

FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS



Visioning Committee - A New Vision for Fort Lauderdale

In 2010, the City Commission established a Visioning Committee to spearhead a community initiative to outline a vision for Fort Lauderdale's future. The Committee's charge is two-fold:

- Determine the most effective way to reach out to the community to seek input on the vision for Fort Lauderdale from all individuals, including those that are under-represented;
- Use the information obtained to craft a city-wide vision that reflects the hopes and viewpoints of all stakeholders and guide the City Commission in their future policy and decision-making.

Chaired by former City Commissioner Tim Smith, the 11-member Committee represents diverse experience in banking, real estate, development, smart growth and government. Other members of the Committee include Vice Chair Stanley Eichelbaum and former City Commissioner Gloria Katz. At the February 15th Commission Meeting, it was decided to accept the Visioning Committee's recommendation to employ Wallace, Roberts & Todd to conduct and facilitate this process.

City Manager Search

As indicated in a previous newsletter, we had selected Bob Murray & Associates to work with our citizen City Manager Search Committee to narrow the field of applicants to a manageable number, which would then be interviewed by your Commission at a public meeting. We are tentatively set to conduct those interviews in mid April. We will announce specific information as soon as it becomes available.

Makeover at Fort Lauderdale Beach Park Parking Lot Begins

The renovation of the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park parking lot has begun. The City began demolition of the parking lot at 1100 Seabreeze Boulevard as part of a 1-year project that will include improved access, ADA enhancements and beautification of the parking area. Under the renovation plan, the City will place utilities under ground. The existing retaining wall will be replaced with a new wave wall that will match the existing wall located north of the park. Trees will be setback from A1A as required by the Florida Department of Transportation. The existing sidewalk will be widened from seven feet to 13 feet and turtle compliant lighting will be installed. Landscaping plans include 104 new Coconut Palms, 12 relocated Sabal Palms, 45 new Green Buttonwood Trees, seven Thatch Palm Trees, as well as ground cover, shrubs and a decorative fence. The parking lot will be milled and resurfaced in phases for the purpose of accommodating parking customers during much of the construction project. While the work is being completed, convenient barrier island parking alternatives include the following:

"E Lot" on East Las Olas Circle (located below the Las Olas Boulevard Bridge)

"Oceanside Lot" at 400 Seabreeze Boulevard (A1A & E Las Olas Boulevard)

"R Lot" at 3031 Sebastian Street (A1A at Sebastian Street)

"U Lot" at SE 5 Street & A1A (adjacent to Alexander Park, across from the Swimming Hall of Fame)

Street parking is also available at several locations.

Curbside Recycling Collection Services

Currently, there is an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for Curbside Recycling Collection Services. This contract provides for 1 year of the current separated materials bin service and converts to single stream cart service beginning with the second year of the contract. Recent industry reports indicate significant improvements in residential recycling when single stream service is implemented along with cart service and a strong education program. At this time, the Resource Recovery Board (RRB) has committed to refunding member cities a minimum of 50% of the cost to purchase the new carts and possibly more. Once the City has received final word from the RRB, Public Works staff will present funding options to the Commission for cart purchase above the RRB refund amount, should it be required.

Graffiti Hotline: The commission office has been getting calls regarding graffiti on fences, poles, buildings, etc. - Please call 954-828-6402 if you see graffiti that needs to be cleaned up.

Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund

The Commission requested the Finance Department provide an **estimate** of the undesignated fund balance of the General Fund as of September 30, 2010. As of today, the **estimate** for this balance is in the range of \$62 million to \$69 million. Please remember this is subject to final audit adjustments, which may increase or decrease the final balance. This estimate also includes the 10% to 15% policy requirement of a minimum undesignated fund balance calculated against the operating expenditures (estimated at \$256.4 million) of the General Fund for the fiscal year. The minimum undesignated fund balance range is estimated to be from \$25.6 million to \$38.5 million. This results in a minimum **estimated** amount of \$23.5 million above the 15% maximum described above. The final audited undesignated fund balance amount will be available and presented to the Commission with the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report due April 5, 2011.

Your Commission remains committed to watching your tax dollars. As a reminder, when we compare Fort Lauderdale to Florida's 20 largest cities, we have the 2nd lowest mileage rate in the state. On February 21st, we conducted a second public workshop with our Budget Advisory Board. They are working with our staff to identify further efficiencies of operation and budget reductions. The next public workshop will be on April 23rd at 7 PM.

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.