants reconsideration through a De Novo Hearing and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to City Attorney McCartney's question, Commissioner Glassman confirmed his recommendation for a De Novo Hearing based on the lack of competent or substantial evidence.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding whether staff had provided an opinion on whether the artificial turf installation interfered with the designated structure, Trisha Logan, Principal Urban Planner, said that most of the required criteria were not met, the artificial turf did not meet historic preservation criteria, is generally discouraged in historic districts, and said that natural grass would be more historically compatible. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's questions regarding aspects of historic preservation relative to modern construction materials for needed renovations, Ms. Logan explained that modern materials may be allowed in historic settings if they maintain the appearance of the historic structure, Vice Mayor Herbst expressed concern about the subjective nature of determining acceptable substitutions and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman introduced a resolution setting a De Novo Hearing for March 3, 2026, to hear this appeal based on insufficient evidence to support the decision of the HPB.

**ADOPTED - Setting a De Novo Hearing for March 3, 2026**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

## RESOLUTIONS

**R-1 26-0174**

Appointment of Board and Committee Members - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Clerk David Soloman read the names of nominees for appointment and/or reappointment to Advisory Boards and Committees at the February 17, 2026, Commission Regular Meeting.

City Clerk Soloman read the names of Board and Committee appointments and/or reappointments for Agenda item R-1 into the record.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**R-2 26-0029**

Resolution Delegating the City Manager the Authority to Execute a Project Agreement (BR-FL-25-172) with the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) for a Grant of up to \$1,032,636 for the Replacement and Construction of the Riverwalk North Seawall - (Commission District 4)

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding aspects of this Agenda item, City Manager Williams said that the project procurement prioritizes living seawall components and that staff is preparing an ordinance, anticipated to be presented to the Commission in April 2026, that will provide a full permit fee rebate for installing living seawalls.

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**ORDINANCE FIRST READING**

**OFR-1 26-0161**

First Reading - Ordinance Amending Division 8 of Article VII, Chapter 2, to Establish an Infrastructure Advisory Board - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Peter Partington, Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee (ITFAC) Chair, 1521 NE 53rd Street. Chair Partington discussed ITFAC's recommended Ordinance revisions. City Manager Williams said staff concurred with those revisions and read language clarifying that the Infrastructure Advisory Board (IAB) Ordinance applies to both existing and proposed City infrastructure and associated maintenance and improvement programs. The revisions also expand the IAB's scope to include bridges, stormwater systems, water and wastewater facilities, seawalls, roads, and sidewalks. City Manager Williams confirmed that the revisions could be incorporated into the Ordinance between the First and Second Readings.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman inquired about the one (1) year terms of appointees. Mayor Trantalis questioned whether a short term would be effective and explained his reasoning. He suggested that longer terms would be more appropriate due to the complexity of infrastructure projects. City Clerk Soloman explained that board terms vary and are

limited to six (6) consecutive years through reappointment. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Mayor Trantalis' request for a recommendation, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman suggested two (2) year appointments for IAB members, with the option for two (2) reappointments, totaling six (6) consecutive years.

City Clerk Soloman clarified that the Ordinance amendments include two (2) year appointments for IAB members with the option for two (2) reappointments totaling six (6) consecutive years and ITFAC revision language read into the record by City Manager Williams that would be incorporated between the First and Second Readings. Mayor Trantalis confirmed.

Commissioner Glassman introduced this Ordinance on First Reading which was read by title only.

#### **PASSED FIRST READING**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

### **RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED**

**R-3 26-0051** Resolution Approving the Conceptual Design for Downtown, Retail Shops (Without the Median), and Colee Hammock Segments and Directing the City Manager to Advance the Las Olas Mobility Western Corridor Design Concept from Andrews Avenue to SE 17 Avenue to Sixty Percent (60%) Design Plans - (Commission District 4)

Commissioner Glassman requested staff provide an update on revisions that were incorporated into this Agenda item based on prior Commission discussion. Mayor Trantalis recognized Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Director. Mr. Majstorovic discussed the Commission's earlier request for additional tree canopy coverage along the Las Olas corridor, particularly in the Shops segment and explained the substantial increase in tree canopy coverage across all Las Olas Boulevard corridor segments.

Mayor Trantalis provided an overview of this Agenda item and explained that Las Olas Boulevard is divided into three (3) distinct segments each with different design elements and improvements.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding widening the sidewalks in the Shops segment, Mr. Majstorovic explained that widening the sidewalks requires taking space from another part of the roadway, and the only way to significantly widen sidewalks would be to remove the median and its trees.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's request for clarification regarding whether widening sidewalks along the Shops segment could occur while keeping the existing median and trees, Mr. Majstorovic explained that construction to expand the sidewalks would significantly compromise the root systems of the existing median trees that would likely not be preserved. City code and spatial constraints limit the types of trees that can be replanted in the median.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Danella Williams, 540 SW 10th Avenue. Ms. Williams discussed her viewpoint regarding this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 901 SW 19th Street, River Oaks Civic Association President. Mr. Inserra discussed his opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Sally Alshouse, 1101 River Reach Drive. Ms. Alshouse discussed her opposition to this Agenda item.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question, staff confirmed the existing black olive trees in the median were planted in 1970.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Nick Ciani, 1529 NE 17th Terrace. Mr. Ciani discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Julianna Yonan, 1018 SW 20th Street. Ms. Yonan spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Evelyn Ciocco, 1515 E. Las Olas Boulevard. Ms. Ciocco spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Vice Mayor Herbst clarified that the black olive trees along the Shops segment are not memorial trees. Memorial plantings in recognition of Veterans consist of palm trees in the residential, eastern segment of Las Olas Boulevard. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Douglas Herbst, 347 N. New River Drive East. Mr. Herbst discussed his viewpoint, and favored maintaining parking along Las Olas Boulevard.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Payton DeLong, 511 SE 5th Avenue, Downtown Civic Association Member. Mr. DeLong spoke in support of this Agenda item and submitted a document for the record.

***A copy of the document is attached to these Meeting Minutes.***

Vice Mayor Herbst and Mr. DeLong discussed potential pedestrian-focused uses for the Shops section. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Brucie Cummings, 830 SW 9th Street, on behalf of the Tarpon River Civic Association. Ms. Cummings spoke in opposition to removing the black olive trees.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charlie Ladd, 442 NE 7th Avenue, on behalf of the Las Olas Association and the Downtown Development Authority. Mr. Ladd spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recommended a targeted, segment-specific approach to improvements along Las Olas Boulevard, focusing on problem areas instead of applying uniform changes, cited examples, and expounded on his viewpoint. He also cautioned against overengineering an area that is performing well and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding increased density in the City contributing to the success of Las Olas Boulevard.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Anne Hilmer, 621 Idlewyld Drive, on behalf of the Idlewyld Improvement Association (Association). Ms. Hilmer referenced actions taken by the Association's Board, noting that it had unanimously voted on multiple items, including updating a traffic study, concerns regarding emergency response times in Las Olas Isles, issues related to sidewalk cafés in the Shops segment, and emphasized the importance of maintaining the character of Las Olas Boulevard, including its trees and overall identity.

***A copy of the document is attached to these Meeting Minutes.***

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question, Ms. Hilmer outlined concerns about street parking on Las Olas Boulevard, citing Emergency Medical Service response times in the Isles and potential impacts on hurricane evacuation routes. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Herbst discussed street parking benefits, cited examples, and expounded on the Vision Zero goal to slow down traffic and reduce pedestrian fatalities. Ms. Hilmer remarked on Las Olas Boulevard outdoor cafes reducing sidewalk width.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Chris Cooper, Deputy City Manager, said that several sidewalk cafés operate on public property along the Shops segment and clarified related information.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Robert Lochrie, Esq., Lochrie and Chakas, P.A., on behalf of McTigue Family. Mr. Lochrie spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Hugh Johnson, 1119 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. Johnson discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Esthel Brennan, 732 SW 13th Avenue. Ms. Brennan spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized John Roth, 333 Sunset Drive. Mr. Roth discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item and submitted a document for the record.

***A copy of the document is attached to these Meeting Minutes.***

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mike Weymouth, The Las Olas Company President. Mr. Weymouth spoke in support of this Agenda item. In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's questions, Mr. Weymouth confirmed that the outdoor dining tables along Las Olas Boulevard are located on private property, not within the public right-of-way, and the City cannot reclaim those areas to widen sidewalks.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his perspective regarding sidewalk width and structural limitations in the Shops segment that vary by location. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Christine Demarco, 1315 Miami Road. Ms. Demarco spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Laura Tooley, Public Works Department Urban Forestry Supervisor, confirmed that sidewalk tree planting is feasible and has improved with modern infrastructure. Ms. Tooley said that larger, longer-living canopy trees are now possible. She said that oak trees are recommended for the redesigned sidewalk area of the Shops segment and discussed the anticipated oak tree height and canopy width. Commissioner Sorensen reviewed his understanding.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Ms. Tooley said that black olive trees are restricted because they have proven to be a poor long-term urban tree choice and commented on related details. City

policy favors more resilient, canopy-producing species for future planting. Ms. Tooley confirmed that a six foot (6') wide median is too constrained for canopy trees under current code requirements, and small ornamental trees or palms are viable, but would not contribute to shade or long-term canopy goals.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Ms. Tooley stated that the anticipated canopy or drip line from the proposed high-rise oak trees would be ten feet (10').

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question about the anticipated high-rise oak canopy width, Walter Meyer, WSP Team Landscape Architect, explained that high-rise oak trees vertical growth reduce conflicts with buildings, sidewalks, and traffic corridors. Mr. Meyer said that high-rise oaks are expected to reach twenty feet (20') in height with a twenty-foot (20') canopy diameter, noting that these dimensions can vary based on environmental factors and remarked on examples.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Carlos Lang, 1243 SW 4th Avenue. Mr. Lang spoke in support of this Agenda item and retaining on-street parking.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive. Ms. Fertig read from a prepared statement regarding her viewpoint on this Agenda item.

***A copy of the document is attached to these Meeting Minutes.***

Mayor Trantalis addressed concerns raised by Ms. Fertig, including conflicts between traffic calming measures and streetscape improvements, emergency access, traffic congestion, street flooding, and infrastructure needs along Las Olas Boulevard. Ms. Fertig emphasized the importance of establishing firm project costs and building a stronger community consensus before moving forward.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the design of the Downtown segment, the Shops segment, and the Colee Hammock segment, Ms. Fertig confirmed her opposition to narrowing streets in any segment of Las Olas Boulevard, noted the need for flexibility, and confirmed her support of the Downtown Civic Association's position. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's questions, Ms. Fertig confirmed that a potential compromise could include retaining parking lanes without bulb-outs to preserve flexibility for both daily use and emergency access vehicles and noted the need to implement these consistently along the

segments.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's comments and questions regarding evacuation routes and emergency response times for the Idlewyld neighborhood, Ms. Fertig noted that primary concerns are fixed street design elements such as medians, bulb-outs, narrowed traffic lanes that cause pinch points and reduce the ability of drivers to clear a path for emergency vehicles. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michael Schneider, 139 Fiesta Way. Mr. Schneider spoke in opposition to this Agenda item and concurred with points discussed by Ms. Fertig.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jenni Morejon, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Ms. Morejon spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jennifer Peters, 420 NE 9th Avenue. Ms. Peters discussed her perspective regarding this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Steve Hudson, 1799 SE 9th Street. Mr. Hudson discussed his viewpoint in support of this Agenda item. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Hudson confirmed his support of bulb-outs included in the proposed conceptual design.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Fire-Rescue Department Chief Stephen Gollan stated that the department strongly supports flexible, barrier-free street designs. He explained that fixed elements such as medians or rigid traffic calming features are seen as direct impediments to emergency response efficiency.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Joy Triglia, 2624 Marion Drive. Ms. Triglia spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Stachowski, 500 SW 7th Street. Mr. Stachowski spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Francois Chidiac, 723 Bryan Place. Mr. Chidiac spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Robert Kimball, 1841 SW 22nd Street. Mr. Kimball spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

There being no one else wishing to speak on this item, Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded

by Commissioner Glassman. Roll call showed AYES: Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst, and Mayor Trantalis.

Commissioner Sorensen expressed support for the proposed design, highlighting its wider sidewalks as essential for a pedestrian-friendly environment that encourages shopping, dining and leisure, and remarked on how on-street parking benefits both businesses and residents.

Commissioner Glassman said he would defer to Commissioner Sorensen as the District 4 Commissioner. Commissioner Glassman noted that he participated in a walking tour with the Downtown Civic Association Board of Directors focused on the area from Third Avenue to Tunnel Top Park, west of the Shops segment, which is included in this Agenda item. He remarked on his observations of the traffic patterns and sidewalk widths.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding whether it would be beneficial to remove on-street parking from SE Third Avenue to SE Sixth Avenue in the Downtown segment and whether there is flexibility to adjust the parking plan as design plans move forward, Mr. Majstorovic explained that the proposed plan provides two (2) travel lanes in each direction for that segment of the roadway, explaining the intent and that the outside lanes are used for parking. No design changes are required to allow or restrict parking and design changes can be addressed as an operational adjustment in the future. Mayor Trantalis confirmed his support of the Downtown segment noting the need for additional work to address design features.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding sufficient community outreach regarding the redesign of Las Olas Boulevard, Mr. Majstorovic explained details of community outreach. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding a Las Olas Boulevard parking study, Mr. Majstorovic said a parking study was not conducted. He explained the City's approach includes the installation of new technology designed to collect parking data, and expounded on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman made a motion to extend this meeting until 10:30 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen.

**APPROVED**

**Yea: 5** - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed her continuing support for this Agenda item and expounded on her viewpoint. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman shared her perspective and ongoing concerns, and acknowledged prior Commission discussions supporting removal of the median, but remains concerned about neighbor opposition and emergency vehicle access along Las Olas Boulevard. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on the extended duration of these discussions, rising costs, and her desire to prevent further delays and expenses.

Vice Mayor Herbst commented on his recollection of discussions regarding this Agenda item and explained related details. Vice Mayor Herbst confirmed his support for proposed improvements, including widening the sidewalk, enhancing the pedestrian experience, increasing the shade canopy, and improving public safety by providing better access for police and fire vehicles. He noted his concerns about the rising costs of this project and its affordability, the need to obtain firm funding and possible funding opportunities, and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis expressed support for a phased approach to the project. He recommends bifurcating this Agenda item and moving forward with the Downtown and Colee Hammock segments, where there is consensus, while pausing and refining the Shops segment due to ongoing concerns. He emphasized the importance of preserving the character of the Shops segment by maintaining the median trees and gradually introducing canopy trees along sidewalks. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 3 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Sorensen and Vice Mayor Herbst

**Nay:** 2 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman and Mayor Trantalis

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**PH-1 26-0123** Public Hearing - Resolution Approving the Re-Allocation of Funds

from the Parks and Recreation General Obligation Bonds, Series 2020A Bonds, in the Amount of \$235,000 from Lauderdale Manors Entrance to Chateau Park - (Commission District 3)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak on this item, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen. Roll call showed AYES: Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst, and Mayor Trantalis.

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**ORDINANCE SECOND READING**

**OSR-1 26-0044** Second Reading - Ordinance Amending Chapter 15 - Business Tax Receipts and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Article II - Local Business Tax, to Implement a Five Percent Fee Increase on Local Business Taxes and Restore Omitted Business Tax Categories - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Glassman introduced this Ordinance on Second Reading which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED ON SECOND READING**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**OSR-2 26-0171** Second Reading - Ordinance Amending Section 8-55.5 of the Code of Ordinances, Titled "High Impact Events on Beach Property" by renaming Section 8-55.5 to "High Impact Zones During High Impact Periods" to Authorize the City Manager to Designate High Impact Zones within the City and Impose Additional Immediate Temporary Measures During High Impact Periods - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Glassman introduced this Ordinance on Second Reading which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED ON SECOND READING**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**OSR-3 26-0154**

Second Reading - Ordinance Amending City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances - Chapter 5, Article II - Licensed Establishments and Article III - Special Entertainment Overlay District, to Prohibit Off-Premises Alcohol Consumption and the Outdoor Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Special Entertainment Overlay Districts - (Commission Districts 2 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Francois Chidiac, 723 Bryan Place. Mr. Chidiac spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Ordinance on Second Reading which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED ON SECOND READING**

**Yea:** 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 10:22 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean J. Trantalis  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
David R. Soloman  
City Clerk