

FROM VICE-MAYOR BRUCE G. ROBERTS NOVEMBER 2013



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT STATUS REPORT:

Economic Development:

Uptown Business Group: The Uptown Business Group, which was fostered by City staff and myself, has continued to gain momentum. We now have 40 – 50 regular participants from Fort Lauderdale-based companies, developers, major employers and educational institutions. Topics being discussed include “How to Create a Business Improvement District” and land use and planning issues. The focus of this leadership group is to recruit, retain and expand business in the Cypress Creek/Executive Airport community, while creating a more friendly business neighborhood with safer pedestrian access. Future multi-modal transportation plans will enhance

this effort. Just recently, the City was awarded a grant to fund two years of operations for trolley service to accommodate employees in this area.

Marine Industry Update: The City Commission and Marine Advisory Board conducted a workshop, which was held on May 13, 2013. City staff created a status report recommending issues that will require more attention. The discussions are addressing subjects such as the redevelopment and expansion of the Las Olas Marina. Staff, including Marine Facilities, recently held a follow-up meeting with Barry Flanagan (Chairman of the Marine Advisory Board) and Christy Hebert (President of the Marine Industries of South Florida) to discuss implementing the recommendations. A Marine Industry Summit in early 2014 may become the forum to continue these discussions.

Housing and Community Development:

Housing Authority/Carlisle Development: The Northwest Gardens II (128 units) and IV (128 units) projects are new apartment developments being constructed in the Durrs and Home Beautiful neighborhoods just north of the Sistrunk corridor between NW 10 TERR, NW 8th St., NW 7th St., and NW 14th Ave. In total, the Northwest Gardens II and IV redevelopment projects will create 266 additional 1-5 bedrooms units, with an overall capital investment of more than \$57M. After these projects are completed, the Housing Authority of Fort Lauderdale will have reconstructed and renovated 935 affordable multi-family housing units.

NPF (Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights) CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) Plan Amendments: The NPF CRA Advisory Board and City staff proposed amendments to the NPF CRA budget to fund three new projects in the Community Redevelopment Plan. The City Commission recently approved these initiatives, which are Community Policing Innovation Program, a Wireless Surveillance Camera System and the development of a Public Wi-Fi system.

Central Beach Redevelopment and Beach Business Improvement District

Food and Beverage Service on the Beach: The goal of the program is to improve the experience of tourists and visitors to the beach by providing food and beverage service on the sand. Staff is working on an ordinance and service program that will regulate this activity. A draft ordinance will be presented to the City Commission for review and approval at a City Commission Conference Meeting in the near future.

FORT LAUDERDALE NAMED A TOP CITY FOR FAMILIES VIA GOOD MORNING AMERICA: We are proud to share the news that Fort Lauderdale has been named one of the top 10 cities for families as reported by Good Morning America. Family Vacation Critic, an online family travel planning guide, recently released its list of top 10 urban destinations based on a survey of its readers, with New York City leading the pack. The Big Apple was closely followed by Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Chicago, New Orleans, Honolulu, San Antonio, Fort Lauderdale, San Diego and Boston. Here is the link to the full article: <http://abcnews.go.com/Travel/10-great-cities-family-vacations/story?id=20272937>.

DECEASED ANIMAL PICK-UP: On October 1, 2013, Broward County announced that they would no longer provide a service of removing deceased animals from roadways. Instead, residents who want to report a deceased animal on a public roadway should contact the City's 24-hour Customer Service Hotline at 954-828-8000. The Customer Service Operator will take the information from the resident regarding the deceased animal's location and the resident's contact information. They will then contact the City's contracted vendor and relay the information regarding the report of the deceased animal to the vendor. City staff has contacted the county to advise of our new procedure and ask them to relay this to our residents who contact them. All information regarding this is posted on the City's website. You can also complete an online form.

CITY-WIDE PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: The City of Fort Lauderdale Public Works Department is currently implementing a citywide Pavement Management System. The new system will enable us to maintain an electronic database detailing the condition and needs of the streets and roadways under our supervision. As part of the program, the City will assess each road it maintains and assign a numerical score based on its current condition. The scores will enable us to prioritize which roads are in most need of repairs and maintenance and deploy our resources accordingly. The inspection phase of the program has been completed and staff is currently finalizing a report that is scheduled to be presented to the City Commission in November. Pending approval by the City Commission, the pavement restoration and repair work is expected to begin in early 2014.

FORT LAUDERDALE WINS TOP HONOR FROM SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL:

The City of Fort Lauderdale was recently named "Most Outstanding Green Government" by the South Florida Chapter of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). The City received the designation at the annual USGBC GalaVerde Awards, South Florida's premiere LEEDership and Green Awards Program. The Most Outstanding Green Government award recognizes a local government that implements progressive initiatives and demonstrates an overall commitment to sustainability. Proactive initiatives highlighted in Fort Lauderdale's entry reflect the City's community-wide effort to engage employees and neighbors and encourage them to identify and apply practices to create a more sustainable community. Specific initiatives include: the creation of a Sustainability Advisory Board; the adoption of a citywide Sustainability Action Plan; the Smart Watts program to educate neighbors about techniques and benefits of reducing energy consumption; the Green Your Routine volunteer initiative that offers financial incentives to promote recycling throughout City neighborhoods; and the Go Solar campaign to encourage increased use of solar panels to create jobs and stimulate our economy." As a City, we recognize the importance of integrating environmentally sound practices into every aspect of our organization," said Fort Lauderdale Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler. "This commitment is reflected in our recently adopted citywide Vision Plan, which identifies sustainable development as a top priority. We are confident that our long-term investment in sustainable solutions will pay dividends by making Fort Lauderdale a stronger, more resilient and adaptable City, while enhancing our quality of life today and for future generations. It is a tremendous honor to be recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council for our leadership efforts in this area, and we look forward to continuing to do our part to advance sustainability at the local, state and national levels." The mission of the South Florida Chapter of the USGBC is to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, to enable a sustainable, socially responsible, healthy and prosperous environment in which people can live, work, learn and play. The South Florida Chapter of USGBC hosts the annual GalaVerde awards to celebrate and honor exceptional programs that further the creation of a more sustainable South Florida. In addition to the City's "Most Outstanding Green Government" Award, the South Florida Chapter of USGBC recognized several other outstanding projects in Fort Lauderdale with GalaVerde awards. The City would like to congratulate the following award winners:

- Most Outstanding LEED Project (Private) - Pine Crest Central Chiller Plant
- Most Outstanding LEED for Schools Project - Pine Crest Preparatory School Lower Classroom Building
- Most Outstanding LEED Neighborhood Development Project - Northwest Gardens
- Most Outstanding LEED for Homes/Multi-Family Project - Northwest Gardens III
- Most Outstanding LEED for Homes/Mid-Rise Project - Dr. Kennedy Homes

HAZARDOUS WASTE: This City service, which was provided under the Interlocal Agreement with the County, expired on 9/30/2013. With a \$400,000 annual price tag, Fort Lauderdale chose not to renew the agreement with the County. The City is currently finalizing plans to form a consortium with other municipalities and develop a less costly disposal alternative. The City apologizes for not having a transitional service in place. If you have additional questions, please contact Customer Service directly at CustomerService@fortlauderdale.gov or for more time sensitive issues, Customer Service can be reached by calling (954) 828-8000 twenty-four hours a day.

REPORT STREETLIGHT OUTAGES: Fort Lauderdale's new "See the Light" campaign encourages residents to report streetlight outages. Before, residents would have had to figure out who owned the streetlight and contact that agency directly, whether it was the city, county or FPL. The new system will help serve our neighbors better by offering one centralized location to report all streetlight outages. That number is 954-828-8000.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **November 11, 28, 29 AND December 25:** CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED DUE TO HOLIDAYS
- **November 4 & 18 Pre-agenda Meetings:** NO meeting on 11/4; Imperial Point Hospital, South Entrance on the 18th; 6pm
- **November 5 & 19:** Commission Meetings
- **December 2 & 16 Pre -agenda Meetings:** 12/2 - Beach Community Center; 12/16 - Imperial Point Hospital, South Entrance; 6pm
- **December 3 & 17:** Commission Meetings

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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.

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.

I WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING. *As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. ~John Fitzgerald Kennedy*