

FROM COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS JUNE 2012



CITY ATTORNEY SEARCH: After a brilliant career, our current City Attorney, Harry Stewart, has retired. The process in searching for a successor will be conducted in a manner similar to the one we utilized when looking for a new City Manager. A citizen search committee was selected to assist an outside consultant review resumes, conduct interviews and prepare a short list of candidates for examination by the Commission. The consultant selected by the Commission is Bob Murray & Associates. This is the same firm we hired to select our current City Manager and the same firm that conducted the search for the Broward County Attorney. The City Attorney Search Committee had their first meeting on Friday, June 15th where they had member introductions and elected a Chair and Vice

Chair. They also discussed the City Commission Resolution, Sunshine Law Overview and Rules and Procedures, as well as the schedule for regular upcoming meetings. I will keep you up to date on the Committee's search for a new City Attorney.

HURRICANE SEASON has started - now is a good time to remind everyone to make sure you are ready. I know that I am repeating this article; however, it is very important for residents to prepare. Though only a few may lose power, we cannot forget the damage that even a tropical storm can do. Part of this preparation should include creating a disaster plan and assembling a disaster supply kit. The kit should include at least three days' worth of water (one gallon, per person, per day) and non-perishable food for each person in your family. Other essential supplies you should have readily available include: a can opener, flashlights, a battery-operated radio, batteries, cash, pet supplies, medications, extra eyeglasses, contact lenses and supplies for people with special needs. For a complete list of emergency supplies and other preparedness tips, visit the City hurricane website at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/hurricane/index.htm>.

COMMISSION RECESS: Please note that the Commission will be on recess break from Wednesday, July 11th through Friday, August 17th. During that time, staff will still be here to assist you, however, Commission will not be in session and meetings will not be scheduled.

SOME IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES TO KEEP ON YOUR CALENDAR INCLUDE:

- Joint Commission And Budget Advisory Board Workshops - Quarterly Meeting Dates – August 27 AND December 10 (the quarterly budget meetings are tentatively set for the dates listed and have been set for the 8th Floor Conference Room and NOT the Chambers due to audio issues for the audience).
- Starlight Musicals (Started June 15 and will run through August 3): 7-10p.m. – Football Field/Holiday Park – please go to <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/events/starlight/starlight.htm> for the 2012 Entertainment Schedule.
- July 4th Extravaganza: Join the 4th of July Celebration at A1A and Las Olas – starts at 1p.m. with family activities, and ending with fireworks starting at 9p.m. Go to <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/events/july4/index.htm> for more information regarding this wonderful family event!
- July 10 Commission Meeting (has been changed from July 3rd due to the 4th of July Holiday): City Manager's Proposed Budget will be presented.
- August 20: First Pre-Agenda Meeting AFTER Summer Recess (Imperial Point Hospital)
- August 21: First Commission Meeting AFTER Summer Recess
- September 5 and 18: Public Hearing Dates for FY 2013 Millage and Budget for City of Ft. Lauderdale and Sunrise Key Improvement District.

TMA RIDERSHIP		
Total Passengers per Route (10/1 – 5/31)		
	FY 2011	FY 2012
Beach Link	33,500	69,100 (106%)
Las Olas Link	25,000	39,200 (56%)
Galt Link	15,400	21,000 (36%)
Downtown Link	36,300	40,500 (11%)
NW Link	37,000	58,800 (58%)

SUN TROLLEY RIDERSHIP UPDATE: Our numbers are finally going up on the Galt route. TMA staff did a complete readjustment of this route in July 2011. Without a marketing budget, this increase can be attributed to our very loyal riders spreading the word. Our Community Bus agreements were approved by the City Commission on June 5, 2012, and delivered to Broward County Transit in time for inclusion on the June 26 County Commission meeting. This is a \$93,000 positive impact to our annual budget.

FORT LAUDERDALE: OUR CITY, OUR VISION: You are invited to join us imagining the Fort Lauderdale of the future! The City has embarked on a very exciting visioning process and your participation is key to our success. We welcome all ideas – big and small. There will be many ways to participate over the next few months. Our visioning team is available to assist. You can contact them at 954.828.5289 or neighborsupport@fortlauderdale.gov to schedule a presentation and help your group get engaged! Visit the new interactive website to share your big ideas, vote on what you like, and chat with your neighbors: ourvisionftl.com

TOWNHALL MEETING: As part of the Community Visioning Process, Telephone Town Hall Meetings have been planned for the residents and each Commissioner. The live Telephone Town Hall Meeting is part of Fort Lauderdale – Our City, Our Vision, a citywide initiative to develop a vision for Fort Lauderdale. Neighbor participation is critical to the success of the initiative to ensure the vision reflects input from the entire community. The public input gathered will help identify priorities and generate a shared vision that will provide direction for future policy and decision-making. City residents with listed home phone numbers will receive a phone call prior to the start of the Telephone Town Hall Meeting. Those that are available and wish to participate can stay on the line to ask a question or listen to the discussion. A recorded message with directions on joining the call will be left for residents that do not answer. Alternatively, residents can also call the toll free number (855) 269-4484 from their home or cell phone to participate. Moving forward, the City will continue to coordinate opportunities to engage residents and encourage public participation in the visioning process. Each City Commissioner will host a Telephone Town Hall Meeting in the coming months. Extensive public outreach to neighborhood and business associations, churches, students, advisory boards and others will also be conducted through the use of "meetings in a box" and a citywide Neighbor Summit planned for the fall. **I am scheduled to be the host on Monday, August 1, 2012, 6:30p.m.**

GO SOLAR! is part of a Department of Energy (DOE) initiative, which strives to make solar energy cost-competitive with other forms of energy by the end of the decade. Broward County is one of only 22 governments in the nation to receive funding for the SunShot program. Several state and local organizations are also participating in the program, including Florida Power & Light, Broward County School Board, Broward League of Cities, Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals, State Office of Energy, and Florida Solar Energy Center. The Go SOLAR! Broward Rooftop Solar Challenge aims to reduce the installation costs of solar energy systems; contribute toward the widespread, large-scale adoption of this renewable energy technology; and restore the U.S. leadership in the global clean energy race. One of the goals is to streamline the permitting processes, making available best management practices for zoning codes, connecting solar power to the electric grid, and increasing access to financing. Broward County and other municipalities participating in Go SOLAR! will clear a path for rapid expansion of solar energy and serve as models for other communities in the state of Florida and across the nation. Broward County will present a general overview of the program in preparation of a July 10, 2012 agenda item requesting approval of an inter-local agreement for building permit-related services to be performed by the Broward County Permitting, Licensing and Consumer Protection Division.

FREE PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARD: Your city government in collaboration with the National League of Cities brings this prescription discount card to you. Nine out of 10 pharmacies nationwide participate in this program, including many in your city. You can save an average of 23% off the regular

retail price of prescription drugs. You and your family may use your discount card anytime your prescription is not covered by insurance. There are no restrictions and no limits on how many times you may use your card. As part of this program, you will also be eligible for higher discounts on select medications. To get program information, locate a pharmacy, look up a drug price, or access health resources visit www.caremark.com/nic or call toll-free 1-888-620-1749. This IS NOT an insurance card.

HIGHLIGHTING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: As a reminder, a few months ago I mentioned that we would like to highlight events occurring in your neighborhood in each publication so that we could share it with other neighborhoods in District 1. I know there are special things going on that others would love to hear about! Examples would be awards and recognitions for area residents, businesses, community involvement, birthday celebrations of 99+, etc. Please email Robbi if you would like to share!

CITY CHARTER AMMENDMENTS: As a result of the work done by our Charter Review Board, and after receiving community input, your Commission has agreed to place the following proposed Fort Lauderdale Charter issues on the November 6, 2012 General Election ballot:

Municipal Elections: Should the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be amended to eliminate municipal primary elections and to provide for municipal elections in conjunction with the general election in November 2018 and every four years thereafter, to provide for the mayor and commissioners elected in 2015 to serve until their successors are elected and qualified in the November 2018 election, and to provide for four-year terms for the mayor and commissioners beginning in 2018?

Sale of Surplus City-owned Property: Should the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, be amended to provide for the sale of surplus city-owned real property for affordable housing or economic development purposes without the necessity of establishing a minimum acceptable value or competitive bidding? Such sale shall be approved by a unanimous vote of the City Commission.

HERBAL INCENSE/BATH SALTS: The Commission has asked the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to ban the sale and distribution of these potentially dangerous mind-altering substances to the greatest extent possible.

OFFICE CONTACT: Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov.