

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015 DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER
COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS



HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON: We would like to personally wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season. Despite any challenges we may have faced this past year, we are reminded to be thankful for family and friends and the many advantages and opportunities we have. Everyone in District 1 should know that we are grateful for all the input you have provided on the many issues that come before Commission and those that affect our quality of life. We truly appreciate the opportunity to work with and serve you, as we find solutions that will allow the City to remain one of the most beautiful and best cities in which to live, work, play and raise a family. Be safe and let us all welcome in 2016 with high spirits, a vision for the future and a pride in our home - Fort Lauderdale!

FORT LAUDERDALE'S 56TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW: We welcomed the 56th boat show November 6-9, 2015 to approximately 130,000 attendees. It is important to remember that visitors from around the world visit Fort Lauderdale, and that this event helps to contribute to over half a billion dollars to our local economy, generates tens of millions of dollars in marine commerce, showcases our City to a worldwide audience, and provides a tremendous economic boost to our hotels, restaurants, retail and entertainment establishments. I would like to thank all of you for helping to make this such a successful event as I know the amount of traffic that comes to Fort Lauderdale can be an extreme burden within our community.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR WHEN IT COMES TO FIREWORKS: There are several times a year when our neighbors like to celebrate by using fireworks and New Year's Eve is not far off. If not used in a designated area, these fireworks can be dangerous, as well as illegal. Several people are affected by fireworks especially veterans. The flashes and loud bangs from fireworks can trigger painful memories from the battlefield. Thousands of Americans, many of them children, are injured each year in incidents associated with fireworks. Most of these injuries occur during the Fourth of July holiday and include serious burns, loss of fingers and blindness. Our pets can also suffer, especially when left alone. Some can run off and get lost or injured. When fireworks are being used in your neighborhood, it should be reported to the police at 954-764-4357. We want everyone to enjoy the Holidays...please be a good neighbor and refrain from illegal use of fireworks.

P.L.A.Y. AND CHILDCARE FOOD PROGRAM: In June, all seven after-school sites (Bass, Carter, Croissant, Lauderdale Manors, Osswald, Riverland and Warfield Parks) completed the necessary requirements to become a licenses after-school program facility (or provider). Becoming a licensed after-school program requires adhering to specific guidelines on safety, staff development, facility standards, training, adult to child ratios, and filing procedures. This includes 40 hours of training that all staff completed on safety, child development, behavioral observation, facility rules and age appropriate practices, etc. Now that the City is a licenses aftercare provider, it is eligible to receive funds to provide healthy snacks and beverages for participating children. Parks & Recreation staff has completed all requirements and have been approved by the Florida Department of Health to participate in the Childcare Food/After-school Meals Program for up to an annual estimated reimbursement of \$58,000. This will allow for the City to provide nearly 600 children with nutritious snacks and beverages Monday-Friday during the after-school program. As a licenses aftercare provider, the City is eligible for grant funding opportunities through BC to enhance programming efforts for youth in an after-school environment and staff will be pursuing these monies, as applicable, going forward. Formerly known as FIT KIDZ, the program has been renamed P.L.A.Y. (Promoting Lifetime Activities for Youth) Fort Lauderdale After-school Program, which will include fitness, wellness education, homework assistance, cultural arts, sports instruction, sports development, special events, and much more.

CITY WEBSITE WINS AWARD IN ANNUAL COMPETITION: The City's website was awarded third place among city sites, nationwide, by the Center for Digital Government. The annual Best of the Web Awards is a leading state and local government website competition that recognizes and honors outstanding government websites for their innovation, functionality, productivity and performance. Our Website was recognized for its increased opportunities for engagement and effective social media integration. We were commended for the internally developed Ethics Trac mobile application and for the expanded customer service portal, Lauderserv. The site's innovative transparency, organization and ease of use helped us beat other top contenders including Los Angeles, CA; Boulder, CO and Raleigh, NC. If you would like to utilize our webpage, here is the link: <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/home>

UNPRECEDENTED KING TIDES: The recent [King Tides](#) were a vivid reminder that our community is vulnerable to the effects of sea level rise. Recorded tides were roughly 18 inches above the average high tides for the year. While that may not sound like a lot, it affected our neighbors and our ability to provide services to them. During high tides, streets in low-lying areas were flooded, some to the point of being impassable. We saw waste carts floating down streets and had a handful of reports of water entering homes and businesses. Your efforts are an example of how we build teamwork. The effects could have been worse however, had our Community Builders not taken action. Stormwater crews cleared clogged stormdrains and used vacuum (vac) trucks to reduce water accumulation and keep roads safe and drivable. Utilities staff monitored pump stations to ensure the stormwater system was operating efficiently and they worked with Engineering to construct a temporary sand berm along Coconut Isle Drive that stemmed tidal flooding and kept the street dry. Building a berm of sand was an innovative idea from a neighbor that was submitted using the Lauderserv mobile app found on our web page. Engineering also worked with a contractor to install a new tidal valve on Del Mar, which stopped tidal flooding on that street. The Sustainability Division monitored tidal heights and worked with Public Affairs to respond to numerous media inquiries and keep our neighbors informed. The 24-Hour Customer Service Center (954-828-8000) handled incoming calls and coordinated appropriate responses. Expect more King times throughout November.

TAM RECEIVES ART OF COMMUNITY GRANT: Offsetting costs to implement community building projects is a huge bonus for our neighbors. Recently, the Transportation and Mobility Department secured a \$42,000 Art of Community grant from the Community Foundation of Broward to install three painted intersections on Breakers Avenue at Belmar Street, Windamar Street and Riomar Street. The grant also includes funding for pedestrian and ADA accessibility upgrades on Riomar Street. This project, which requires neighbors to actively participate in the process, will provide a safer mobility experience, create a sense of place that reflects the character of the area, promote civic engagement, encourage traffic calming, and add to the City's ever-growing public art displays. This Complete Streets project also fulfills our goal of transforming Fort Lauderdale into a fully connected City with streets that accommodate all types of users from pedestrians to bicyclists to transit riders and motorists.

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE – TOP 10 SMALL AMERICAN CITIES OF THE FUTURE 2015/16 AWARDS: The City has received two awards from Foreign Direct Investment (fDi) magazine at the 2015 International Economic Development Council conference. These two awards are for the “Small American Cities of the Future 2015/16” category. (Small cities are defined with pop of the Future (#1 Sunnyvale, CA; #2 Waterloo, Ontario; #3 Stamford, CT; #4 Irvine, CA) and ranked #2 in the Economic Potential category (#1 Sunnyvale, CA; #3 Irvine, CA; #4 Waterloo, Ontario; #5 Salt Lake City, UT).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR HOLIDAY EVENTS:

11/24/15 5:30-8:30PM LIGHT UP THE BEACH

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. VIP Reception hosted by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce
The Ritz-Carlton (Via Luna Outdoor Terrace - 1 North Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard)

6:30 p.m. Holiday Lighting Ceremony at A1A and Las Olas Boulevard. Featuring live entertainment, the illumination of a larger-than-life holiday display, and more than 10,000 holiday lights.

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Holiday Concert at DC Alexander Park, 501 Seabreeze Boulevard. A free concert featuring the Florida 9th District American Legion Symphonic Band performing holiday classics!

12/4/15 5:30-8:00PM LIGHT UP SISTRUNK (More information will be forthcoming.)

12/12/15 5:30.... SEMINOLE HARD ROCK WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE (More information will be forthcoming).

COME PLAY IN THE STREET ON NOVEMBER 22: Our fellow Community Builders in the Transportation and Mobility Department are busy organizing the second Open Streets Fort Lauderdale event, which will take place on Sunday, November 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on E. Las Olas Boulevard. Open Streets Fort Lauderdale, taking place again this year in partnership with Winterfest Family Fun Day, is a free event that offers people of all ages an opportunity to "play" in the street without cars. In addition to walking, jogging, skating, and biking, this year's Open Streets event includes a variety of recreational activities such as yoga, Zumba, spinning, dancing, street

hockey with the Florida Panthers, line dancing, and much more! There will also be bike and pedestrian safety activities, cultural experiences and entertainment, and healthy living demonstrations for everyone to enjoy. This is a fantastic event that supports our shared citywide vision of creating a more connected community and promotes healthy living.

FAREWELL HURRICANE SEASON: This month marks the end of hurricane season. While, thus far, it has been an uneventful year in our area, I appreciate the efforts of our Community Builders to ensure we are well-prepared in the event conditions suddenly change. As there is still one month left in the season, I encourage employees to remain ready so we can respond if needed. As a reminder, it is a good idea to have the Employee Hotline phone number, 954-828-5900, stored in your cell phone, so you can call to hear important information and updates regarding the status of City operations. You can also visit the City website to access information regarding hurricanes and learn how you can protect yourself, your family, and your property in the event of a natural disaster. Although we have not had any major storms in our area this season, we have endured localized flooding in vulnerable areas of our City as a result of seasonal high tides. As a coastal community with numerous low-lying areas and 300 miles of canal coastline, we need to remain vigilant, especially as high tide levels are expected to return between November 24 and November 27, 2015.

WE MADE A DIFFERENCE: Congratulations to all of our Community Builders who participated in Fort Lauderdale's second "Make A Difference Day" on Saturday, October 24, 2015. This citywide day of service featured more than 20 volunteer community projects that enhanced our City. Close to 300 participants cleaned up the beach and City streets, removed invasive plants, and beautified neighborhoods through landscaping, painting and mulching projects. It was uplifting to see so many Community Builders, neighbors, schools, businesses, non-profits, agencies and organizations working side by side giving their time, talent and energy to make a meaningful difference in our community. For more information about upcoming volunteer events, please contact Jorg Hruschka in the City's Neighbor Volunteer Office at jhruschka@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-5568.

OFFICE CONTACT: Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov

In addition to hosting two pre-agenda meetings twice a month, I am also available to attend your HOA meetings to update your neighborhood on what is going on in the City as well as answer any questions/concerns you may have. Please contact Robbi to schedule.

EMAIL LIST: If you would like to be on our email list so that you receive information pertaining to the City – especially District 1 (i.e. news releases, meeting notices, events), please let Robbi know and she will add you.