

FROM VICE-MAYOR BRUCE G. ROBERTS APRIL 2014



NE 55TH STREET BRIDGE: At the 2/18/14 Regular Commission Meeting, the contract to repair this bridge repair was finally approved. Throughout the City ten bridges have been identified in urgent need of repair and the responsibility of the City. Two other bridges in District 1 are located in the Bermuda Riviera neighborhood. I will keep you updated on when this project will start, what the impact to the area will be and an estimated date of completion.

FLORIDA EAST COAST QUIET ZONES: The Broward MPO will be holding a workshop in the next month to discuss quiet zones. City Staff, along with some elected officials from the jurisdiction along the FEC corridor, will be in attendance. The Broward MPO is currently working with the FDOT on quantifying the existing crossing conditions, the upgrades being proposed by the FEC Industries as part of the AAF project, and any additional upgrades/improvements necessary to be eligible for quiet zone designation. The Broward MPO and the West Palm MPO would like to pursue a joint future Federal Transportation Investment Generating Recovery (TIGER) grant application to assist with funding these crossing improvements along the corridor.

THE FREE UPTOWN LINK SHUTTLE BUS HAS ARRIVED: The Uptown business neighborhood has been busy during the past year. Working with City staff, many businesses have organized to create an association now known as Envision Uptown. The primary goal is to recruit, retain and expand business in the commercial area around Executive Airport. One of the earliest issues identified was the need for public transportation within this economic hub. Consequently, City staff was able to obtain a three-year grant to address the issue. Tri-Rail's **Uptown Link** has now started service (Monday-Friday; 10am to 3pm) that offers easy access to and from local restaurants, businesses, hotels, schools and the Cypress Creek Tri-Rail Station. It is air-conditioned and wheelchair accessible, and has two routes serving the Cypress Creek Road area between Calvary Chapel and Radice Corporate Park. Just WAVE and RIDE – it's free! If you should have any questions, please call 954-828-8000, or visit the website at <http://fortlauderdale.gov/transportation/moving.html> for a schedule.

FORT LAUDERDALE LAUNCHES NEXTDOOR, A VIRTUAL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: The Fort Lauderdale Police Department and the City of Fort Lauderdale Neighborhood Support Office are proud to announce a partnership with Nextdoor (www.nextdoor.com), a free, private, social network for neighborhoods. This network will help facilitate virtual neighborhood watch programs to help improve neighbor-to-neighbor communications. Each neighborhood within the City has its own private Nextdoor neighborhood website, accessible only to residents of that neighborhood and police personnel. Residents can use their website to get to know their neighbors, ask questions and exchange local advice or recommendations. Nextdoor provides a central hub for neighbors to share information about recent incidents, safety issues, local events, school activities, upcoming garage sales, lost pets, and much more. Neighborhoods establish and self-manage their own Nextdoor website. Information shared on Nextdoor is only visible to verified members. Fort Lauderdale Police Department personnel will be able to post important information, such as crime updates to Nextdoor sites within the City. "In this day and age, it is vital for neighbors to unite, communicate and know their neighborhood. Nextdoor makes it easy for neighbors to establish virtual neighborhood watch and help our officers' combat crime," stated Chief Frank Adderley. Nextdoor was specifically designed to improve the lines of communication between neighbors in order to build stronger communities. All members must verify that they live within the neighborhood. Information shared on Nextdoor is password protected and cannot be accessed by the general public, nor can the information be found on Google or other search engines. The City of Fort Lauderdale has been mapped into eighty-six (86) different neighborhoods. Those interested in joining their neighborhood's Nextdoor website can visit www.nextdoor.com and enter their address. If Nextdoor is available in their area, they can immediately sign up. If a Nextdoor website has not yet been established for their area, active and engaged neighbors are invited and encouraged to introduce Nextdoor to their neighborhood. If you have questions about the Nextdoor website for your neighborhood you can contact Ryan Henderson at RHenderson@fortlauderdale.gov or www.help.nextdoor.com.

NATIONAL COMPLETE STREETS AWARD FOR CITY'S COMPLETE STREETS POLICY: I am pleased to announce that the City has been recognized as a national leader in making streets safer and more convenient for everyone who uses them by the National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of national non-profit Smart Growth America. The ranking of policies celebrates the communities that have done exceptional work in the past year, and identifies these policies as a model for communities across the country. Ft. Lauderdale's Complete Streets Policy (FLCSP) ranked 3rd nationwide in their review of the 83 policies adopted in 2013. The National Complete Streets Coalition (NCSC) conducts an annual assessment of all Complete Streets policies and ranks them according to 10 elements of an ideal Complete Streets policy. The recognition is for FLCSP passed by the City Commission on October 1, 2013, which encourages planners and engineers to design and build streets that are safe and convenient for everyone, regardless of age, ability, income or ethnicity, and no matter how they travel. The City has also developed a Complete Streets Manual that serves as an implementation guideline to the design elements that the City would like to see on each type of street within the City. The NCSC reviewed all policies that were passed in the US in 2013 and scored each according to 10 elements of an ideal Complete Streets Policy; vision and intent; all users and modes; all projects and phases; clear, accountable exceptions; network; jurisdiction; design; context sensitivity; performance measures; and implementation. Ft. Lauderdale scored 89.6 points out of 100 in their ranking. Highest score was 94.4 (Littleton, MA). Our Transportation & Mobility Department (TMD) drafted the City's policy as part of the Broward Metropolitan Organization (MPO) Complete Streets initiative. The TMD has begun implementing the policy through the incorporation of Complete Streets Elements in existing projects being designed., e.g. along SR A1A, the Dixie Highway Complete Streets Project, and the NE 13th Street Complete Streets Project. The department has also held a Complete Streets Training for City staff, FDOT staff and Broward MPO staff. Nationwide, a total of 610 jurisdictions in 48 states have Complete Streets policies in place. See more information about the winning polices and evaluation criteria at <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets-2013-analysis>.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 4/8/14 Groundbreaking Ceremony – Executive Airport New Building for US Customs & Border Protection - 8:30a.m.
- 4/8/14 Telephone Townhall Meeting: Commissioner Roberts will host a Telephone Town Hall Meeting to interact with neighbors on a variety of issues related to City initiatives, events, programs, etc.
- 4/14/4 Pre-Agenda Meeting at Imperial Point Hospital, South Entrance; 6p.m.
- 4/15/15 Commission Meetings: Conference and Regular
- 4/17/14 Commission Prioritization Setting Meeting FY 2015 Budget Cycle; 8a.m. – all day.
- 4/28/14 Joint Commission and Budget Advisory Board Meeting; 7p.m.
- 4/29/14 Follow-Up Commission Workshop with Historic and Preservation Board; 7p.m.

GRAFFITI HOTLINE: I have had many calls regarding graffiti. If you notice any as you pass through our City, you can report it to the Graffiti Hotline at 954-828-6402.

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.