

## FROM VICE-MAYOR BRUCE G. ROBERTS JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014



**ESTABLISHING GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES IN DISTRICT 1:** As a result of reapportionment, we would like to welcome the Bal Harbour and Lauderdale Isles neighborhoods into our District. This was part of the redistricting which took place throughout the City. In addition to addressing population, every effort was made to keep neighborhoods intact.

**FIRST OF ITS KIND:** One of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department's top priorities is crime reduction. In our efforts to enhance our ability to reduce crime, our police department is utilizing the predictive policing strategy; a new, innovative approach to reducing crime, and its success has gained national attention. Predictive Policing principals stress gathering intelligence information of active criminal offenders, current and historic crime trends, informants and any other data sources that assist in calculating the level of risk that crime will occur in specific areas. Once the information is gathered, the objective is to take action to prevent crime and/or apprehend offenders. This strategy has not been used in the past and is now available due to the recent partnership with IBM, Inc. Over the last 12 months, IBM has worked closely with Police Department staff to develop a crime analysis application with a predictive policing module. This module analyses numerous data sources including Part 1 crime records, arrest data, special event information and more to identify areas of the City with higher risks of criminal activity by day and hour. The proposed first-of-a-kind predictive policing strategy calls for the command staff to review on a daily basis the IBM computer system's reports, crime trend analyses and real-time intelligence collected by officers and detectives. Actionable intelligence will be disseminated appropriately. Significant to the success of this strategy is the designation of resources to readily act on gathered information. Currently, there is an 8% increase of Part 1 crime in Commission District One and a 2% increase in District Four. In order to utilize the predictive strategy to reduce crime in the high crime areas, a task force of uniform officers and investigators will be formed and deployed in the targeted areas. The task force, which will supplement the Police Department's daily operations, will be staffed on an overtime basis and funded from the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

**NCIP PROJECTS (Neighborhood Community Investment Plan):** Infrastructure, transportation, parks, and buildings are the literal foundation of a community. The Community Investment Plan (CIP) has a unique and important responsibility to delineate what the community needs to build now and what it will need to build in years to come. This must be done in a strategic, careful and impactful way to maximize economic development and improve quality of life in line with the approved City Commission's vision and policy. This CIP incorporates the concept of "sustainable infrastructure" which involves connecting a commitment to sound asset management with an approach that prioritizes community needs within the context of a sustainable future. The Community Investment Plan (CIP) is a planning document that sets forth the City's capital improvements to ensure that municipal infrastructure and facilities are appropriate and adequate to serve the needs of the neighbors of Fort Lauderdale. Listed below are some projects selected as part of the 2014 - 2018 NCIP competitive process for District 1:

-Coral Ridge NE 13 Street – remove road pavement and add curbing, landscaping and sidewalk at NE 13 Street and Bayview Drive.

-Palm Aire Village Wall – install a privacy wall and entryway improvements for the Palm Aire Village West neighborhood.

-High Mast Lighting System Commercial Blvd. – this project will replace the high mast lighting/lowering systems on Commercial Blvd.

-George English Park boat Ramp Renovations – design failures in GEP boat ramp have been discovered at both ramps. The tile design is not holding up to the marine environment and are dislodging with use. The dislodged tiles created a hazard to users and restrict access due to the loose tiles. The ramps need to be replaced with monolithic slabs and sheet piling.

-Galt Ocean Mile Sidewalk Replacement: replacement of the existing decorative sidewalk along Galt Ocean Mile. There are approximately 43,000 square feet of 4" thick and 24,000 square feet of 6" thick sidewalk that needs to be replaced.

-Bridge Replacement at NE 41<sup>st</sup> Street – replacement of an existing bridge at Fort Royale Isle. The bridge is 40 feet long by 25 feet wide. This bridge was built in 1956.

-Bridge Replacement at NE 42<sup>nd</sup> Street – replacement of an existing bridge, at NE 42 St. The bridge is 40 feet long by 25 feet wide. This bridge was built in 1956.

-Sunrise Intracoastal – Street Light Wiring – placement of electrical wires within previously installed empty conduits to relocate overhead wires for street lighting to underground. This also includes improvements to existing electrical facilities as needed.

These are just a few of the Plan's proposed initiatives. Many others are listed through the CRAs, the Water and Sewer Funds, the Stormwater Fund and the Airport Fund.

**SUNRISE BRIDGE UPDATE:** The project to replace the Sunrise Boulevard Bridge over the Middle River is now underway. The bridge clearance will be increased by approximately 4 feet, utilities will be relocated, and new lighting, signalization, and pavement markings will be installed. Construction is anticipated to be completed by early 2016. The total cost of the project is approximately \$9.5 million.

**Phase 1:** Installing temporary orange safety fence; installing temporary concrete barrier; constructing temporary bridge; installing temporary signal at Middle River Drive. During this phase, westbound traffic will be reduced to one lane and eastbound traffic will be maintained in 3 lanes. **Approximate duration:** 7 months.

**Phase 2:** Installing temporary retaining walls; removing south side of existing bridge; constructing south side of new bridge; installing permanent 24-inch water main on south side of bridge; removing temporary 24-inch water main on north side of bridge; installing temporary lighting system on south side of bridge. During this phase, westbound traffic will be opened to 2 lanes on the temporary bridge and eastbound traffic will be opened to 3 lanes on the north side of existing bridge. **Approximate duration:** 8 months.

**Phase 3:** Shifting eastbound traffic to newly constructed road; removing north side of existing bridge; constructing median at the intersections of NE 20<sup>th</sup> Ave and Middle River Drive; installing lighting system on north side of new bridge; removing temporary lighting system on south side of new bridge. During this phase, westbound traffic will travel in 2 lanes on the temporary bridge and eastbound traffic will travel in 3 lanes on south side of the existing bridge. **Approximate duration:** 7 months.

**Phase 4:** Shifting westbound traffic onto newly constructed road; removing temporary bridge; constructing median traffic separator; paving Middle River Drive intersection; installing mast arms at Middle River Drive; installing landscape. At the end of this phase, traffic will be in its final configuration including 3 westbound lanes and a southbound turn lane on the north side of the bridge and 3 eastbound lanes on the south side of the bridge. **Approximate duration:** 4 months.

**ART TEACHER RECOGNITION AWARD:** On November 6, 2013, Mr. Timothy Leistner, Ed.D. was recognized and awarded the Arts Teacher of the Year (Teaching Artist Recognition Award) at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Broward County Arts Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony at the Broward Center for Performing Arts. This event honors Broward's dedicated and talented teachers in the categories of theater, visual arts, music, dance and teaching artist. Dr. Leistner is a recognized visual artist that works primarily as a painter and art photographer. In addition to the abovementioned award, he was named the 2011 Best Visual Artist (Broward Palm Beach by New Times Magazine); 2011 Award recipient of Faces of the Arts (Broward County); 2008 Artist of the Year for Community Impact at the ArtServe Encore Awards (Fort Lauderdale) and presented the Individual Leadership Award for the Arts at the 2009 Encore Awards (Fort Lauderdale). As an instructor for the City of Fort Lauderdale's Beach Community Center, Dr. Leistner has instructed classes for over a decade. He has instructed art programs for seniors, adults and youth; and implemented a fine arts component into the summer camp program curriculum. Currently on display, he curated an exhibition of participants art work within the gallery area at the beach Community Center. We applaud Dr. Leistner's achievements as well as his dedication to the arts. His efforts to expand art and art education are a benefit to not only the art community, but for our neighbors that reside within the City.

**UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETING – MEET YOUR POLICE AND FIRE CHIEFS:** We are planning a District 1 community meeting sometime in late March or early April so that you can meet your Police and Fire Chiefs. A short presentation followed by a question and answer session for both departments will be presented. I will keep you updated as soon as this has been finalized.

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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. So far this year, we are scheduled to attend **Imperial Point, Coral Ridge Country**

**Club Estates, Twin Lakes, Bal Harbour, Bay Colony and Bermuda Riviera Home Owner Association meetings.** Thank you for the invitation!

**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.