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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

1:30 PM

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

City Commission Conference 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

RICHELLE 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 1:40 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Vice Mayor John C. Herbst (arrived at 1:44 p.m.), Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

[26-0055](#)

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

Two or more members of the Planning and Zoning Board may be present and participate in the discussion of this item at this meeting.

*Budget Advisory Board (BAB)
December 10, 2025*

Communication to City Commission

A copy of this Communication is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

William Brown, Budget Advisory Board Chair, explained the BAB communication. There were no questions from Commission Members.

*Planning and Zoning Board Meeting (P&Z) Board
December 17, 2025*

Communication to City Commission

A copy of this Communication is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Ella Parker, Development Services Department Deputy Director, explained the communication. In response to Mayor Trantalis'

question, Ms. Parker clarified information related to amending the public participation meeting timeline that would apply to any issue before the P&Z Board, not just right-of-way vacations.

Commissioner Glassman discussed the P&Z Board's recommended one (1) year timeline and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued. Ms. Parker suggested a six (6) month timeline, and said staff would bring forth an amendment to the Commission.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [26-0082](#)

Update - Broward Schools Redefining Initiative - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Two or more members of the School Board of Broward County may be present and participate in the discussion of this item at this meeting.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Leon, Chief Education Officer. Ms. Leon discussed background information regarding this initiative driven by under enrollment and shifting demographics and noted the goal is to optimize resources and improve programs. Ms. Leon narrated a presentation entitled *Update - Broward Schools Redefining Initiative*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Dr. Valerie Wanza, Broward County Public Schools Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, explained information and details associated with Alternative High Schools and its three (3) programs, including programs for adults with disabilities, teen parents, and a school of choice for high school students struggling in traditional high school settings.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Dr. Wanza explained the Whitten Rogers Education Center (WREC) functions as a multi-program alternative education hub, serving non-traditional middle and high school students that also provides statutorily required educational services in detention and juvenile justice settings. The WREC aligns both operationally and programmatically with Seagull Alternative High School (Seagull) and cited examples.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Dr. Wanza explained the financial savings that would be realized by merging WREC and Seagull, including reduced administrative overhead. The consolidation creates an opportunity to repurpose the Seagull campus for a future partnership between the Broward County Public Schools District (District) and the City to deliver broader community safety benefits.

Ms. Leon explained the District is actively evaluating a second school consolidation involving North Fork Elementary (North Fork), which may result in repurposing the campus. A formal decision is expected following the January 21, 2026, School Board of Broward County (School Board) Meeting.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Dr. Wanza explained that the School Board has received formal proposals for potential reuse of the North Fork campus, including proposals from Junior Achievement of South Florida to develop a Workforce Training Center, Sistrunk Rising to focus on housing and community resource services, United Way for community-based programming, and the Museum of Discovery and Science that would keep North Fork open and transition it into a museum magnet school. A School Board Workshop is planned in March 2026 to formally review the proposals and provide direction to the School Board Superintendent regarding future use of the North Fork campus. Mayor Trantalis expressed concern with mixing elementary school-age children with adult-oriented activities.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Grant, Special Assistant to City Manager. Ms. Grant continued narrating the presentation addressing details of Seagull.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question about whether the City could utilize a recently constructed Broward County Sheriff's Office (BSO) training facility, Assistant Police Chief Steven Greenlaw discussed co-utilizing that facility with BSO and noted that the facility might not meet the City's Police Department training needs due to high demand from other law enforcement entities and explained related information. In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question, Assistant Chief Greenlaw discussed the K-9 Training locations. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis remarked

on utilizing future vacant land located at the former Police Headquarters site for law enforcement training. Vice Mayor Herbst noted the need to remain mindful of ongoing workforce and affordable housing needs in the downtown area and expounded on his perspective.

Fire-Rescue Department Chief Stephen Gollan explained the benefits of the Seagull site for a Fire-Rescue Training Facility. In response to City Manager Williams' question, Chief Stephen Gollan discussed Fire-Rescue training needs and explained that Fire-Rescue currently uses external training facilities and noted that those options require units to leave the City, increasing call-coverage challenges and requiring backfilling with overtime. Chief Gollan discussed the benefits associated with repurposing a former school campus for training.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question, Chief Gollan explained that locating Fire-Rescue training within the City preserves operational readiness, allows units to remain in-zone, and enables rapid recall during emergencies. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Herbst cautioned that any discussions regarding the Seagull campus should proceed with the understanding that the School Board intends to maximize its financial return. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding funding availability, Ms. Grant emphasized that discussions are still in the preliminary, exploratory stages, and no specific acquisition strategy or funding source has been identified. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding keeping students in their local community as part of the proposed North Fork consolidation, Dr. Wanza explained details of the two (2) options presented during the December 9, 2025, School Board Workshop: transitioning all North Fork students to Walker Elementary; or, redistributing North Fork students into Croissant Park, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, and Walker Elementary Schools. Dr. Wanza explained the second option received stronger support and became the Superintendent's recommendation.

Commissioner Sorensen expressed support for exploring Seagull's use as a combined Police Department and Fire-Rescue Department training facility. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Chief Gollan confirmed that the City currently pays fees to use external training facilities. Chief Gollan noted that avoiding recurring usage fees represents potential cost savings of an in-City training facility. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen reiterated his support of addressing affordable housing needs. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Chris Cooper, Deputy City Manager, explained the Broadview Housing Project is progressing through Broward County permitting. It involves the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale (HACFL) and is planned as a 500+ unit mixed-housing development. Staff is actively addressing remaining issues to enable construction.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Williams explained that the purpose of this presentation was to provide detailed information and obtain Commission feedback and direction on its interest in using the Seagull site as a public safety training facility and on potential opportunities for the North Fork campus to allow staff to move forward. Commissioner Sorensen recommended staff initiate discussions with the School Board to evaluate a low-cost lease of Seagull for public safety training, supported by a cost-benefit and revenue analysis, with the goal of maximizing public safety training capacity and minimizing fiscal impact.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman noted that she had spoken with City Manager Williams regarding North Fork and said that the property is a prime location with significant historic and cultural importance, including documentation indicating it may contain an indigenous burial ground. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman requested staff explore assuming control of the property with the intent of retaining a voice in its future use and historical preservation. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented on using taxpayer dollars to obtain property that could not be developed.

In response to City Manager Williams' request for clarification, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed that she is open to repurposing the existing North Fork structures for non-educational uses and said that the site presents an opportunity to explore its adaptive reuse. Commissioner Sorensen concurred and discussed his viewpoint.

Commissioner Glassman noted the need for further research and due diligence to determine historic aspects of the North Fork site. City Manager Williams confirmed staff would conduct related outreach and research.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Heather Brinkworth, 2609 NE 26 Street. Ms. Brinkworth discussed her support and viewpoint regarding this Agenda item.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding Education Advisory Board (EAB) input on this Agenda item, Ms. Grant noted an EAB Communication to the Commission at the November 5, 2025, Conference Meeting expressed support for using Seagull as a training facility. Ms. Grant said that the EAB has not addressed the topic of North Fork. Ms. Leon confirmed the EAB will discuss North Fork at the upcoming Meeting on January 15, 2026, prior to the School Board Meeting on January 25, 2026. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis said that actions regarding consolidation and repurposing of school sites are fundamentally business decisions that rest with the School Board and expounded on his viewpoint.

BUS-2 [25-0702](#)

Fireworks and Drone Show Options Presentation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Amy Jean-Baptiste, Parks and Recreation Department Deputy Director. Ms. Jean-Baptiste narrated a presentation entitled *Fireworks and Drone Show Options for City Produced Events*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Jean-Baptiste explained details of the *Downtown Countdown* event. Mayor Trantalis recommended focusing on the *4th of July Spectacular* event (*4th of July Event*) for purposes of this discussion and explained his reasoning. Mayor Trantalis recommended that staff pursue sponsorships from developers and Broward County for the upcoming *4th of July Event* celebrating the nation's 250th Anniversary. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ms. Jean-Baptiste commented on the environmental impact of fireworks displays. Commissioner Sorensen discussed his support of only having a drone show at the upcoming *4th of July Event*, explained his research regarding the negative environmental impacts from fireworks, cited examples, and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recommended musical accompaniment to a drone show and concurred with Commissioner Sorensen regarding negative environmental aspects of firework displays. City Manager Williams said that pairing a drone show with a musical accompaniment should not be a challenge. Vice Mayor Herbst noted the music component of a drone show is only accessible to those physically present at the beach.

Vice Mayor Herbst recommended not experimenting with alternative celebratory displays at the upcoming *4th of July Event* and expounded on his viewpoint regarding environmental impacts of firework displays. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis remarked on having both a fireworks display and a drone show.

Commissioner Glassman discussed feedback from District 2 residents, noting that a drone-only show raises significant visibility and equity concerns, particularly for boaters, and agreed that only having a drone show display may not be appropriate for the Nation's 250th Anniversary/*4th of July Event*. Commissioner Glassman remarked that a hybrid approach combining traditional fireworks with a modest drone display may offer a more inclusive and balanced solution.

Mayor Trantalis encouraged staff to seek outside funding and

partnerships to produce a high-quality *4th of July Event* to drive tourism and economic activity. He stressed the importance of staff acting quickly and not compromising quality. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-3 [26-0041](#)

City of Fort Lauderdale's Financial Integrity Principles and Policies Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Williams requested Commission feedback regarding updates to financial policies included in this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director. Ms. Reece narrated a presentation entitled *Financial Integrity Principles and Policies*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Keith Farrell, OMB Assistant Budget Manager, continued narrating the presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Farrell explained \$4,800,000 for the Emergency Fund Reserve (EFR) in the FY 2026 Budget was from a portion of the per and polyfluoroalkyl manufactured chemical substances (PFAS) settlement. It is expected to earn modest investment returns and not require annual replenishment.

Vice Mayor Herbst said that he does not support the creation of an EFR. He reiterated his prior opposition that the City already maintains sufficient reserves within its existing Fund Balance, stated that holding additional reserves burdens taxpayers.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question regarding the calculation of overhead and indirect costs, including whether the staff's methodology complies with the Federal Office of Management and Budget (FOMB) guidance, Mr. Farrell explained that they are calculated through a consultant cost allocation study, using a full cost model for general purposes and an FOMB-compliant model for grants.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question regarding whether the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) had changed its

reserve standards from two (2) months to three (3) months, Ms. Reece said that GFOA's best practice remains a minimum of two (2) months, but staff targeted three (3) months of reserves based on risk considerations and bond rating factors. Vice Mayor Herbst reiterated his disagreement and expounded on his viewpoint that bond ratings rely more on taxing authority than reserve size. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis noted the Commission's reluctance to raise taxes, which limits the City's ability to demonstrate financial flexibility to bond markets, and said that maintaining higher reserve levels is a way to demonstrate financial strength and creditworthiness to the bond markets.

Vice Mayor Herbst said that one (1) of the most important principles of financial reporting is timeliness and remarked on the inability of staff to meet financial reporting deadlines following fiscal year end. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Yvette Matthews, Assistant City Manager, agreed with Vice Mayor Herbst's concerns and explained that efforts are underway to meet financial reporting deadlines, including the implementation of new software to speed up the closeout process and ensure compliance.

Vice Mayor Herbst emphasized the need to fix the process, cited examples where software will not rectify issues, and expounded on related information. City Manager Williams acknowledged and recognized Vice Mayor Herbst's concerns and discussed efforts to address.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding the timely submission of financial reports, Ms. Matthews acknowledged that the City missed statutory reporting deadlines in recent years. She confirmed that staff is prioritizing training, process changes, and technology upgrades to meet statutory deadlines. Ms. Matthews confirmed staff efforts to meet the nine (9) month financial reporting deadline in Fiscal Year 2026. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on his understanding. In

response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Williams said that additional resources have been allocated to improve the timeliness of financial reporting and cited examples.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, City Auditor Reilly confirmed his support of a three (3) month reserve, explained information regarding the need for sufficient cash flow during emergencies, and cited examples. City Auditor Reilly said he favors retaining the nine (9) month financial reporting deadline and explained his perspective.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Williams confirmed staff received appropriate Commission feedback.

BUS-4 [26-0074](#)

Sewer Lateral Connections Presentation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Albert Carbon, Utility Services Department Director. Mr. Carbon narrated a presentation entitled *SEWER LATERAL CONNECTIONS PRESENTATION*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on past confusion amongst residents regarding responsibility for sewer lateral connections beneath the rights-of-way and summarized the policy illustrated in the presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding the status of sewer inflow and infiltration (I&I) rehabilitation efforts, Mr. Carbon provided an update, explained that work has not stopped, and remarked on pending completion of a consultant-led system evaluation. Mr. Carbon explained that limited, targeted pipelining and repairs are ongoing, and funding is identified in the FY 2026 Community Investment Program (CIP).

Mayor Trantalis discussed his concerns and perspective related to the City's Consent Order with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Williams confirmed staff is preparing related information that will be presented to the Commission during the January 13, 2026, Commission Prioritization Workshop. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-5 [26-0003](#)

Presentation of the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport's (FXE) History, Economic Impact, Revenue, Capital Improvement Plan, and Leasing Policy - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

CITY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

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

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman congratulated recent firefighter graduates.

Commissioner Glassman requested a moment of silence for Harry Stewart at tonight's Regular Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Glassman raised serious public safety concerns following recent incidents in the Himmarshee and Beach Place Special Entertainment Districts, which underscore the need to take a more aggressive approach to public safety in Special Entertainment Districts (SED) and expounded on his viewpoint and recommendations. Mayor Trantalis discussed his understanding of both incidents, and recommended reexamining SED parameters. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis requested City Manager Williams to schedule this discussion at an upcoming Conference Meeting.

Commissioner Glassman recalled that the Commission previously having a robust discussion on SED issues and reached conclusions that have not yet been implemented. He referenced a recent email from the Himmarshee Working Group, comprised of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Museum of Discovery and Science, History Fort Lauderdale, and the Downtown Development Authority, that recommended immediate prohibition of off-premises and outdoor alcohol consumption in the Himmarshee SED and significantly strengthening enforcement.

City Manager Williams acknowledged the need to strengthen public safety enforcement efforts in the Himmarshee SED, referring to a recent Letter to the Commission (LTC) that outlined comprehensive steps being taken to address concerns. She confirmed that staff will

present an updated Ordinance at a future Commission Meeting.

Chris Cooper, Deputy City Manager, provided an update outlining recent efforts to re-imagine the Himmarshee SED. In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question, Mr. Cooper explained that proposed amendments to the SED Ordinance would replace current requirements with a designated oversight entity responsible for ensuring compliance with SED public safety requirements. Oversight requirements include coordinated security plans for both individual business security and in the SED, and maintenance obligations such as sidewalk power washing and sustaining general cleanliness.

Vice Mayor Herbst requested a clearer update on aspects of the Ordinance related to open containers, sales of alcohol on the street, and hours of operations for bars in the Himmarshee SED. Mr. Cooper confirmed that the proposed Ordinance amendments would eliminate off-premise alcohol consumption and outdoor sales of alcoholic beverages, and would amend the hours during which the sale, consumption, and serving of alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

Vice Mayor Herbst discussed his longstanding discomfort with the late-night service of alcohol, particularly after midnight and beyond 2:00 a.m., and expounded on his viewpoint.

Mayor Trantalis discussed input from business owners in SEDs and his viewpoint regarding creating a negative culture that the City does not want to foster. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding an update on the original business-led "common control" entity established, Mr. Cooper said it no longer exists. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the creation of a new process or program to reestablish common control among participating Himmarshee SED businesses.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Cooper explained Himmarshee SED stakeholder outreach, and confirmed that staff would present a proposed Ordinance in February 2026, with the intent to have it in place prior to Spring Break.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question and request for an update on recent incidents in the Himmarshee SED and at Beach Place SED, Police Chief William Schultz noted that both incidents remain under active investigation, and remarked on the involvement of individuals from across South Florida.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Chief Schultz said that the Police Department receives intelligence prior to numerous high-risk periods and cited examples, including social media monitoring, community tips, and input from regional law-enforcement. Chief Schultz noted that sudden, unannounced gatherings can limit advance notice and explained Police staffing in the Himmarshee SED and beach areas.

Commissioner Glassman discussed his support for increasing police presence in SEDs as a crime deterrent and expounded on input from residents regarding the current level of public safety concerns. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Williams confirmed that both management and the Police Department are aligned in efforts to address public safety in SEDs and said that strategy adjustments are underway, with coordinated actions across multiple fronts aimed at improving safety.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Cooper said the proposed Ordinance amendment will uniformly eliminate open container/open alcohol sales across all five (5) entertainment districts, while district-specific oversight reforms will apply only to the Himmarshee SED. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Attorney McCartney said staff is actively evaluating SEDs hours of operation. Commissioner Sorensen remarked on the need to focus specifically on SEDs where challenges persist, particularly regarding hours of operation and open containers. Commissioner Glassman agreed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen requested the related Ordinance be brought forward as soon as possible, commenting that it would require two (2) readings. City Manager Williams confirmed efforts to bring the

Ordinance before the Commission for First Reading on February 3, 2026. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman raised concerns about underage drinking and asked whether a curfew could be imposed, requiring those under eighteen (18) to be accompanied by an adult in SEDs. City Manager Williams noted an upcoming ordinance amendment for Commission consideration includes a provision allowing for a curfew for individuals under the age of eighteen (18). She noted that the high-impact ordinance, and its curfew provision could be expanded beyond the beach to other areas of the City. Commissioner Glassman confirmed his support of extending that provision to other SEDs. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding restricting the hours of operation for businesses to serve alcoholic beverages. City Manager Williams discussed a 2:00 a.m. restriction. Commissioner Glassman confirmed his support.

Commissioner Glassman discussed the need for a faster, more aggressive timeline to finalize a City Hall comprehensive agreement, ideally by early spring. City Manager Williams confirmed that work is underway, key legal and administrative stakeholders are engaged, and efforts will proceed on an expedited basis with regular updates to the Commission.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's request for clarification regarding a recent LTC regarding two (2) unsolicited public private partnership (P3) proposals related to the Fortify Lauderdale Phase 1 Project (Project), City Manager Williams explained the LTC was informational and that two (2) unsolicited P3 proposals only addressed portions of the Project. City Manager Williams noted the need for the procurement process to be competitive and expounded on additional information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the Commission having an opportunity to review and evaluate unsolicited P3 proposals. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding whether the decision to advance or reject unsolicited P3 proposals rests with staff or the City Commission, City Manager Williams confirmed that the Commission has full authority to direct staff to bring the unsolicited proposals forward for discussion.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding whether the LTC approach represents the standard process for unsolicited proposals, City Manager Williams acknowledged there is no formally codified process and explained staff procedures in the past.

Commissioner Glassman reiterated support for encouraging innovative ideas to accelerate *Fortify Lauderdale* projects and stressed that to ensure transparency and clarity, unsolicited proposals should receive a “full hearing” before the Commission.

Vice Mayor Herbst discussed his experience as the previous City Auditor and past practices where staff conducts an initial professional screening of unsolicited proposals and may recommend rejection without advancing them to the Commission. Vice Mayor Herbst noted that ultimately the authority rests with the City Commission, which can override staff and require further consideration of an unsolicited proposal. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Attorney McCartney explained the State statute and confirmed that the Commission, not staff, has final authority over whether unsolicited proposals are accepted, rejected, or advanced. Staff may screen and recommend unsolicited proposals, but the Commission retains full control to set the review process and decide whether a proposal moves forward.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his understanding that staff's screening approach is consistent with past practice and is intended to inform, not supplant, Commission decision-making. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding timelines related to the Project and consideration of the unsolicited proposals, City Manager Williams said that given the advanced state of design and procurement related to the Project, staff finds no meaningful scheduling or financial benefit to pursuing the unsolicited proposals. Proceeding under the City's existing delivery method is recommended as the most efficient and advantageous path. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman expressed support for continuing the current path to avoid Project delays and expounded on her viewpoint. City Manager Williams remarked on aspects of the unsolicited proposals that would slow down the Project, confirmed the need for a cohesive, integrated Project and remarked on additional information. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman and Commission Sorensen concurred with Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's position.

Commissioner Sorensen reviewed his understanding and support of the process utilized by staff and said that this approach should serve as the model for handling future unsolicited proposals. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the need for transparency and the timely evaluation of unsolicited proposals, followed by prompt communication to the Commission. City Manager Williams agreed that the Commission should be informed early in the evaluation process and remarked on additional details.

Commissioner Sorensen proposed an informal timeline expectation of approximately two (2) to three (3) weeks after receipt of an unsolicited proposal to inform the Commission. City Manager Williams said this approach is reasonable and aligns with how they plan to handle future unsolicited proposals.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Attorney McCartney reconfirmed that the final decision-making authority on whether to pursue or engage with unsolicited proposals rests with the City Commission, independent of staff's recommendations.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding the Project timeline, City Manager Williams confirmed that the Project is moving forward toward procurement with bidding currently anticipated in July 2026.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Brad Kaine, Public Works Department Director. Mr. Kaine provided an update on technical aspects of the Project. He explained that a key constraint affecting the Project schedule and delivery is an easement issue, which staff is actively working with the property owner to resolve, to ensure the Project can

proceed on the current timeline. Mr. Kaine explained the implications of not obtaining the easement.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding the ability to speed up the timeline, Mr. Kaine noted it depends on obtaining the easement. Mayor Trantalis noted this is a legal issue. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question for a clear understanding of project-by-project timeline expectations for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of *Fortify Lauderdale* and impediments or constraints that could affect delivery, City Manager Williams said that within the next ninety (90) days, staff will bring forward an award recommendation to the Commission for a qualified vendor pool and expounded on related details. City Manager Williams said Phase 2 implementation will be driven by available funding capacity and will be delivered in tranches. Detailed schedules cannot yet be finalized because many *Fortify Lauderdale Phase 2 and Phase 3* projects are still in early design or not yet designed.

City Manager Williams confirmed staff will provide the Commission with high-level preliminary timelines. As the designs progress, staff will refine schedules and provide more detailed timelines.

Commissioner Sorensen requested additional information including potential pros and cons of unsolicited proposals for Phase 2 and Phase 3 projects, and where alternative delivery methods may or may not add value to ensure transparency for neighbors and the marketplace. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Glenn Marcos, Procurement Services Department Director, explained details of the multi-step procurement process for the Project in addition to Phase 2 and Phase 3. City Manager Williams confirmed the Project would be put out to bid when design is complete.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Williams said preliminary planning assumptions include staggered bond issuances tied to implementation tranches of approximately \$330,000,000 in 2026, and approximately \$350,000,000 in 2029,

2032, and 2035. These estimates have been built into rate modeling and include calculations of anticipated rate increases to support the related debt.

Commissioner Sorensen also requested staff provide high-level hypothetical scenarios showing the tradeoff between accelerating project delivery and larger bond drawdowns that would affect rates, to illustrate tradeoff information to residents. City Manager Williams confirmed.

Commissioner Glassman referenced a separate LTC letter received regarding an interactive digital kiosk (kiosk) program and expressed interest in learning more about the concept of having seen similar installations used successfully in other cities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed his support for placing a kiosk in an active pedestrian area such as *Tunnel Top Park*, expounded on related information, and recommended further Commission discussion. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Williams confirmed this topic would be scheduled as a Conference Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Bill Brown, 112 N. Birch Road, Central Beach Alliance (CBA) President. Mr. Brown discussed community support for the kiosk program and urged the City to advance it using the fastest cost-effective procurement method and discussed related information.

Commissioner Glassman said he has begun discussions with the Bahia Mar Development Team (BMDT) regarding the 1A alternative for *Fort Lauderdale Beach Park* (FLBP). His primary concern remains potential legal jeopardy related to the City's existing agreement with the Bahia Mar Community Development District (BMCDD).

Commissioner Glassman requested pursuing an extension of the January 2027 deadline for completing all required amenities at FLBP. Commissioner Glassman explained his efforts to proactively mitigate legal exposure and preserve flexibility. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen recognized Yvette Matthews and Tiffany Bain for being among those recognized by *Legacy South Florida's Most Prominent and Influential Black Women in Business and Industry for 2025*.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed Broward County's new bypass road and its efforts to alleviate traffic congestion in Port Everglades and along SE 17th Street.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on the implementation of a no-wake zone in the Intracoastal Waterway, which is being well received and represents a positive policy change to improve safety for residents, boaters, and waterfront neighborhoods.

MAYOR'S REPORT

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

MGR-1 [26-0001](#)

City Commission Follow-up Action Items and Letters to the Commission (LTC) - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Williams confirmed that staff is proactively coordinating public safety, communications, and event planning for Spring Break, and encouraged the Commission to provide input.

City Manager Williams discussed LTC No. 25-291, which provided an update on the Fort Lauderdale Police Department Headquarters project (Project). The demolition phase of the old headquarters is expected to begin imminently. Additionally, the Project Phase 2 evaluation by the City's third-party engineering consultant is expected by the end of the week and will be shared with the Commission.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Anthony Fajardo, Development Services Department Director, provided details regarding the timeline for demolition and testing results of WJE's Phase 2 Report. Both items will impact the date that the Commission can begin meeting in the new Community Center.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Williams confirmed Strategic Communications Office staff will ensure Sailboat Bend neighborhood residents are made aware of the

demolition of the old Police Headquarters.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Shari McCartney requested an Executive Closed-Door Session at the January 17, 2026, Commission Meeting at 4:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible to discuss pending litigation, pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, concerning the following matter(s):

Jada Servance v. City of Fort Lauderdale, et al.
Case No.: 0:23-cv-60555-JB

Present at the attorney-client session will be:

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis
Vice Mayor/Commissioner John C. Herbst
Commissioner Steven Glassman
Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman
Commissioner Ben Sorensen
City Manager Rickelle Williams
City Attorney Shari L. McCartney
Assistant City Attorney Robert M. Oldershaw
Outside Counsel Scott Alexander, Esq., Johnson, Anselmo, et al., and
Certified Court Reporter from Bailey-Entin Court Reporting

The estimated length of this session will be approximately 30 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.