

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016 - DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS



BE PREPARED: Welcome back from summer break. Hopefully, everyone had a nice time with family and friends. As residents of South Florida, we are never far from the possible dangers associated with hurricanes. The most important step everyone can take to survive a hurricane is to prepare. If you have not completed your hurricane preparations, the time to do so is now. For hurricane preparedness information and a handy check list, visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/hurricane. For National Hurricane Center updates, visit www.nhc.noaa.gov. **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:**

- Hurricane Emergency Hotline 954.828.8888
- 24-Hour Neighbor Call Center 954.828.8000
- Police Department Non-Emergency 954.828.5700
- Emergency 911

PACE (PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY) PROGRAM: The City currently participates in this program, which provides a funding option for retrofitting your home or business with energy efficiency improvements or hurricane protection. Two companies, Ygrene Energy Fund and the Florida PACE Funding Agency, provide this service. Our experience with Ygrene Energy Fund has been: 354 applications received; 26 projects completed and funded for \$485,000 (average project size of \$18,653); 102 projects currently in construction (\$1.8 million); average value of properties: \$300,000; and average equity in the property: 52%. Since we just joined the Florida PACE Funding Agency, we do not have experience to report as of yet.

BUDGET UPDATE: The Preliminary Budget for FY 2017 was presented to the City Commission on July 12, 2016. At the meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to pass a resolution proposing no increase to our current millage rate of 4.1193 per \$1,000 of taxable value for FY 2017, which begins on October 1. This marks the 10th consecutive year that Fort Lauderdale has maintained the same millage rate. Kudos to our Community Builders for improving operations that enable us to continue to provide outstanding, cost effective, and value-added services to our neighbors without having to increase the millage rate. The draft budget addresses numerous neighbor priorities including: beach renourishment; improving traffic flow; upgrading streets and sidewalks; enhancing public safety and emergency management; strengthening water and sewer infrastructure; creating safer, more walkable and bikeable streets; combating flooding and sea level rise; advancing sustainability; and investing in technology to streamline plan review and permitting. It provides us with the resources to continue to deliver quality services to our neighbors while investing in social capital to build community, expand civic engagement, and enhance quality of life. The proposed budget also moves us closer to achieving our citywide vision of creating a diverse, active, livable, and sustainable community. A special thank you goes out to our Budget/CIP and Grants Division. Under the leadership of Laura Reece, these tireless Community Builders spend countless hours throughout the year working with every City Department to put the budget together. As a reminder, the public hearings on the budget are scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. in the Commission Chambers on Wednesday, September 7, and Monday, September 12. I encourage you to review the proposed budget online, and to attend one of the upcoming public meetings.

<http://fortlauderdale.gov/home/showdocument?id=16399>

AWARD-WINNING BUDGET: Speaking of the budget, congratulations are also in order for the Budget/CIP and Grants Division for earning the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting, and is a prestigious achievement for our entire organization. In order to qualify, we had to meet nationally-recognized guidelines along with 14 specific criteria related to our budget, financial plan, operations guide, and communications. This award speaks volumes about the tremendous leadership, dedication and commitment of our Budget Division, as well as all our Community Builders

who contribute to this process. Thanks to staff for adhering to stringent principles and best practices to create a quality budget, while ensuring sound management of our financial resources. Congratulations on this fantastic achievement!

SURTAX RESOLUTION: This article was in our July/August newsletter but I felt it important to repeat:

The County Commission held a special meeting on June 24th and took actions to address the Transportation and Infrastructure Surtax issues. The County Commission approved a ½ cent surtax for Transportation and ½ cent surtax for Infrastructure to appear on the November 2016 ballot. If approved by voters, this would raise the sales tax in Broward County from 6% to 7%. According to the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), approximately 31% of this increase would be borne by tourists. The framework for distribution and use of the funds were also approved via an interlocal agreement. The major terms of the Agreement include the following:

- 30 year Transportation and Infrastructure Surtax time period
- ½ cent Transportation tax is allocated 100% to county
- ½ cent Infrastructure tax is allocated 100% to cities (per capita) for 20 years
- Year 21 the infrastructure tax is split between the cities and county with cities receiving 60% and county 40% (10 year split of tax revenues)
- Establishing an independent nine member Transportation and Surtax Oversight Board:
 - One former elected official
 - One former City or County Manager
 - One Certified Public Accountant
 - One member of the Florida Bar
 - One finance professional
 - One urban planning or land use professional
 - One engineering or construction management professional
 - One professional architect
 - One professional environmental scientist

The above Board will be appointed by:

- Designee of the President of Nova Southeastern University
- Designee of the Broward Workshop
- Designee of the Broward County Council of Chambers of Commerce
- The joint designee of the Broward County Auditor and the Broward League of Cities' Auditor
- Director of the Florida Atlantic University Center for Environmental Studies

The above ILA is contingent upon 51% of the cities (via population count) taking action to: (1) repeal the existing 1 cent uniform Infrastructure surtax resolution and send to Supervisor of Elections; (2) adopt a uniform resolution for ½ cent Infrastructure surtax; (3) adopt a resolution approving the County ILA. By the way, it is important to note that each ballot question is dependent on the other for passage; voters must approve both or both **fail**.

FXE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING: Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport recently hosted a simulated disaster training drill in cooperation with the Fort Lauderdale Police and Fire Rescue Departments, as well as Reva Air Ambulance. The exercise simulated an accident between a Lear 35 aircraft and a Robinson R44 helicopter on the airport runway. A total of 50 people participated in the drill including firefighters, paramedics, police officers, command staff, airport and emergency management personnel, and volunteers. Special thanks to Reva Air Ambulance for providing the aircraft and moulaged volunteer victims, which heightened the realism and authenticity of the drill, while enabling participants to gain maximum value from the exercise. Being prepared for the possibility of a potential emergency and knowing how to respond is paramount to the effective management of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, as well as the entire operations of our City. Through exercises like these we are able to test our emergency operations plan, while sharpening our tactical response, decision-making procedures, and coordination with internal and external agencies. I congratulate FXE for taking the lead in this important exercise and thank our Community Builders in Police and Fire Rescue for providing the essential response and support mechanisms during the drill.

NEW GLOBAL KIOSK AT FXE: If you're checking in at FXE's Customs facility, make sure you check out our new Global Entry Kiosk! This modern convenience makes it easy for corporate and leisure travelers to enter the United States and gives FXE a competitive advantage that further strengthens its position as one of the nation's leading General Aviation airports. U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP) recently selected FXE as the first General Aviation airport in the country to receive a Global Entry kiosk, which is a CBP program that allows pre-approved, low-risk travelers to expedite entrance into the United States upon arrival. With the kiosk, preapproved travelers no longer need to complete a Customs declaration before landing, and may skip process lines at checkpoints. Instead, they can simply check-in at the kiosk by scanning their passport or resident card and their fingertips for verification and completing the Customs declaration online. The Global Entry Kiosk strengthens FXE's commitment to providing corporate and leisure travelers with outstanding customer services, while enhancing the airport's position as the gateway to Fort Lauderdale.

STAY INFORMED IN AN EMERGENCY: Sign up for **CodeRED™** and get City notifications delivered to your phone! The City of Fort Lauderdale uses CodeRED™ to send notifications to your phone about water main breaks, gas leaks, evacuations and other life safety emergencies. The City may also use CodeRED to communicate road closures, water main repairs and other types of non-life safety matters. Residents or business owners with a Fort Lauderdale address may register for CodeRED on the City's website at www.fortlauderdale.gov/codered or by contacting the 24-Hour Neighbor Call Center at (954) 828-8000 or www.fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv. Registration is FREE!

STAFF TRANSITIONS: City Zoning Administrator Anthony Greg Fajardo (954-828-6852, AFajardo@fortlauderdale.gov) has been named Director of our Sustainable Development Department after more than 10 years with the City. Christian ("Chris") Carbonera has been selected as our new Neighbor Support Coordinator within the City Manager's Office. If you have an issue regarding day-to-day operations of the City, please contact Chris at 954-828-5063 or CCarbonera@fortlauderdale.gov. You may also report issues to our 24/7 Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000, as well as the City's online Lauderserve system at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/city-manager-s-office/public-affairs-office/lauderserv>.

KING TIDES EXPECTED SEPTEMBER 16-21, 2016: Flooding in low-lying areas is more likely in the fall months, as the close proximity of the moon, high tides, rising sea levels, and inclement weather conditions combine to exacerbate flooding risks. As a coastal community with numerous low-lying areas and 300 miles of canal coastline, Fort Lauderdale neighbors are advised to be especially vigilant from September through December, when tides are expected to be at their highest levels for the year. While the City maintains an extensive stormwater master plan and is instituting both aggressive maintenance and innovative adaptation solutions to address drainage, including the installation of tidal valves, the location and natural geography of the City makes neighborhoods susceptible to flooding. Remember that flooded streets may be covered in either fresh or saltwater. Please take caution whenever driving on flooded streets. When in doubt, turn around. Visit the City website for upcoming high tide dates and learn how to prepare for these types of weather events.

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

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.