



From The Desk Of DEAN TRANTALIS

Fort Lauderdale City Commission • District II

OCTOBER 2015

Short-term rental rules to take effect

City looks for help to expand Las Olas Marina, tackles neighborhood flooding issues

Relief is on the way for homeowners upset over nearby houses being turned into weekend party pads. New city regulations regarding short-term vacation rentals take effect Nov. 1.

The rules require any person operating a vacation rental to register with the city and have the property inspected to ensure that it meets minimum standards. A property manager must be available around the clock to address any complaints.

Owners will have to keep a guest registry and post pertinent information about city ordinances regarding noise, trash and parking on site. Homes cannot be rented to more than two people per bedroom, and all vehicles must be parked in the home's driveway.

The city's Code Enforcement staff is being increased to enforce the new rules. We'll also ensure residents and neighborhood associations have ready access to the property manager contact information and an easy way to file complaints.

In drafting the rules, the City Commission listened to complaints from residents across the city about vacationers destroying the solitude of their neighborhoods. Unfortunately, the state Legislature strictly limits local governments' ability to address these concerns.

Some fine-tuning of the ordinance is in the works as a result of a town hall forum that Commissioner Bruce Roberts and I hosted last month. The commission agreed to toughen the penalties initially set for repeated

violations and to give owners time to meet the minimum life-safety standards.

The commission thinks this is a well-balanced ordinance, but we will monitor its implementation to see if further changes are required.

Las Olas Marina expansion

Plans to expand the Las Olas Marina are moving forward. The City Commission agreed this month to solicit proposals from developers to rebuild the marina so it can handle more boats as well larger mega-yachts.

We hope to almost double the size of the facility to 6,000 lineal feet of dockage. Part of the existing city parking lot would be excavated to accommodate the extra dockage and would be replaced with a new garage.

The local marine industry has made a strong case that the marina is under-utilized given the expansion of other facilities around South Florida. Fort Lauderdale is well known as one of the world's premier yachting capitals, so the commission thinks it's important to try to expand the marina.

High tides and flooding

Many neighborhoods were inundated over the past month with flooding from unusually high tides and powerful rain storms. Our coastal location and low-lying geography make Fort Lauderdale very susceptible to flooding, and the problem is expected to worsen with rising sea levels.

The city has been working to reduce flooding as much as possible. More than 50 tidal valves have been installed in neighborhoods since 2011. Storm drains and catch basins are also regularly cleaned. The city's mitigation efforts helped reduce the flood insurance premiums residents pay.

A long-range master plan is being implemented to install more tidal valves, bioswales, pervious pavers and stormwater



preserves as well as improve pumping stations and repair seawalls.

During the recent high tides, our wastewater treatment plant operated at 80 percent capacity and the city manager assigned work crews to patrol flood-prone areas with vacuum trucks. On Coconut Isle Drive, a sand berm was installed to keep the road dry. On Del Mar Street, the planned installation of valves was accelerated to keep the area dry.

Over the past year, stormwater improvements in District 2 have included Royal Palm Drive, Belmar Street in North Beach Village, several streets in Lauderdale Beach and multiple locations in Victoria Park. The \$1.2 million "Southeast Isles Tidal and Stormwater Improvement Project" is moving forward and will include work in the Las Olas Isles and Isle of Venice neighborhoods.

The commission has asked the city manager to brief us concerning a variety of drainage and tidal issues next month, including whether higher seawalls should be required and whether the elevation standards for construction are adequate.

In the meantime, please be ready for more high tides between Oct. 24-31 and Nov. 24-27. The city's 24-hour customer service center is ready to help. They can be reached at 954-828-8000.

Sincerely,



Las Olas Boulevard Town Hall Forum



6 p.m. Oct. 26
Riverside Hotel

Join Commissioners
Dean Trantalis and
Romney Rogers
for an update on the traffic-
calming and safety project.



Fort Lauderdale Police Department

Neighborhood Crime Meeting

Lake Ridge, Lauderdale Manors,
Middle River Terrace, South Middle River

6:30 p.m. Oct. 21
Ironworkers Union Hall
1201 NE 7 Ave.

Special Guest: State Attorney Mike Satz



Commissioner Trantalis talks to Canada's ambassador to the United States during a Chamber of Commerce fly-in to Washington, D.C.



Commissioner Trantalis helps open the new branch of Mercantil Commercebank at the intersection of Las Olas Boulevard and Federal Highway.



Commissioner Trantalis joins the rest of the City Commission in opening the new U.S. Customs facility at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.



Commissioner Trantalis welcomes firefighters from Argentina during the opening ceremonies of the Fort Lauderdale Fire Expo at City Hall.

