

FROM VICE-MAYOR BRUCE G. ROBERTS MAY 2013



UPDATE ON CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS IMPLEMENTATION (COUNTY-WIDE 911):

It appears as if we have finally implemented this invaluable public safety communications system. A crucial vote took place at the May 7th Broward County Commission meeting approving this system by a 5-4 vote. The County Commission decided to fund the first year by reallocating \$18.7 million from the Broward Sheriff's Office budget to pay for part of the countywide system and increase homeowner's property taxes to raise \$20.3 million. The remaining \$4million will be paid for through one-time general fund revenues. The direct impact for Fort Lauderdale is an annual savings of approximately \$8 million and, in the long term, a more effective and sustainable system. Only two cities — Coral Springs and Plantation — have opted out of the consolidated emergency system.

NATIONAL SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF NATIONAL TOURNAMENT – MILLS POND PARK:

The National Softball Association of the Deaf (NSAD) national softball tournament has once again selected Mills Pond Park as their site for 2014. The tournament, which was last held at Mills Pond in 2009, is made up of a minimum of 18 teams in men's, women's and coed divisions. The tournament will be held in August, exact dates to be determined. NSAD was incorporated to promote and protect the mutual interests of all members of NSAD, and to provide a social outlet for deaf softball participants and their friends. NSAD was established to develop participation in the sport of softball under regional and national organizations active in athletic competition and in recreational events by deaf persons as well as promote and maintain the mutual interest of deaf people in the United States of America in creditable and sportsmanlike participation in athletic competition and recreational events in the softball sport. The City is excited to once again host this unique tournament.

SAVE A TREE, PLANT A TREE: BUILD A CANOPY. GO PAPER-FREE!:

This program is an innovative program that merges environmental protection and resource savings by offering free trees to Ft. Lauderdale customers who switch to a paper-free utility billing process. It promotes and encourages sustainability through paper-free services that save energy and natural resources; it increases the City's tree canopy to cool shade and beautifies homes, neighborhoods, paths, parks and roads; it is a fiscally responsible alternative that helps "green" Ft. Lauderdale while reducing expenses. All you need to do is sign up for automatic Bill Payment and/or E-billing, and then pick up your free tree – or two trees if you sign up for both services. Types of trees available are Live Oak, Pigeon Plum, and Jamaica Caper. Please go to the attached link for tree pickup schedule (<http://fortlauderdale.gov/saveatree/index.htm>) or call 954.828.5150.

SUN TROLLEY PROVIDES CONVENIENT MOBILITY FOR FT. LAUDERDALE TOURISTS:

March marked the 39th consecutive month of increased tourism in Fort Lauderdale. Ft. Lauderdale's Wave n' Ride Sun Trolley system serves as the transportation component for the Ft. Lauderdale excursion package, which began mid-January. The Sun Trolley has seen a huge increase in airport passenger ridership over the past months topping 200 passengers daily. Your Commissioner recognized an opportunity to provide a free shuttle service for tourists who have cruise ship layovers at Ft. Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport. Patricia Zeiler, the Sun Trolley's Executive Director, developed a plan that partnered with "Bags to Go" which allows tourists to leave their bags safely at the airport, while they explore Ft. Lauderdale. The Sun Trolley runs to and from the airport regularly Saturday and Sunday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The airport trollies pick passengers up and drop them off at the Ft. Lauderdale Historical Society on SW 2nd Street leaving them in walking distance to Las Olas Boulevard, Las Olas Riverfront, Himarshee Street and the Riverwalk. Of course, these visitors are also advised on how to take advantage of the trollies' other seven routes, connecting Downtown, the Convention Center, the Beach, the Galleria Shopping Center and the Galt Mile. Passengers simply flag the driver anywhere along the route to board. Once aboard, the fare is 50¢ for one trip or \$2 for all day, hop-on-hop-off service. The Sun Trolley Tracker, a new

mobile app for Android and iPhone users, provides real time location of all trollies. To download printable route maps, the mobile app or to learn more visit www.suntrolley.com or call (954) 761-3543. In addition to the excursion route, this community bus service now has a ridership of 400,000 on all routes.

COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER'S OFFICE UPDATE (Homestead Fraud):

In March 2012, Ft. Lauderdale Police Department Detective Anthony Windes was assigned to work with the BC Property Appraiser's Office for the purpose of investigating tax fraud matters relating to properties located in the City. Since the start of the program, Detective Windes' work has resulted in the collection of over \$1,600,000 in back taxes, of which approximately \$336,000 was returned to the City. Additionally, approximately \$28,875,000 in value has been restored to the tax roll. Next year that will generate \$118,945 in new revenue for the City (based upon a tax rate of 4.1193 mils and 2012 value). This program would not be possible except for the cooperation of BC Property Appraiser Lori Parrish and her office!

UPDATE ON THE BROWARD B-CYCLE SHARING PROGRAM (2012 ANNUAL REPORT): This healthy and environmentally positive program, which was launched in December 2011, now has stations in Ft. Lauderdale, Hollywood, Pompano Beach, Hallandale, Dania Beach and Lauderdale-by-the Sea. The City is responsible for a total of 11,239 check-outs in the first year of operation, representing 47% of the total usage for Broward County. Of the 11 City stations, the most utilized stations continue to be Sebastian Lot, Willingham Park and Earl Lifshey Park. In the first quarter of 2013, B-cycle launched two new stations in the City. Station 12 is located at Sunrise Boulevard and SR A1A, and Station 13 is located on SE 17th Street at the Convention Center. Broward B-cycle continues its dynamic marketing approach via print and social media, and has also participated in various community City-sponsored events. Some interesting statistics: 24,190 total trips; 15,573 casual users; 421 annual members; 90,626 miles biked; 3.4 million calories burned; 984 pounds of fat burned and 570 Facebook followers!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

- August 26: Joint Commission and Budget Advisory Board Workshops – Last of the Quarterly Meeting Dates – 7:00p.m., 8th Floor Conference Room.
- Starlight Musicals (June 14-August 25): 7-10p.m. – Football Field/Holiday Park – please go to <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/events/index.htm> for the 2013 Entertainment Schedule.
- May 20, June 3 & 17, July 1: Upcoming Pre-agenda Meetings
- May 21, June 4 & 18: Upcoming Commission Meetings
- May 25: Great American Beach Party
- May 27: City Hall is closed to observe Memorial Day
- June 24 & 25: Budget Advisory Board Budget Workshops (10am-4pm, 8th Floor Conference Room, City Hall)
- July 2: Last Commission Meeting before summer recess.
- August 19: First Pre-Agenda Meeting AFTER Summer Recess
- August 20: First Commission Meeting AFTER Summer Recess
- September 3 and 17 Commission Meetings: Public Hearings on the budget

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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.

