

FROM COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS



Code Amendment – Prohibition of Begging, Panhandling and Soliciting on Certain Designated Property: On May 1st, the City Commission enacted an ordinance which prohibits the above activities. The new ordinance establishes no-panhandling zones and bans “aggressive” panhandling citywide. Begging, soliciting, and panhandling would be prohibited in designated areas, such as within 15 feet of a sidewalk café, automatic teller machine and entrance or exit of a commercial or governmental building. Violations are classified as misdemeanors, carrying a \$500 fine and/or 60 days in jail. For more specific information on this issue, please see <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/give/index.htm>.

New Boston Atlantech: This 266 unit development on NE 65th St. and Federal Highway has finally been approved to move forward. Originally a Site Level III project approved by Planning & Zoning in November of 2011, it soon became apparent that community outreach had not occurred. As a result, I called the item up for review within the requisite 30-day period. Over the course of the next five months, representatives from the developer, Lauderdale One Condominium, Imperial Point Hospital and Imperial Point Homeowners Association brokered an agreement that alleviated the concerns of all. It was indeed encouraging to observe the professionalism and dedicated desire to solve a neighborhood problem in such a positive manner.

Homestead Exemption Fraud: Our Police Chief, Frank Adderley, recently assigned a detective to work with County Property Appraiser, Lori Parrish, to combat this fraud within the City of Fort Lauderdale. During the month of April, Detective Windes’ investigations have resulted in \$290,203.96 in back taxes, penalties and interest being recovered. Furthermore, \$4,021,332 of assessed value has been put back on the tax roll.

Sea Turtle Nesting Season: It’s here through October 31st. Sea turtles are protected under the United States Endangered Species Act of 1973 and Florida Statutes Chapter 370.12, the Marine Turtle Protection Act. These laws provide, “No person may take, harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, kill, trap, capture or attempt to engage in any such conduct to marine turtles, turtle nests, and/or turtle eggs.” Violators may be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties. If you see someone handling a sea turtle or poaching a nest, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).

Customer Service Center: Please remind your neighbors to call the City’s 24-hour Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000 to report emergencies requiring a response from Departments other than Police or Fire/Rescue. Examples would include water or sewer main breaks. For non-emergencies, please visit <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/customerservice/index.htm>. You can also download the City’s app LauderServ to request assistance or to report issues that need attention.

FPL’s On-line Calculator: On March 19th, FPL launched a new, online calculator at www.FPL.com/answers so that residential customers can see the impact on their bills of the company’s requested rate adjustment. Business customers will also find updated information on this site. Our representative also stated that the website can give updated information throughout the rate making-process.

Gene’s Green Scene: Everyone should check out our City Forester Gene Dempsey’s new blog on the City’s website. It’s called “Gene’s Green Scene” and can be found at <http://fortlauderdaleforester.blogspot.com>. Gene offers easy tips for saving gas, caring for your lawn, and other interesting topics and suggestions.

Broward B-cycle (<http://broward.bcycle.com>): Bike sharing makes it economical and convenient to use bikes for trips that are too far to walk but too short to drive. As a member, you can use a B-cycle to run an errand, grab lunch, travel from the bus stop to your office, or just get some fresh air. With your B-cycle bike, you don’t have to look for a parking space or bring your own bike with you

everywhere you go. Plus, riding a B-cycle is good for your health and for the environment. It's the newest and best way to get around town. The B-cycles are specially designed for both you and the City: B-cycles fit people of all sizes, thanks to an easy-to-use adjustable seat post. A front basket provides a space to stow your belongings while riding. Fenders, skirt guards and chain guards keep your clothes clean. Automatic lights help keep you safe at all times of the day. Three speeds are perfect for the core downtown Broward area. Broward B-cycle is designed to encourage you to use a B-cycle for all your short trips. Once you have paid your modest membership fee, you can take an unlimited number of rides. Please log on to the address above to register – or just to get more information.

Memorial Day Weekend Party: The City will host its third annual Great American Beach Party from noon to 10p.m. on May 26th. It will include live music on two stages, skydivers, a classic car show, an art show and a sandcastle-building contest! More importantly, this event intends to recognize the ultimate sacrifice our brave men and women in our armed forces gave in order to continue to ensure our freedom. Also, the City will recognize the contributions made by long time community leaders and install a star in their name on the sidewalk in the "Walk of Fame" at Las Olas and A1A.

New "Mix It. Curb It." Single-Stream Recycling Cart Program Coming Soon: In the summer of 2012, the City of Fort Lauderdale is launching **Mix It. Curb It.**, a new program that will make recycling much easier for our neighbors. As part of the Mix It. Curb It. program, the City will be providing residential recycling customers with **new, blue, 65-gallon carts** that will hold all clean recyclables. Soon, hoisting and lugging those heavy bins full of recyclables will be a task of the past; you will be able to mix all clean recyclables together into one cart and roll it to the curb. Go to <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/recycle/single-stream.htm> for more information - also includes frequently asked questions to help you prepare for the launch of the Mix It. Curb It. recycling program.

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. 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.