City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 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
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 6:21 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Shawna Roberts, Mirror Lake Elementary
Zuri Williams, Walker Elementary
Zoey Williams, Walker Elementary

Moment of Silence

Mayor Trantalis announced a Moment of Silence in remembrance of Mary Cotton, Hattie Courley, Dorothy Bailey Young, and Joseph Amaturo.

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENTS

Mayor Trantalis announced the following employee retirements and thanked them for their service to the City: Yvette Martinez, Police Officer - 23 years of service; Derick Armstrong, Fire-Rescue Department Paramedic - Firefighter - 23 years of service; Thomas Fillyaw, Fire-Rescue Department Paramedic Firefighter - 25 years of service; and Ricardo Pardo, Fire-Rescue Department Captain - 27 years of service.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Commissioner John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pam Beasley-Pittman, Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen 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

AGENDA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Trantalis announced the following Agenda updates:

REVISION:
R-5 - CAM was updated to add “Exhibit 2 - Resolution” to the CAM, and Exhibit 2 - Resolution was added

WALK-ON AGENDA ITEMS:
WALK-ON - Resolution Calling a Special Municipal Election to be held on November 3, 2026, to Elect a City Commissioner from Commission District 1, and Establishing a Qualifying Period for the Special Municipal Election

WALK-ON - Resolution Providing Notice of Intent to Enter into a Comprehensive Agreement for a Qualifying Project for the Melrose Manors Stormwater Improvements Project

WALK-ON - Resolution Providing Notice of Intent to Enter into a Comprehensive Agreement for a Qualifying Project for the Riverland Stormwater Improvements Project

A copy of the revision and the Walk-On items are attached to these Meeting Minutes.

Approval of MINUTES and Agenda

26-0436 Minutes for March 3, 2026, Commission Conference Meeting and March 3, 2026, Commission Regular Meeting - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

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

APPROVED AS AMENDED - Agenda Amended

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

PRESENTATIONS

PRES-1 26-0401 Vice-Mayor Sorensen to present a Proclamation declaring May 2026, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month in the City of Fort Lauderdale

Vice Mayor Sorensen presented a Proclamation declaring *May 2026, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month in the City of Fort Lauderdale*, reading the Proclamation in its entirety.

Gabriel Walker and Sayidot Balogun, ALS Association representatives, accepted the Proclamation and thanked the Commission for this recognition.

PRESENTED

PRES-2 [26-0427] Commissioner Glassman to present a Proclamation declaring May 3-9, 2026, as National Small Business Week in the City of Fort Lauderdale

Commissioner Glassman presented a Proclamation declaring May 3-9, 2026, as *National Small Business Week in the City of Fort Lauderdale*, reading the Proclamation in its entirety.

PRESENTED

CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

CONSENT AGENDA

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Vice Mayor Sorensen requested Consent Agenda item CR-2 be pulled for separate discussion.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Commissioner Glassman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Vice Mayor Sorensen.

Approve the Consent Agenda

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

CONSENT MOTIONS

CM-1 [26-0395] Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement with Gold Crest Dist Corp for the Boozy Crawfish Festival on May 16, 2026, at Las Olas Oceanside Park - (Commission District 2)

APPROVED

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

CM-2 [26-0398] Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement, Request for Amplified Music Exemption, and Request for Road Closure with The Janho Group, Inc. for the Posh Backyard Jam on May 24, 2026, at Posh Lounge located at 110 North Federal Highway - (Commission District 2)

APPROVED

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

CM-3 [26-0363] Motion Approving a Temporary Beach License and Outdoor Event

Agreement with Florida Girls Giving Back, Inc. for the Florida Girls Giving Back Air Show Viewing Experience on May 9, 2026, at the Bonnet House Beach Area - (Commission District 2)

APPROVED

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

CM-4 26-0357 Motion Approving Fiscal Year 2026 Beach Business Improvement District Grant Participation Agreement with Lauderdale Air Show, LLC for the Air Dot Show on May 9-10, 2026 - $75,000 - (Commission District 2)

APPROVED

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

CM-5 26-0364 Motion Approving a Sponsorship Agreement with Bahia Mar Holdings, LLC, to be a Sponsor for the 2026 4th of July Spectacular to be held on July 4, 2026, at Las Olas Oceanside Park and Fort Lauderdale Beach - in the amount of $10,000 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

APPROVED

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

CM-6 26-0381 Motion Approving a Second Amendment to the Recreation License Agreement between the School Board of Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale for the Shared Use and Recreation Improvements to School Sites Owned by the School Board of Broward County to 1) Acknowledge $1,700,000 from the School Board of Broward County to Enhance Planned Parks Bond Improvements and 2) Remove the Existing City Parks Bond Funding Allocation in the Amount of $775,000 Associated with the Closure of North Fork Elementary School - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

APPROVED

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

CM-7 26-0429 Motion Approving a Third Amendment to a Lease Agreement Between Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale for Lake Lauderdale, Joint Park Site, also known as Mills Pond Park - (Commission District 3)

APPROVED

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

CM-8 26-0379 Motion Approving Execution of a Subgrant Agreement with the Broward County State Attorney's Office for Work Performed Under the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Program - $150,000 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

APPROVED

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

CM-9 26-0433 Motion Approving Change Order No. 34 for Construction Management at Risk Services Phase II for the New Police Headquarters - Moss & Associates, LLC - $533,750 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

APPROVED

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

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

CR-1 26-0063 Resolution Approving the Consolidated Budget Amendment to Fiscal Year 2026 - Appropriation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

ADOPTED

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

CR-3 26-0393 Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Fifty (50)-Year Use and Occupancy Agreement between the Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Fort Lauderdale for the Maintenance, Repair, and Operation of the D-34 Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Located in the Right-of-Way of State Road A1A and SE 17 Street - (Commission District 4)

ADOPTED

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

CR-4 26-0397 Resolution Approving and Ratifying a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Fort Lauderdale and Federation of Public Employees to Amend Article 34, Section 1 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Related to Health Insurance Contributions - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

ADOPTED

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CR-2 26-0370 Resolution Establishing a Living Seawall Permit Fee Assistance Program - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on this Resolution establishing a Living Seawall Permit Fee Assistance Program for property owners to promote waterway sustainability and recognized those who contributed to its development, and shared his perspective.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the importance of starting this type of environmental initiative and expounded on his viewpoint.

Vice Mayor Sorensen introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED

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

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

MOTIONS

M-1 26-0148 Motion Approving a Service Agreement with Pepe Gaka Related to the Installation of a Mural in Peter Feldman Park - (Commission District 2)

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Josh Carden, Cultural Affairs Officer, confirmed that the mural would appear on all four (4) sides of the pump station. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Carden confirmed mural completion is planned for June 2026. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Commissioner Beasley-Pittman.

APPROVED

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

M-2 26-0386 Motion Approving Agreement Pursuant to a Multi-Step Procurement Process, Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 522-2, Pre-Qualification for Design-Build Services (Step 1); and Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 558-3 for Design-Build Services (Step 2) for Fire Station No. 13 and Emergency Medical Sub-Station No. 88 - CORE Construction Services of Florida, LLC - $22,745,045 (no alternates) - (Commission Districts 2 and 4)

Vice Mayor Sorensen expressed his enthusiasm for the completion of Fire Station No. 13. City Manager Williams clarified that this Agenda item also includes the Emergency Medical Service Sub-station No. 88, and noted that Fire Station No. 13 is the final project funded through the 2004 Fire Bond Program.

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

APPROVED

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

RESOLUTIONS

R-1 26-0437 Appointment of Board and Committee Members - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

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 Herbst, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Vice Mayor Sorensen and Mayor Trantalis

R-2 26-0405 Resolution Approving an Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County for a $3,000,000 Surtax Grant Match Program Award for the Breakers Avenue Resiliency and Traffic Improvements Project - (Commission District 2)

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

ADOPTED

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

R-3 26-0404 Resolution Approving a Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for a $1,000,000 State Appropriation for Las Olas Boulevard Safety Improvements and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Upgrades, Western Corridor from Andrews Avenue to SE 17 Avenue - (Commission District 4)

Vice Mayor Sorensen introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED

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

R-4 26-0407 Resolution Approving a Grant Agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Construction of the Breakers Avenue Resiliency and Traffic Improvements Project in the amount of $850,000 - (Commission District 2)

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

ADOPTED

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

R-5 26-0483 City Manager Annual Performance Review - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Williams provided opening remarks regarding achievements over the past year. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dudly Etienne Howard, 1890 SW 37th Terrace. Mr. Howard spoke in support of City Manager Rickelle Williams' job performance.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street, River Oaks Civic Association President. Mr. Inserra spoke in support of City Manager Williams' job performance.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Steve Witten, 33 S. Gordon Road, Marine Advisory Board Chair. Chair Witten spoke in support of City Manager Williams' job performance.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dr. John H. Mizell Hill Sr., 116 NW 11th Avenue. Dr. Hill spoke in support of City Manager Williams' job performance.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Bobby R. Henry, Sr., 545 NW 7th Terrace. Mr. spoke in support of City Manager Williams' job performance.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Titania Johnson, 1321 NW 6th Street. Ms. Johnson spoke in support of City Manager Williams' job performance.

Mayor Trantalis commented on City Manager Williams' accomplishments and acknowledged the City Manager's efforts but expressed concern that certain Commission directives had not been fully executed with regard to public-private partnerships (P3s) and discussed the importance of implementing the Commission's policy decisions. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis discussed concerns about City Manager Williams' working relationship with the Fire-Rescue and Police Departments (Departments) and ongoing reports of frustration from their leadership. He discussed the need for City Manager Williams to work collaboratively with the Departments' leadership. Mayor Trantalis discussed concerns regarding informing the Commission about a recent National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons (NAACP) press conference related to the Police Department.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman requested Mayor Trantalis allow City Manager Williams an opportunity to respond. City Manager Williams explained that while she was aware of concerns involving a Police Department Sergeant Examination (Examination), she was not aware that the NAACP intended to hold a press conference regarding allegations of a hostile work environment within the Police Department. City Manager Williams explained information related to the Examination, her efforts to address the matter administratively, and confirmed that she did not anticipate the matter becoming a public event and that she notified the Commission as soon as she became aware of the press conference. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Williams discussed her performance, highlighted operational improvements, fiscal management, public safety support, and organizational progress under her leadership, and expressed openness to Commission feedback and a willingness to adapt her leadership approach.

Commissioner Herbst sought additional clarification regarding when City Manager Williams first became aware of the issues that led to the NAACP press conference. He said that City Manager Williams had not fully disclosed her prior knowledge, noting that she had been aware of the issues at least a week before the press conference. City Manager Williams responded that concerns surrounding the Examination evolved over time and involved unsubstantiated allegations raised by various members of the Police Department. City Manager Williams explained that staff, including the Office of the City Attorney, the Human Resources Department, and outside counsel, evaluated the matter and considered various administrative responses. City Manager Williams said the recommendation to pursue an Internal Affairs investigation was based on legal advice and that the response continued to evolve before she formally updated the Commission by email. City Manager Williams emphasized that she never intended to withhold information from the Commission, explaining that the matter was initially handled as an internal administrative issue before escalating. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst expressed concern about the City Manager's communication with the Commission, employee morale within the Police Department, and her handling of management issues identified in a City Auditor's report, stating that these matters raised broader concerns about organizational leadership. Commissioner Herbst expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman clarified that she did not share the concerns raised by Mayor Trantalis and Commissioner Herbst. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman expressed support for City Manager Williams, disputed claims of widespread dissatisfaction within the Public Safety Departments and requested that prior comments not be characterized as representing the views of the entire Commission.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman cited examples of City Manager Williams' accomplishments, expounded on related information, confirmed her support of City Manager Williams. She expounded on concerns related to a public discussion of this topic and noted other opportunities to discuss this topic with City Manager Williams. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman said that he and City Manager Williams have maintained open and candid communications and acknowledged the challenges of serving as City Manager. Commissioner Glassman noted that he and City Manager Williams have worked through differences on District 2 projects by meeting privately and discussing issues in depth. While acknowledging that he had heard some of the same concerns raised by his colleagues, Commissioner Glassman expressed confidence that continued honest communication and collaboration would resolve those issues and strengthen the working relationship between the Commission and the City Manager. Commissioner Glassman emphasized a shared commitment to moving the City forward and achieving continued success and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen said that he and City Manager Williams communicate regularly and exchange candid feedback regarding her performance, noting that he has consistently recognized her accomplishments while providing constructive criticism when warranted. In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, City Manager Williams agreed with his characterization of their working relationship.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed the City's approach to P3s, citing the Melrose Manors and Riverland stormwater projects and said that, in his view, City Manager Williams had remained open to evaluating P3 proposals. City Manager Williams responded that her recommendations have been based on the circumstances of each project as they evolved and said that she has supported P3s. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions, Fire-Rescue Department Chief Stephen Gollan expressed confidence in his working relationship with City Manager Williams, stating that communication and collaboration have improved, feels supported, and is unaware of significant concerns within the Fire-Rescue Department regarding City Manager Williams. Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on his rides with Fire-Rescue Department personnel and the strong support from rank-and-file staff for City Manager Williams.

Mayor Trantalis questioned the appropriateness of Commission Members asking staff to publicly assess the City Manager's performance, stating that such discussions should occur privately to encourage candid feedback. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions, Police Chief William Schultz discussed his working relationship with City Manager Williams and noted that early in her tenure she raised concerns regarding police overtime and crime statistics. Chief Schultz said he met with City Manager Williams frequently to address those issues through extensive discussions and confirmed that police overtime has declined and that a computer reporting issue affecting crime statistics was identified and corrected. Chief Schultz said that they now meet regularly, and despite occasional difficult discussions, measurable improvements have been achieved. Chief Schultz stated that his working relationship with City Manager Williams has been collaborative and productive, resulting in improved overtime management, crime reporting, and ongoing communication. City Manager Williams concurred.

Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on his interpretation of Chief Gollan and Chief Schultz's remarks, characterizing them as honest and forthcoming and expounded on his viewpoint. Chief Schultz provided additional context to his remarks. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman referenced a prior City Manager's evaluation to underscore the importance of finding a path forward despite differing Commission perspectives and agreed that staff evaluations of the City Manager should not occur in a public forum. Commissioner Glassman agreed with Mayor Trantalis' prior remarks regarding the appropriateness of requesting Chief Gollan and Chief Schultz to assess the performance of City Manager Williams. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen reviewed City Manager Williams' accomplishments included in Exhibit 1. City Manager Williams expounded on related information and details. Vice Mayor Sorensen noted the importance of cost reductions given anticipated budget deficit projections.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding projected personnel cost reductions, City Manager Williams explained that the projections reflect a growing overall budget and filling existing vacancies rather than an increase in management positions. Yvette Matthews, Assistant City Manager, explained that retirements, strategic hiring, and a growing overall budget have moderated the growth in personnel costs despite normal salary adjustments and limited staff increases. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' request for clarification regarding personnel cost projections, Ms. Matthews clarified that those projected percentages reflect a reduction in the growth rate of personnel costs, not a reduction in total personnel expenditures. Commissioner Herbst clarified that personnel costs are still increasing, but the rate of growth has slowed compared to prior years. Mayor Trantalis confirmed his understanding.

Commissioner Herbst commented on his opposition to the expansion of executive management and departmental growth, urging a reduction in administrative overhead, exercising fiscal restraint, and prioritizing frugality as future budgets are anticipated to become more constrained. City Manager Williams advised that the proposed FY 2027 budget reflects a more conservative staffing approach, with new position requests currently limited to the Fire Rescue and Police Departments. Commissioner Herbst expressed concern about the continued expansion of executive-level positions within the City Manager's Office, stating that several newly created, high-salary positions did not previously exist and that the City could not afford additional executive positions with salaries in the $250,000 range.

Commissioner Herbst made a motion to extend the meeting until 11:00 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman.

APPROVED

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

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding the City's AAA bond rating, City Manager Williams explained that it reflects a rigorous, specific evaluation of the City's financial strength and management practices, resulting in lower borrowing costs, and emphasized that the ratings are evaluated with each new bond issuance rather than being carried forward. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding the City's newly adopted financial integrity principles, City Manager Williams confirmed that the Commission established a target General Fund reserve equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the annual operating budget and created a separate emergency reserve fund initially funded at one percent (1%) of the General Fund's annual operating budget. Vice Mayor Sorensen characterized these actions as examples of a commitment to fiscal responsibility.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding the reported decrease in the City's overall crime rate from 2024 to 2025, City Manager Williams explained that the reduction reflects decreases in both violent crimes and property crimes and commended the Police Department's efforts. She noted that the City continues to focus on reducing violent crime through initiatives such as the Group Violence Intervention Program. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's request, Chief Schultz provided an update on current crime trends, confirming that overall crime continues to decline yearly and explained ongoing efforts to address those concerns through targeted public safety initiatives. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis acknowledged City Manager Williams' accomplishments, noting that many of the listed achievements were accomplished through the collective efforts of staff. City Manager Williams reiterated her performance and a willingness to adapt her leadership approach. Mayor Trantalis distinguished the City Manager's operational achievements from concerns about leadership and organizational culture, expressing hope that the evaluation process would foster improvements in staff relations and management practices.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's remarks regarding her accomplishments listed in Exhibit 1, City Manager Williams noted that those achievements reflect the collective efforts of staff, acknowledged contributions of prior administrations and staff to advance longstanding initiatives and move stalled projects toward completion.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding opportunities for professional growth, City Manager Williams said she viewed the Commission's feedback as constructive and informative and committed to improving communication by proactively seeking candid feedback, strengthening relationships and better balancing operational responsibilities with leadership and employee engagement.

Commissioner Glassman reiterated his prior comments regarding a previous City Manager evaluation to underscore the importance of finding a path forward despite differing Commission perspectives. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on her understanding of previous comments made by Mayor Trantalis. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's request for clarification regarding the City Manager's current salary and the value of the proposed three percent (3%) merit increase, it was confirmed that it would total approximately $10,815, based on the City Manager's current base salary.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the absence of unanimous

Commission support that has traditionally accompanied compensation increases for Charter Officers and, as such, would vote in opposition to a merit salary increase for City Manager Williams.

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 10:18 p.m.

Vice Mayor Sorensen introduced this Resolution providing a three percent (3%) merit salary increase for City Manager Rickelle Williams retroactive to April 2, 2026, which was read by title only.

DEFEATED

Yea: 2 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman and Vice Mayor Sorensen

Nay: 3 - Commissioner Herbst, Commissioner Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his viewpoint, acknowledged the division among Commission members regarding the City Manager's performance, and suggested that both the Commission and the City Manager should view the discussion as an opportunity for improvement. He recommended a six (6) month probationary period to strengthen leadership relationships and improve organizational culture. Mayor Trantalis expressed confidence in senior staff and commented on the historical expectations associated with the City Manager position. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding this Agenda item, Mayor Trantalis confirmed that no further action was necessary and stated that the record of the meeting would reflect his recommendation of a six (6) month probationary period for City Manager Williams.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, Human Resources Department Director Jerome Post clarified that the City Manager serves under an employment agreement and that termination before the agreement expires may have contractual consequences. Mr. Post said that the position of City Manager is at-will and may be terminated by the Commission.

Vice Mayor Sorensen opposed placing City Manager Williams on a formal probationary period, noting that the position is already subject to continuous Commission oversight and under an at-will employment agreement.

Mayor Trantalis clarified that his earlier reference to a probationary period was intended as a suggestion for discussion and not as a proposal requiring Commission action. Further comment and discussion ensued.

R-6 26-0279 Quasi-Judicial Resolution Approving a Site Plan Level II Central Beach Development Permit for a Thirteen (13) Story, Fifty-four (54) Unit Multifamily Development Requesting a Maximum Building Height of 144 Feet in the Intracoastal Overlook Area (IOA) Zoning District - Case No. UDP-S25037 - 623 Bayshore Dr, LLC. and 701 Bayshore Dr. LLC. - Opus at 701 - (Commission District 2)

Anyone wishing to speak must be sworn in. The Commission will announce any site visits, communications or expert opinions received and make them part of the record.

Each Commission Member disclosed verbal communications, written communications, site visits, and expert opinions received.

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Stephanie Toothaker, Esq., 901 Ponce de Leon Drive, on behalf of the applicant, Opus at 701. Ms. Toothaker explained details of the proposed redevelopment and the public outreach process that included presentations to and approval by the Central Beach Alliance (CBA). She addressed concerns regarding demolishing the Manhattan Tower, explaining that an analysis determined that the metal architectural structure was unsafe and could not be preserved. Ms. Toothaker said that the applicant worked closely with the Broward Trust for Historic Preservation (Trust) to document the structure and incorporate commemorative elements into the project, including a recreated sculpture and a historical display.

Ms. Toothaker explained that, in response to feedback from neighboring property owners, the applicant revised the site plan by eliminating previously requested balcony projection waivers. She emphasized that the only remaining request before the Commission was an increase in the maximum building height from one hundred twenty (120) feet to one hundred forty-four (144) feet, which requires Commission approval.

Mayor Trantalis encouraged the applicant to consider a more prominent tribute that better reflects the original appearance and significance of the Manhattan Tower's historic metal structure and suggested exploring whether a larger-scale re-creation incorporating the "Manhattan Tower" name into the lobby or entrance. Ms. Toothaker explained that while re-creating the structure at its original size was not feasible, the applicant is willing to work with the sculptor to enlarge the commemorative sculpture to enhance the tribute and agreed to evaluate the Mayor's suggestion as the project design progresses. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding additional historic preservation efforts, Ms. Toothaker explained that the applicant retained Peacock and Lewis Architects to prepare a pictorial history of the Manhattan Tower and the adjacent building, which is proposed to be displayed in the lobby of the new residential building. Ms. Toothaker confirmed that the applicant had committed to working with the Trust.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Arthur Marcus, 1800 N. Andrews Avenue, former Historic Preservation Board (HPB) member. Mr. Marcus spoke in opposition to this Agenda item, expressed concern over the proposed demolition of the Manhattan Tower, discussed concerns related to historic preservation policies and expounded on his perspective.

Commissioner Glassman discussed the HPB's authority under the related Ordinance to initiate historic designation applications and suggested that thematic historic districts or designations recognizing the work of notable architects, such as Charles McKirahan, should be pursued before additional historic resources are lost. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on Transfer of Development rights that provide financial assistance for historically designated properties and commented that there were no proactive preservation efforts to engage the owner and pursue the historic designation of the building. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Marcus said that the HPB process is ineffective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman requested Ms. Toothaker ensure that the applicant incorporates as much information as possible about the former building's architect into the new building.

Mayor Trantalis recognized William Brown, 112 N. Birch Road, and Central Beach Alliance (CBA) President. Mr. Brown said Ms. Toothaker accurately described outreach with residents regarding this matter. Mr. Brown reported that sixty-one percent (61%) of the CBA members attending the meeting supported the project and thirty-nine percent (39%) opposed it.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Abby Laughlin, 1050 Seminole Drive. Ms.

Laughlin spoke in opposition to this Agenda item, concurred with Mr. Marcus' remarks that the HPB process is not working and explained related information.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Anthony Fajardo, Development Services Department Director, explained details of the HPB process.

Ms. Laughlin recommended establishing a process of flagging redevelopment applications involving historic properties to allow HPB review before demolition or redevelopment proceeds. Ms. Laughlin requested that a demolition permit for the property not be issued prior to the issuance of a building permit.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michaela Conca, 625 SW 5th Place. Ms. Conca spoke in opposition to this Agenda item. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question about why an application was not filed to designate the Manhattan Tower as historic, Ms. Conca explained that, at Commissioner Glassman's request, she had a lengthy meeting with the building's previous owners to discuss the importance of preserving this historic property. The owners made it clear they had no interest in pursuing historic designation. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman clarified that the Trust had previously filed a historic designation application without unanimous owner consent and cited a prior case involving a property on Andrews Avenue where the owners were divided. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst made a motion to extend the meeting until 11:45 p.m. and was seconded by Vice Mayor Sorensen.

APPROVED

Yea: 4 - Vice Mayor Sorensen, Commissioner Herbst ,Commissioner Glassman, and Mayor Trantalis

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Beasley-Pittman

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

Commissioner Glassman introduced this Resolution for approval which was read by title only.

ADOPTED for Approval

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

R-7 26-0369

Quasi-Judicial Resolution Approving Amendment to a Site Plan Level IV Development Permit for "Sereno" (formerly "Ocean Park Residences") to Increase the Number of Multifamily Residential Units from Seventy-Six (76) to Eighty-Eight (88), Adding 113 Hotel Rooms and 1,800 Square Feet of Commercial Use, with a Parking Reduction Request, in the Central Beach Regional Activity Center - Case No. UDP-S25049 - 2851 - 2901 NE 9 Court - Sunrise FTL Ventures, LLLP - (Commission District 2)

Anyone wishing to speak must be sworn in. The Commission will announce any site visits, communications or expert opinions received and make them part of the record.

Each Commission Member disclosed verbal communications, written communications, site visits, and expert opinions received.

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized William Brown, 112 N. Birch Road, and Central Beach Alliance (CBA) President. Mr. Brown confirmed that the CBA and nearby condominium leaders support the revised redevelopment proposal, viewing it as an important investment that will improve the North Beach area and complement other planned public improvements.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Meinard Zaehner, 2800 E. Sunrise Boulevard. Mr. Zaehner spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Shari Johnston, 2800 E. Sunrise Boulevard, Sunrise East Condominium Board member. Ms. Johnston spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Peter Hechenbleikner, 2800 E. Sunrise Boulevard. Mr. Hechenbleikner spoke in support of this Agenda item and remarked on the importance of maintaining adequate parking as part of the development.

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

Commissioner Glassman introduced this Resolution for approval which was read by title only.

ADOPTED for Approval

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 26-0186 Public Hearing - Ordinance Amending the City of Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map from Low Medium Residential and Medium Residential to Commercial Land Use Designation - 1680 NW 31 Avenue - RPL Land LLC - Case No. UDP-L24003 - (Commission District 3)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized April Young, 1820 NW 28th Avenue, Lake Aire Civic Association. Ms. Young spoke in opposition to this Agenda item. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Young explained her opposition relates to the applicant's failure to provide documentation addressing public health concerns associated with Lake Aire Rock Pit Lake (Lake) and commented on her concerns. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis said that the proposed project would improve the Lake's condition, benefit public health, and questioned the basis for opposing a project intended to address the existing environmental conditions. Ms. Young discussed the ongoing negative health impact of the Lake. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Robert Lochrie, Lochie & Chakas, P.A., on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Lochrie clarified that this Agenda item is limited to a land use designation amendment from residential to commercial. Mr. Lochrie explained that the environmental concerns raised by Ms. Young relate to the adjacent Wingate property. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Robert Bostic, 3271 NW 13th Court, Mr. Bostic spoke in support of the job opportunities the proposed project could provide.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ashley Davis, 2700 NW 17th Street. Ms. Davis spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Linda Patrick, 1841 NW 26th Terrace. Ms. Patrick spoke in opposition to this Agenda item. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding environmental concerns and remediation efforts.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' request that Mr. Lochrie address photographs submitted of the site provided by a resident, Mr. Lochrie said he could not confirm that the images depict the remediation site and reiterated that the remediation is proceeding in accordance with an approved remediation plan and ongoing oversight by Broward County and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Leann Barber, 500 NW 1st Avenue, on behalf of the Roosevelt Garden Homeowners' Association (RG HOA) located in unincorporated Broward County and adjacent to the Wingate site. Ms. Barber spoke in opposition to this Agenda item and discussed concerns that the Lake serves as a storage area for contaminated runoff from the adjacent Wingate site and questioned where contaminated runoff and neighborhood stormwater would be directed once the Lake is filled.

Commissioner Glassman discussed the applicant’s outreach to the RG HOA and commented on his understanding. In response to Commissioner Glassman's comments regarding the applicant's outreach efforts to RG HOA representatives related to drainage testing and environmental impacts, Ms. Barber said the RG HOA had not been able to review the reports because they were inaccessible and reiterated the community's request for an independent environmental analysis. Ms. Barber said that the RG HOA was not prepared to discuss the project's economic benefits until environmental concerns had been adequately addressed.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jodi Cunningham, 1749 NW 29th Way. Ms. Cunningham discussed this Agenda item and its impact on flooding concerns.

Vice Mayor Sorensen made a motion to extend the meeting until 12:15 a.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman.

APPROVED

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Calvin Sapp. Mr. Sapp commented on the proposed redesignation of the property from residential to commercial, suggesting it should be used for residential housing.

Mayor Trantalis explained that the property had been used as a dump and incineration site despite being zoned residential, said the residential designation was inappropriate given the site's longstanding industrial use, and expressed concern about the suitability of constructing residential units on a formerly contaminated site. Further comment and discussion ensued.

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

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Lochrie explained that this Agenda item is the first reading of a land use plan amendment to change the property's designation from residential to commercial and represents the beginning of a multi-step review process that includes Broward County. The Planning and Zoning Board had recommended approval of both the land use amendment and rezoning to B-3. In response to community and Commission feedback, Mr. Lochrie said the applicant will pursue a more restrictive B-2 zoning designation. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Lochrie confirmed the proposed project is a logistics warehouse. In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding whether a data center could be developed on the site, Mr. Lochrie said that no data center has been proposed or is contemplated as part of the application. Mr. Lochrie agreed the applicant would voluntarily record a declaration of restrictive covenants regarding use of the property that would accompany the Ordinance prior to the Second Reading. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Lochrie said the applicant is willing to record a binding restrictive covenant limiting the property's future use and giving both the City and neighborhood associations a role in approving any future changes.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Anthony Fajardo, Development Services Department Director, explained that a restrictive covenant declaration would be a separate legally binding document rather than part of the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Fajardo confirmed that staff could facilitate discussions among the neighboring communities and said that the Comprehensive Plan could include a reference to the restrictive covenant.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about concerns with data centers, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman cited potential impacts on nearby residents including noise, utility demands, and impacts on residents' quality of life.

Mr. Lochrie said that the applicant would prepare a declaration of restrictive covenants for review by staff and the Office of the City Attorney. He said neighborhood input would be welcomed during the drafting process and noted that the covenant could be structured to benefit neighborhood associations even if they are not signatories. Mr. Lochrie said that the applicant has held five (5) community meetings over the past year and intends to continue engaging residents throughout the review process.

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

PASSED FIRST READING

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

ORDINANCE FIRST READING

OFR-1 26-0194 First Reading - Ordinance Amending Chapter 28, Article II of the Code of Ordinances to Clarify Ownership, Maintenance, Repair, Installation, and Cost Responsibility for Sewer Laterals and Related Sewer Infrastructure - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Feliks Sukhovitsky, 820 NW 26th Avenue, Artisan Lux Builders. Mr. Sukhovitsky spoke in support of this Agenda item.

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

PASSED FIRST READING

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

OFR-2 26-0294 First Reading - Quasi-Judicial Ordinance Approving the Vacation of a 127-Foot-Long and Forty (40)-Foot-Wide Portion of NE 8 Street and NE 15 Avenue - GO-3 Development, Inc. - Case No. UDP-V25001 - (Commission District 2)

Anyone wishing to speak must be sworn in. The Commission will announce any site visits, communications or expert opinions received and make them part of the record.

Each Commission Member disclosed verbal communications, written communications, site visits, and expert opinions received.

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding emails from residents related to this Agenda item, Albert Carbon, Utility Services Department Director, clarified that property owners are responsible only for maintaining private sewer lateral connections on their property, while the City is responsible for sewer laterals located within public rights-of-way and easements. Mr. Carbon confirmed that staff would revise the Ordinance prior to Second Reading to more clearly distinguish the maintenance and repair responsibilities of the City and property owners based on the location of the sewer lateral. Mr. Carbon said that the revisions would clarify that private sewer laterals may be repaired, relined, or replaced, as appropriate. Further comment and discussion ensued.

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

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

PASSED FIRST READING

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

OFR-3 26-0295 First Reading - Quasi-Judicial Ordinance Approving the Vacation of a 719 Square Foot Right-of-Way and Road Easement within a Ten (10)-Foot-wide by Sixty-Five (65)-Foot-long Portion of NE 15 Avenue - GO-3 Development, Inc. - Case No. UDP-V25002 - (Commission District 2)

Anyone wishing to speak must be sworn in. The Commission will announce any site visits, communications or expert opinions received and make them part of the record.

Each Commission Member disclosed verbal communications, written communications, site visits, and expert opinions received.

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

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

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

PASSED FIRST READING

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

WALK-ON RESOLUTIONS

26-0509 WALK-ON - Resolution Calling a Special Municipal Election to be held on November 3, 2026, to Elect a City Commissioner from Commission District 1, and Establishing a Qualifying Period for the Special Municipal Election

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

ADOPTED

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

26-0461 WALK-ON - Resolution Providing Notice of Intent to Enter into a Comprehensive Agreement for a Qualifying Project for the Melrose Manors Stormwater Improvements Project, Accepting Unsolicited Proposal from Man-Con, Inc., and Notice of Intent to Accept Other Proposals for the Same Project - (Commission Districts 3)

City Manager Williams said that staff would coordinate with City Clerk Soloman to ensure the required notices are submitted to the Florida Administrative Register. Once the filing dates are established, the Commission will be notified, and the twenty-one (21)-day competitive period will commence.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman introduced this Resolution providing a twenty-one (21) day competitive period to accept other proposals for this project which was read by title only.

ADOPTED - 21 Day Period to Accept Other Proposals

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

26-0462 WALK-ON - Resolution Providing Notice of Intent to Enter into a Comprehensive Agreement for a Qualifying Project for the Riverland Stormwater Improvements Project, Accepting Unsolicited Proposal from David Mancini & Sons, Inc., and Notice of Intent to Accept Other Proposals for the Same Project - (Commission Districts 3)

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman introduced this Resolution providing a twenty-one (21) day competitive period to accept other proposals for this project which was read by title only.

ADOPTED - 21 Day Period to Accept Other Proposals

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 12:09 a.m.

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Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

ATTEST:

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David R. Soloman
City Clerk