

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 2, 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

BEN SORENSEN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District 4

JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District 1

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District 2

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District 3

RICHELLE WILLIAMS, City Manager

SHARI L. McCARTNEY, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

Commission Member Not Present: Commissioner John C. Herbst,

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

[26-0551](#)

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

Two or more members of the Central City Redevelopment Advisory Board may be present and participate in the discussion of this item at this meeting.

***Central City Redevelopment Advisory Board (CCRAB)
Wednesday, May 6, 2026***

Communication to the City Commission

A copy of the communication is part of the backup for this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis read the CCRAB communication regarding temporary safety signage for lane mergers on NW 13th Street and stated that the matter was an operational issue that did not require Commission action. City Manager Williams confirmed that management could address the request administratively.

CITY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

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

Commissioner Glassman announced that Phase Two of the Holiday

Park improvements had started and that the opening of the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center was completed as part of Phase One.

Mayor Trantalis commented on a recent newspaper article highlighting delays in Parks Bond projects, acknowledged that some projects had experienced delays and that additional staff had been hired to accelerate delivery. He discussed his viewpoint that the article did not recognize related accomplishments. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen agreed with Mayor Trantalis' comments, highlighted the substantial progress achieved through the Parks Bond Program, discussed related information, and cited examples. In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions, Quentin Pough, Assistant City Manager, provided an update on the Parks Bond Program and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman announced the restoration of the Las Olas Garage lighting, remarked on strong positive public feedback, and his support for its use during holidays and special events. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Williams confirmed staff would verify that the lighting is fully operational.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding the P25 Radio Communication System Refresh-Replacement project and concerns that delays could affect the City's public safety radio system and ongoing Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA) issues in buildings, City Manager Williams explained that after discussions with staff, the Office of the City Attorney, and vendors, she intends to recommend the Commission reject all proposals and quickly reissue the solicitation. Yvette Matthews, Assistant City Manager, explained that staff identified technical deficiencies in the RFP necessitating this action and expects to move quickly through the revised solicitation process and return to the Commission with a recommendation within a few months.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding whether restarting the procurement process would be fair after the proposals had become public, Ms. Matthews said fairness was a key consideration in the decision and explained that the vendors routinely compete against one another and are generally familiar with each other's technical specifications and proposal approaches. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's request for the

representative of the highest-ranked proposer to briefly address the Commission regarding procurement process, Mayor Trantalis said that allowing only one (1) proposer to speak would be unfair because the other proposers were not present to respond given staff's recommendation to reject all proposals and restart the procurement process. Commissioner Glassman acknowledged the concern, explaining that he had only hoped to hear the perspective of the highest-ranked proposer after hearing from staff. Commissioner Glassman withdrew his request.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding recent changes to Florida's Live Local Act and its application to publicly owned property, City Attorney McCartney confirmed that the Live Local Act does not allow private developers to develop City-owned property independently. Any project on public land requires the City's participation and approval.

Vice Mayor Sorensen suggested moving the start time of the Commission Conference Meetings to 12:30 p.m. to allow more time for discussion and reduce carrying conference items into the 6:00 p.m. Commission Regular Meeting. Mayor Trantalis confirmed his support of the current format and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman suggested starting Conference Meetings at 1:00 p.m. There was consensus to begin Conference Meetings at 1:00 p.m. City Manager Williams confirmed.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed the partnership with Miami Waterkeepers. In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's request for an update on the expanded water quality monitoring, Todd Hiteshew, Public Works Department Deputy Director, reported that the City is conducting weekly water quality samplings at fifteen (15) locations. Mr. Hiteshew explained that this routine testing identifies only bacteria levels, not their source. The City has launched Microbial Source Tracking (MST) at the five (5) locations that most frequently exceed bacteria standards. Mr. Hiteshew reviewed the first round of MST results, which detected human-source markers at all five (5) locations. The City will continue collecting data over the next year to evaluate trends and develop data-driven strategies for improving water quality.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding whether human-source markers could indicate sewer breaks, septic system failures, or other contamination sources, Mr. Hiteshew explained that MST identifies human-source contamination but cannot determine its exact origin. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding expanding testing sites, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman recommended concentrating resources on the five (5) highest-priority waterways and using the results to develop corrective actions rather than broadening the program at this time. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman noted that multiple governmental entities have jurisdiction over the Sweeting Park area, and encouraged staff to use the MST results to coordinate with other agencies and develop a targeted cleanup strategy. Vice Mayor Sorensen agreed.

Vice Mayor Sorensen requested staff to return in six (6) months with an update on the MST results and recommended next steps. Mayor Trantalis agreed that continued testing is important but emphasized that testing alone is not the objective. The focus should shift toward identifying and eliminating the sources of contamination, including inflow and infiltration (I&I) and noted that several locations, such as Himmarshee Canal, have exhibited poor water quality for years, yet the underlying causes remain unknown. Vice Mayor Sorensen agreed and suggested considering reducing testing at locations with consistently satisfactory results and concentrating monitoring and resources on the identified hotspots. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding whether staff could begin developing strategies to address the elevated bacteria levels at the five (5) priority monitoring sites rather than waiting until the completion of the testing program, City Manager Williams agreed to begin developing strategies for addressing contamination at the five (5) priority sites, including exploring partnerships with technical experts, and identifying any budget needs to support future corrective actions.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's request, Mr. Hiteshew identified Broward County, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and the City of Lauderhill as the primary agencies responsible for the North Fork of the New River near Sweeting Park. Broward County maintains its stormwater infrastructure and investigates pollution sources on its side of the waterway. Mr. Hiteshew confirmed that ongoing collaboration and additional MST data will help clarify contamination sources and inform future remediation efforts. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman urged staff to work with the responsible agencies to develop a unified strategy for improving water quality.

Vice Mayor Sorensen encouraged staff to pursue a comprehensive,

collaborative approach to improving water quality, including leveraging university partnerships and technical expertise to support remediation efforts citywide.

Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on the possibility of expanding City communications to include languages such as Spanish and Haitian Creole to better serve the City's diverse population. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman agreed and said that the District 3 Office has begun distributing information in Spanish and Haitian Creole to meet resident needs. City Manager Williams said she would collaborate with the Strategic Communications Office and present recommendations to the Commission before implementation. There was Commission support for making City communications more inclusive and accessible. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on the proposed State constitutional amendment related to property taxes that will appear on the November 2026 ballot and its potential impact on local governments. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman expressed concern about the proposal and asked whether the City could provide residents with objective information explaining its potential effects.

Mayor Trantalis recommended adding a City Commission Conference Agenda item so staff can prepare a comprehensive analysis of the proposal. Mayor Trantalis commented on the importance of preparing for all possible outcomes. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman agreed, noting that residents are hearing conflicting narratives about the proposal and its potential effect on local government services. She said a staff analysis would help educate the public by explaining how the amendment could affect municipal operations and services if approved. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Williams said that staff prepared an educational outreach campaign on the proposed property tax amendment and will finalize and distribute the materials. Staff are also prepared to present details on potential fiscal impacts and possible response strategies.

Mayor Trantalis advised that the Commission should first establish its policy direction before launching the public education campaign. He emphasized the importance of communicating to residents how the City plans to address the potential impacts before beginning outreach. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding a timeline. The Commission agreed to schedule a discussion before the summer recess and before broader public outreach is undertaken.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding clarification

of the projected fiscal impacts if the proposed amendment is approved by voters, Ms. Matthews explained that, based on the proposal as understood at the time, the City estimates a revenue reduction of approximately \$17,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2028, and explained related information. In Fiscal Year 2029, when the exemption increases, the projected impact grows to approximately \$27,300,000. Beginning in the third year, the exemption would increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), resulting in additional revenue reductions. Ms. Matthews explained additional details and information associated with the proposed legislation.

Mayor Trantalis suggested postponing a more detailed discussion, noting that this issue warrants a comprehensive review. Commissioner Glassman suggested dedicating the June 16, 2026, Joint Workshop with the Budget Advisory Board (BAB) to discussing the proposed State constitutional property tax amendment due to its significant fiscal implications. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis sought clarification regarding the percentage of properties that are not homestead exempt, asking whether the category referred to commercial properties rather than rental properties. Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, explained that the previously discussed percentage relates to residential properties and clarified that residential rental properties are considered non-homesteaded, while owner-occupied residences receiving the homestead exemption make up the remaining share.

MAYOR'S REPORT

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

Mayor Trantalis remarked on a memorandum distributed by City Manager Williams regarding a proposed parking agreement for the 110 East Broward/Riverwalk Garage, expressed concern about the proposed fifty (50) year lease term, and cautioned that such a long-term agreement could limit the City's ability to redevelop the property or require significant penalties for early termination if future redevelopment opportunities arise.

Mayor Trantalis urged staff to preserve the City's flexibility by avoiding long-term parking agreements that could hinder future redevelopment, particularly for potential mixed-use or educational opportunities. City Manager Williams said that the memorandum was provided for informational purposes to keep Commissioners informed of potential real estate activity while staff develops a standard operating procedure

for evaluating such opportunities.

Vice Mayor Sorensen confirmed his support for maintaining flexibility for future redevelopment of the Riverwalk Garage site. Mayor Trantalis remarked on discussions involving Florida Atlantic University and the potential for a larger mixed-use academic presence downtown.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

MGR-1 [26-0514](#)

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

City Manager Williams recognized Deputy Fire-Rescue Chief Jermaine Frazier as Firefighter of the Year and congratulated all Fire Rescue honorees and recently promoted personnel for their outstanding service and dedication.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Shari McCartney noted the upcoming Executive Closed-Door Session later today to discuss pending litigation, pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, concerning the following matter(s): City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal Case No.: 4D2025-2783 City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation Florida Division of Administrative Hearings Case No.: 25-004856RU City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal Case No.: 4D2026-0271

Present at the attorney-client session will be:

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis
Vice Mayor/Commissioner Ben Sorensen
Commissioner John C. Herbst
Commissioner Steven Glassman
Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman
City Manager Rickelle Williams
City Attorney Shari L. McCartney
Deputy City Attorney D'Wayne M. Spence
Outside Counsel Howard D. DuBosar, Esq., Weiss Serota, et al.,
Outside Counsel Jeremy S. Rosner, Esq., Weiss Serota, et al., and
Certified Court Reporter from Bailey-Entin Court Reporting

The estimated length of each session will be approximately 15

minutes for a cumulative length of 45 minutes.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [26-0573](#)

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

City Manager Williams gave an overview of this agenda item and announced that Sergeant Eric Pekrol, Police Department Emergency Management Coordinator, Ben Rogers, Assistant City Manager, and Jermaine Frazier, Fire-Rescue Department Deputy Chief, would be giving a presentation entitled *2026 Storm Season Preparedness*.

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

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, Mr. Rogers explained information related to automated options for sandbagging

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding the number of high-water emergency vehicles, Deputy Chief Frazier confirmed that four (4) are in service. Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on their usefulness during flooding events. In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding adding additional high-water emergency vehicles, Officer Pekrol explained receipt of improved equipment to meet high water emergency response needs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding whether there is adequate inventory of pump equipment for flooding, Mr. Hiteshew explained that the current inventory is four (4) with an additional five (5) on order, and the ability to contract for additional pumps with existing vendors during a flood emergency. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding pump capacity.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding the pumping capacity of the new pump equipment, Mr. Hiteshew confirmed the City is purchasing high-capacity pumps comparable to those used by contractors.

BUS-2 [26-0450](#)

Limiting Outdoor Events on the Barrier Island - Parks and Recreation Department (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Department Director. Mr. Williams narrated a presentation entitled *Limiting Outdoor Events on the Barrier Island*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup for this Agenda

item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding road closures for special events, Mr. Williams said the level of traffic depends on the type of event. Events like marathons require road closures for setup, during the event, and for cleanup, which can limit neighborhood access beyond event times. Mr. Williams commented on how these closures affect residents and described staff efforts to give early notice and work with event organizers to reduce impacts on nearby neighborhoods.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions about the Neighborhood/Civic Association Outdoor Event Acknowledgment Form that event promoters must complete, Mr. Williams said the road closure part asks promoters to explain how the planned road closures might affect nearby neighborhoods. Staff also requires promoters to reach out to affected neighborhoods and civic groups as part of the special event process. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on staff's idea to set aside one quiet weekend each month without special events. Mr. Williams explained that the dates of a quiet weekend would change each month depending on the event schedule. In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Williams said staff would look into creating a calendar showing upcoming special events and quiet weekends and noted that some events might have long setup and cleanup timelines outside of the official event days.

City Manager Williams noted that not all neighborhood and civic associations meet regularly and some suspend meetings during the summer months. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Sorensen recommended that, in those instances, staff communicate with designated neighborhood representatives.

In response to Mr. Williams' request for Commission feedback regarding recommendations included in the presentation, Commissioner Glassman expressed support and encouraged staff to continue moving forward with implementation.

Commissioner Glassman discussed resident feedback regarding significant Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) repair projects at the Las Olas Boulevard Bridge and Sunrise Boulevard Bridge. Residents requested that the City refrain from approving any new special events involving those areas until the bridge construction projects are completed. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the duration of those bridge projects.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the duration of the FDOT bridge projects, Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, explained that the Las Olas Boulevard Bridge project is anticipated to last about one (1) year, while the Sunrise Boulevard Bridge project is expected to continue for approximately eighteen (18) months.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed his support for staff recommendations to implement the Neighborhood/Civic Association Outdoor Event Acknowledgment Form and designate a monthly quiet weekend. Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on whether there should be a limit on the number of special events involving road closures each month, suggesting a maximum of two (2) road closure events per month. Mr. Williams explained that the City typically hosts approximately nineteen (19) special events involving road closures annually. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen noted that resident complaints regarding access to and from the barrier island during special events have declined significantly compared with previous years, crediting the coordinated efforts to improve traffic management. He suggested that any future discussion of road closure limits should consider the specific characteristics of each event rather than relying solely on a numerical cap.

Mr. Williams noted that implementation of the proposed quiet weekend policy would require a transition period to honor commitments for previously approved special events.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on reducing the overall number of road closure events, noted the number of planned road closures scheduled in November 2026, and requested additional information on the annual event schedule before considering potential limits. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman reiterated his interest in reviewing the specific road closure events scheduled throughout the year, particularly those occurring in November, before determining whether limits on road closures should be established.

Mr. Williams said that staff was compiling the list of affected events and identified several November events, including the Turkey Trot and 13.1 Half Marathon, noting that these are long-standing community events. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Utility Services Department (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Kyle Stevens, Stantec Project Manager. Mr. Stevens narrated a presentation entitled *Water and Sewer Rate Study*.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding the Water and Sewer Utility financial projections, Mr. Stevens confirmed that the forecast assumes the planned nine percent (9%) water rate increase and five percent (5%) sewer rate increase for the upcoming fiscal year. Mayor Trantalis noted that, despite the proposed rate increases, the financial projections still reflect an estimated \$5 million cash flow deficit for Fiscal Year 2027. Mr. Stevens confirmed.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding the City's water bill adjustment program, Mr. Stevens explained that the percentages listed in the presentation covers the preceding nineteen (19) month period. In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding how many customers had requested credits compared with those who received them, Yvette Matthews, Assistant City Manager, explained that the City approved approximately eighteen hundred (1,800) leak adjustment requests and four hundred eleven (411) unusual consumption credits. Linda Short, Finance Department Director, said that the City tracks only applications that meet the eligibility criteria and are approved. The City does not track inquiries or requests that do not qualify for credits.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's request for clarification regarding the City's *one-time lifetime* unusual consumption credit policy, Ms. Short explained that the limitation applies to the property owner. If ownership changes and a new utility account is established, eligibility begins anew for the new owner. The one-time limitation applies only to unusual consumption credits, but leak adjustment credits may be granted multiple times, provided the customer documents that the leak has been repaired, and all program requirements are met.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recalled that the Commission had previously discussed revising the *one-time lifetime* unusual consumption credit policy because it was considered restrictive. Ms. Short clarified that previous Commission discussions focused on modifying the threshold for unusual consumption credits and policies related to establishing new utility accounts, and the *one-time limitation* for unusual consumption credits remained unchanged.

Vice Mayor Sorensen suggested that the City begin tracking the number of customers who request or inquire about utility bill credits, rather than only those whose applications are approved. He said collecting that data would help the Commission identify trends in customer concerns and better evaluate the effectiveness of the credit program. Ms. Short confirmed that staff would evaluate the feasibility of collecting and reporting that information. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system that would provide accurate information to improve data, which is anticipated to be online in 2027.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions, Ms. Short explained that to qualify, a customer's usage must exceed twice the average monthly consumption over the preceding twelve (12) months. The two (2) month maximum refers to the period for which the City may apply a leak adjustment. If a leak remains undetected for several months, the City may adjust charges for only the two (2) most recent months, rather than the entire period during which the leak occurred.

Mayor Trantalis noted under this policy, the customer is still paying for water usage but at a lower tier rate. Ms. Short confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding this topic and related history.

Mayor Trantalis remarked that once a customer's water usage increases dramatically due to a leak, the distinction between exceeding one hundred fifty percent (150%) or two hundred (200%) percent of normal water usage becomes less meaningful because the consumption is already substantially above normal levels. Mr. Stevens concurred.

Mayor Trantalis emphasized the need to address significant, unexpected water usage spikes and expressed confidence that the new AMI system will help reduce future billing issues through earlier leak detection.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding the difference between a capped and uncapped leak adjustment, Mr. Stevens explained that qualifying leak adjustments do not cap the amount of water consumption billed. Instead, all water used during the leak remains billable, but the excess consumption is recalculated at the lowest (Tier 1) water rate rather than the higher tiered rates. The customer's total bill is reduced, but charges for the actual water consumed are not eliminated. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding the estimated fiscal impact of expanding Tier 1 water leak adjustment billing, Mr. Stevens explained that the estimated cost of the proposed leak adjustment change represents the maximum potential exposure. Mr. Stevens recommended adopting FY 2027 utility fee adjustments, including revised water capacity fees, updated miscellaneous fees, and the proposed leak adjustment policy.

Ms. Matthews requested policy direction on recommendations included in the presentation to allow staff to prepare related ordinances. She confirmed expedited implementation of the AMI as the City's top priority and said that capping adjusted leak bills at a customer's average bill would provide the level of relief many residents have expected. There was Commission consensus regarding related recommendations.

BUS-4 [26-0219](#)

Vacation Rental Enforcement: Current Practices and Opportunities for Enhancement - Community Services Department (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Katrina Johnson, Community Services Department Assistant Director. Ms. Johnson narrated a presentation entitled *Vacation Rental Enforcement Current Practices and Framework Enhancements*.

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

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding whether Code Enforcement fines attach to the individual or to the property, Ms. Johnson confirmed that the fines are property-based liens and attach to the property rather than the property owner.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding additional information about the basis for Hollywood's \$5,000 per day illegal vacation rental fine, Ms. Johnson agreed to research and report back.

Vice Mayor Sorensen noted that the proposed ordinance establishes a \$1,000-per-day penalty for operating a vacation rental without a valid Certificate of Compliance. In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding whether the enforcement process used during Spring Break would continue year-round, Ms. Johnson confirmed that the proposed ordinance would authorize the same enforcement approach on a year-round basis for properties operating without a valid Certificate of Compliance. Vice Mayor Sorensen expressed support for the proposal.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding interim measures to address gaps in Code Enforcement coverage on Monday through Wednesday, City Manager Williams said staff would review available overtime funding to determine whether temporary enforcement coverage could be expanded.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding the process for complaints, Ms. Johnson explained that a Code Enforcement Inspector first responds to the property and then contacts the property owner or responsible party, who is required by ordinance to arrive at the property within one (1) hour of notification by Code Enforcement. Vice Mayor Sorensen emphasized the importance of inspectors responding immediately so that illegal activity can be addressed while it is occurring.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding delays in implementing one hundred eighty (180) or three hundred sixty-five (365) day vacation rental suspensions after repeat violations, Ms. Johnson explained that the effective date of a suspension is currently at the discretion of the Special Magistrate but advised that the ordinance could be amended to establish the period before a suspension takes effect. Vice Mayor Sorensen expressed support for that approach.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding vacation rental owners who continue operating during a suspension by claiming to rent for thirty (30) days or longer, Ms. Johnson explained that Code Enforcement Officers actively monitor suspended properties by observing activity, checking vehicles, and contacting occupants. If inspectors determine that a property is operating as an illegal short-term of less than thirty (30) days during its suspension period, the City issues a violation carrying a \$1,000-per-day penalty. Ms. Johnson confirmed that staff believes the monitoring process is effective.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding whether an expired Certificate of Compliance should be treated the same as operating without a certificate, Ms. Johnson advised that the ordinance could be amended accordingly and recommended including language to accommodate administrative delays on the City's part, so property owners are not penalized because of City processing delays. Vice Mayor Sorensen concurred.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Vanessa Sperduto, 2525 Gulfstream Lane, Easybreezy BNB. Ms. Sperduto spoke in opposition to this

Agenda item and urged the City to engage compliant hosts in developing the ordinance and expounded on her viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Lilia Russo, 2525 Gulfstream Lane, Easybreezy BNB. Ms. Russo spoke in opposition to this Agenda item and recommended focusing enforcement on disruptive guests rather than compliant property owners.

Mayor Trantalis and Vice Mayor Sorensen requested staff to continue discussions with Ms. Russo and Ms. Sperduto offline to evaluate potential enforcement measures targeting disruptive vacation rental guests.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Brian Donaldson, 3321 NE 16th Street, Birch Park Beach Homeowner's Association President. Mr. Donaldson spoke in support of this Agenda item, explained how his neighborhood actively addresses vacation rentals, remarked on staff recommendations, and expounded on his viewpoint.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding limitations on repeat parking citations at short-term vacation rentals, staff responded there were no limitations. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding parking concerns and the increasing use of vacant private lots for overflow parking by short-term vacation rental guests.

BUS-5 [26-0504](#)

City of Fort Lauderdale Lien Amnesty Program: Current Practices, Municipal Comparison, and Opportunities for Enhancement - Community Services Department (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Porshia Garcia, Community Services Department Director. Ms. Garcia narrated a presentation entitled *Lien Amnesty Program Overview*.

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

Mayor Trantalis supported limiting the proposed lien amnesty to a fifty percent (50%) lien reduction and discussed whether commercial properties should remain excluded or be permitted to seek amnesty through an administrative review process.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding whether commercial property owners could still request code enforcement lien amnesty, even if they were not automatically eligible under the

proposed program, Ms. Garcia explained that the Commission could either permit commercial and industrial property owners to seek amnesty through administrative review.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman expressed support for excluding commercial properties from the proposed amnesty program based on her experience with repeat code violations in District 3.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his support of excluding commercial properties from automatic amnesty but favored allowing them to seek relief on a case-by-case basis. Vice Mayor Sorensen agreed with Mayor Trantalis' suggestion to allow both commercial and residential property owners an opportunity to seek relief from code enforcement liens through an administrative review process, with the ability to appeal to the City Commission. Mayor Trantalis clarified that his preference was for an administrative review first, followed by Commission consideration if warranted. Vice Mayor Sorensen agreed.

Vice Mayor Sorensen concurred with staff's proposed amnesty revisions and noted that, even with a fifty percent (50%) reduction, the City's program would remain significantly more generous than those of comparable municipalities, expounded on his viewpoint, and asked if the Commission should consider reducing the lien amnesty even further to more closely align with neighboring municipalities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Attorney McCartney cautioned that allowing appeals of amnesty decisions to the Commission could create a voluminous number of cases and suggested relying primarily on administrative review.

Mayor Trantalis agreed that some form of appeal or review process should remain available for property owners presumed ineligible for code enforcement lien amnesty, either through an administrative review or another appropriate level and expounded on his viewpoint. Mayor Trantalis confirmed support for staff's recommendation for a fifty percent (50%) lien reduction.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Troy Liggett, 707 NE 17th Court, Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association President. Mr. Liggett noted his support of this Agenda item and expounded on his viewpoint.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION - 4:30 P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE

26-0480

The City Commission shall meet privately to discuss pending litigation, pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes,

concerning the following matter(s):

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal Case No.: 4D2025-2783

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Division of Administrative Hearings Case No.: 25-004856RU

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal Case No.: 4D2026-0271

Mayor Trantalis announced the commencement of the Executive Closed-Door Session at 5:02 p.m. regarding pending litigation, pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, concerning the following matter(s):

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation Florida
Fourth District Court of Appeal Case No.: 4D2025-2783

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation Florida
Division of Administrative Hearings Case No.: 25-004856RU

City of Fort Lauderdale v. Florida Department of Transportation Florida
Fourth District Court of Appeal Case No.: 4D2026-0271

Present at the attorney-client session will be:

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis
Vice Mayor/Commissioner Ben Sorensen
Commissioner John C. Herbst
Commissioner Steven Glassman
Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman
City Manager Rickelle Williams
City Attorney Shari L. McCartney
Deputy City Attorney D'Wayne M. Spence
Outside Counsel Howard D. DuBosar, Esq., Weiss Serota, et al.,
Outside Counsel Jeremy S. Rosner, Esq., Weiss Serota, et al., and
Certified Court Reporter from Bailey-Entin Court Reporting

The estimated length of each session will be approximately 15 minutes for a cumulative length of 45 minutes.

Mayor Trantalis announced the termination of the Executive Closed-Door Session at 6:08 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.