

FROM COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS MAY/JUNE 2014



CRIME: When comparing 2012 with 2013, recently released crime statistics demonstrated a city-wide 3.5% reduction in Part 1 Crimes. In fact, this represents the lowest crime rate since 2007. Although current trends continue to remain positive, we recognize the need to have a stronger impact on the home burglary and juvenile crime problems. This Commission remains committed to public safety as our number one priority.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS: Through our city-wide Vision and Strategic Plan, Ft. Lauderdale is building a strong, resilient and sustainable community. Today, our vision is taking shape at Mills Pond Park (2201 NW 9th Ave), home to the City's first wind turbines and electric vehicle charging stations! This exciting green initiative will save energy, conserve natural resources and protect and preserve our environment. The \$221,000 project is being funded by a federal energy efficiency and conservation block grant. The turbines are capable of producing up to 36,000 kW hours of energy per year; will help power the electric vehicle charging stations as well as help offset costs to run field lights and concession building; capable of producing enough energy to power three average-sized homes for an entire year; and capable of supplying enough power for a Chevy Volt to drive 7,200 miles across the entire U.S. and back!

NEW CITY EMAIL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: A new email has been developed and assigned to the City Clerk for those who wish to make a comment regarding agenda items. You can use the below email 48 hours prior to the Commission Meeting, and get an answer to your question – or allow your comments to be shared with the Commission, City Manager and/or staff. publiccomment@fortlauderdale.gov.

SUN TROLLEY ROUTE CHANGE IN GALT OCEAN AREA: On April 13th, Sunday service was permanently suspended and replaced with Tuesday service. You can go to <http://www.suntrolley.com> and download the revised timetable.

SCHLITTERBAHN WATERPARK UPDATE: A public joint meeting between the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Board and the Aviation Board has been scheduled for May 22nd at 1:30pm (Executive Airport, Admin Building, large conference room) to discuss Schlitterbahn leasing space at the Executive Airport site. This is just the first meeting to be held in a series of many. Among other issues, this meeting will discuss the terms and conditions of a potential lease. The project still has to go before the Development Review Committee and the Planning and Zoning Board. After the May 22nd meeting, staff and developers will be meeting with the surrounding neighborhoods to get their input.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- 5/5/14: Pre-agenda Meeting; 6:00pm; Beach Community Center
- 5/6/14: Commission Meetings (Conference, Regular)
- 5/14/14: Telephone Town Hall Meeting with Commissioner Trantalis (7pm)
Call toll free (855) 269-4484 to join in!
- 5/15/14: Meeting regarding parking issues along Commercial Blvd. If you are a business owner, please feel free to attend this meeting. Concerns/solutions...let's find a way.
- 5/19/14: Pre-agenda Meeting; 6:00pm; Imperial Point Hospital, south entrance
- 5/20/14: Commission Meetings (Conference, Regular)
- 5/22/14: Public Joint Meeting (Parks, Recreation and Beach Board/Aviation Board)
Executive Airport; 1:30pm to discuss possible lease of property for water park.
- 6/2/14: Pre-agenda Meeting; 6:00pm; Beach Community Center
- 6/3/14: Commission Meetings (Conference, Regular)
- 6/7/14: **Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Drop-Off Events:**
City of Ft. Lauderdale Mills Pond Park - 2201 NW 9th Ave – 9am-2pm
Medication Take Back – safely dispose of unused, unwanted or expired prescription and non-prescription medications for FREE.
- 6/16/14: Pre-agenda Meeting; 6:00pm; Imperial Point Hospital, south entrance
- 6/17/14: Commission Meetings (Conference, Regular)

CITY TO CHLORINATE WATER SYSTEM (Preventive Maintenance Scheduled for May 6-27, 2014): The City of Fort Lauderdale will temporarily return to using free chlorine in its drinking water system. This preventive maintenance will start at 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 6 and will end at 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 27, 2014. Free chlorination is a common practice for water systems using combined chlorine disinfection. The chlorination period is anticipated to be transparent to water customers; however, some may notice a slight change in the taste or smell of their tap water. Some customers may also see water running from fire hydrants in their neighborhoods, which is part of the normal maintenance process. This procedure will affect the City of Fort Lauderdale, as well as Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Port Everglades, Village of Sea Ranch Lakes, Wilton Manors, and sections of the Town of Davie, Oakland Park, and Tamarac (east of State Road 7/441). The City of Fort Lauderdale maintains the highest standards to ensure clean, high quality drinking water is delivered to its customers. The City's drinking water meets federal, state and local drinking water quality standards.

LAUDERSERV IS COMING! This exciting new web-based tool, which uses QAlert technology, will be used city-wide to facilitate neighbor requests. With GIS mapping, extensive reporting and a mobile tablet module that will allow employees to access service requests in the field, this program will help our dedicated team of community builders coordinate and expedite resolutions to meet the needs of our neighbors faster than ever. Neighbors will be able to submit new service requests and track the status of existing requests online. In the coming weeks, a companion mobile app will be available for Android and iPhone users. Lauderserv is a streamlined system that will replace other tools currently used to track external inquiries and requests. If you have any questions regarding Lauderserv or how to use the QAlert software, please send an email to CustomerService@fortlauderdale.gov.

SOUTH FLORIDA LEADS NATION IN GROWTH OF IMMIGRANT HIGH-TECH ENTREPRENEURSHIP, STUDY FINDS *(By Nancy Dahlberg, Miami Herald):* A new national study released Tuesday by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation found that South Florida has grown faster than all other top metro areas in immigrant tech entrepreneurship. The foundation's research also shows immigrant-owned businesses are more likely to locate in ethnically diverse metro areas that have high foreign-born populations like South Florida. Although the New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco metro areas accounted for about a third of all immigrant high-tech entrepreneurs in the country in 2011, Miami and Fort Lauderdale had the No. 1 and No. 3 highest rates of foreign-born tech entrepreneurs, significantly ahead of tech hubs like San Francisco, New York and Austin, Texas, the report found. San Jose, Calif., was No. 2. Perhaps more significantly, the Miami and Fort Lauderdale metro areas were No. 1 and No. 2 for growth rates of immigrant tech entrepreneurs between 2000 and 2011. Other metros registering strong growth include Atlanta, Chicago, Houston and Washington, D.C. The metros of Silicon Valley -- San Francisco and San Jose -- did not experience substantial growth. The study, "Lessons for U.S. Metro Areas: Characteristics and Clustering of High-Tech Immigrant Entrepreneurs," is based on data from the American Community Survey and looks at 2000-2011 -- just before the most recent push to grow tech entrepreneurship in South Florida began. Data is always a bit behind but still, that's a pretty big change, said Gary Painter from the University of Southern California, one of the study's authors. "There is already a high rate of immigrant high-tech workers in your area, and it has had the fastest growth over the past decade. Our model shows high-tech immigrants like to be near other high-tech workers and they like to be near other immigrants so Miami is in a really strong position to capitalize on this trend." Other key findings in the study:

- Eighty percent of immigrant high-tech entrepreneurs operate in the largest 25 metro areas, compared with 57 percent of their U.S.-born counterparts.
- Nationally, immigrants comprised 20 percent of the high-tech work force and 17.3 percent of high-tech entrepreneurs between 2007 and 2011, representing an increase of 13.7 percent and 13.5 percent, respectively, from 2000.
- Nationally, between 2000 and 2011, the number of self-employed immigrants in high-tech industries increased by 64 percent, compared with 22.6 percent for U.S.-born.

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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.