

## FROM COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS



I would like to offer my appreciation to all of the District 1 voters who participated in the March 13, 2012 municipal election. I am eager to continue serving you and this great City. The current Commission has worked well together to make our City the best place to live, work, play and raise a family. I have an open door policy, and when you contact me, I promise to respond quickly. I may not have immediate answers, but you will receive a reply right away. I will continue to engage residents and businesses in District 1 and throughout the City to help find creative solutions to the issues we face. The past three years have been a positive experience for me and I will continue to bring your voice to City government.

**SR A1A Light Replacement Project - Progress Update:** Southeast Underground Utilities Corp. (Prime Contractor) is currently in the process of removing 101 cast-iron poles, pulling new wires through the existing conduit, drilling new holes for anchor bolts in the existing foundations and setting new poles. This project is a joint venture between the Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), the City of Fort Lauderdale Parking Division and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to replace the existing city owned lights along east side of SR A1A with Turtle Friendly Lights. This project extends from Fort Lauderdale Beach Park to Sunrise Boulevard. In addition, due to our efforts, other beach municipalities have now been approved to use this fixture for their beach lighting projects. Over the past several months, City staff has worked with lighting manufacturers, FDOT and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to design a permanent recessed light fixture to replace the acorn style lights. The new lights provide a non-visible source from the beach and zero tolerance of light on the sand, while at the same time producing lighting on the roadway and sidewalk. This task required development of several prototypes and field tests on site with FDOT and FWC. A total of 110 light poles and 220 light fixtures will be placed along a two-mile segment of SR A1A on Fort Lauderdale Beach.

**City's Reorganization Results in a New Department of Sustainable Development:** As you may have heard, in October 2011, City Manager Lee Feldman began a significant reorganization of the City's operational structure. One of the main objectives of this reorganization is to break down the walls between City departments to enable them to work more efficiently together and to provide better service to our neighbors---to *Build Community*. As part of the reorganization, the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) was created to combine Building Services, Code Enforcement, Planning and Zoning, Housing and Community Development, Economic Development, and both the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights CRA and the Beach CRA. As staff implements this new organization, they plan to reach out to our neighbors throughout the year with e-newsletters to communicate project updates, introduce new names and faces, and share with you the improvements the City is making to our operations. I welcome you to visit, call, or email Greg Brewton (Director of Sustainable Development) if you have any comments, questions or suggestions. There is also an on-line survey you can complete to help staff identify ways to improve services to our neighbors.

**DOWNED STOP/YIELD SIGNS:** If you happen to find a downed sign in your neighborhood or elsewhere within the City, please call Broward County's Traffic Engineering Department directly. They want to ensure that these significant public safety issues are handled immediately. The number to their front desk is 954.847.2600. Thank you in advance for keeping an eye open for these hazards!

**Full Sails in Fort Lauderdale** is a temporary 2012 - 2013 public art exhibit in the parks, public right of ways and private landscapes in the City of Fort Lauderdale. One hundred large mast sculptured sailboats will festoon the City, cutting a vibrant bright colored swath through A1A, Las Olas Boulevard, Riverwalk, Downtown, 17th Street Harbor Shops and Sistrunk Boulevard. This program will enhance the visibility of local artists, beautify Fort Lauderdale business districts, and promote tourism. At the end of the exhibition period, the Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department Foundation will auction the sailboats to raise much needed funding for recreational programs including scholarships, events, and sport & leisure activities for the residents of Fort Lauderdale.

**Strategic Plan:** The City Manager recently met with our Community Building Leadership Team to review the progress we are making on our Strategic Plan which is based on our mission, *We Build Community*. The plan is being developed around five *Cylinders of Excellence*: Infrastructure, Public Places, Neighborhood Enhancement, Business Development and Public Safety. More than 100 employees are participating in the strategic planning. Five interdepartmental teams represent each Cylinder of Excellence – led by our Structural Innovation Division and Department Directors, the teams have already made significant progress in three specific areas: 1) Environmental Scan (each team reviewed key demographic, statistical and performance-related data to gain insight into community trends and identify factors that will influence the direction and goals of our organization); 2) Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis (participants developed a SWOT analysis to identify the main internal and external issues that effect how *We Build Community*); 3) Draft Goals and Objectives (using information obtained from the Environmental Scan and SWOT Analysis, the teams developed draft goals and objectives for each Cylinder of Excellence). Over the next two months, the strategic planning teams will focus on finalizing the goals and objectives, and establishing performance measures, targets and benchmarks that will be used to evaluate how well we are achieving our goals and objectives. Throughout the process, staff will work closely with the visioning initiative to make certain that our Strategic Plan is reflective of community priorities. If you would like further information on the strategic plan, please let us know and we can send you the entire memo from the City Manager.

**Fort Lauderdale's GIS Website** - The City of Fort Lauderdale's Information Technology Services Department invites you to explore the new Geographic Information System (GIS) website. The site catalogs our publicly available GIS applications and maps in a more dynamic and engaging fashion while making the applications you already use even easier to find. The new site is not just for City of Fort Lauderdale staff and neighbors. It contains useful information and tools for all Broward County residents and visitors. If you are a Broward County resident or if you are shopping for property in Broward County, you can use our FEMA Flood Zone application to determine your flood zone designation for insurance purposes. Explore the site at <http://gis.fortlauderdale.gov/> and check back often to discover the new and exciting applications planned in the coming months.

**Air Show:** After being grounded for a few years, the Fort Lauderdale Air Show is ready to take off in a big way. The mega tourist and local family event will return to the beach on April 28 and 29, 2012. Military planes and civilian aerial acts have not flown over the Fort Lauderdale sand since 2007 after organizers struggled to find sponsors to fund the event. A scaled back version nearly got off the ground last year, but was canceled at the last minute because of financial problems. Those problems no longer exist. Support from local and regional businesses have been instrumental in getting the show off the ground financially. The high-flying aerobatics - the Thunderbirds – will return to the 2012 show and organizers are trying to line-up the world famous Blue Angels for 2013. New civilian aerobat teams will also be featured. For the latest information and updates on the new and improved Fort Lauderdale Air Show, please go to [www.lauderdaleairshow.com](http://www.lauderdaleairshow.com).

**Pre-Agenda Meetings:** A reminder that our meetings are always on the Monday before a Commission Meeting (unless that Monday is a holiday). The agenda is discussed, as well as any other topics that may arise. The first Monday of the month is at the Beach Community Center, and the third Monday of the month is at Imperial Point Hospital (south entrance) – always at 6p.m. Please call the office if you have any questions or need more information.

**Office Contact:** Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: [ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov). In addition to hosting the 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. If you would like to be on our email list to receive information, notifications or general information, please email us and you will be added.