

Vice Mayor and District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



Fort Lauderdale is receiving national attention for our economic resurgence and our commitment to implementing a community-wide Vision and Strategic Plan. (The new Vision video is available at <http://fortlauderdale.gov/vision/index.htm>.) Rankings include: (1) "Top 10 Best Downtowns in 2014" by Livability.com, (2) "America's 10 Most Exciting Cities" by Movoto National Real Estate, (3) "Top 10 Best Places to Move in 2014" by SML National Moving, and (4) "Top 100 Best Cities to Start a Business" by WalletHub. The City has also been named a finalist in the All-America City Awards, the winner to be decided at the competition in Denver, CO, in mid-June.

Our residents also think we're "moving in the right direction," based on results of the 2013 Neighbor Survey found at http://fortlauderdale.gov/news/2014/pdf/2013_Neighbor_Survey_with_memo.pdf. This was one of four survey questions used as "strategic indicators" to assess performance. The other indicators were satisfaction with (1) the overall quality of City services, (2) Customer Service provided by the City, and (3) the overall Quality of Life in the City. Satisfaction increased in each of these four areas compared to the 2012 Survey.

Comments on Agenda Items – A new way to comment on upcoming Commission Agenda items is online here: <https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. Scroll down to the meeting date of interest, scroll over to the last column on the right, "eComment," and submit online no later than 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

15th Street Boat Ramp and Parking Lot – On April 5, we broke ground on the renovation of our flagship marine facility at 1784 SE 15th Street. New amenities will include picnic tables, a sun shelter, floating docks for the police boats, an ADA floating dock and two staging docks for public use, ADA restrooms, pump-out facilities, and a fish cleaning table with macerator. Sustainable features will include porous pavements for drainage, xeriscaping, solar landscape lighting, bioretention swales to treat stormwater, and recycled materials for tables, trash bins, wheel stops, and shelters. This \$1.6 million project will be funded almost entirely by grants from the Florida Inland Navigation District and the Broward Boating Improvement Program. The facility will be renamed "Cox's Landing" in honor of former City of Fort Lauderdale Mayor Robert O. "Bob" Cox, an ardent supporter of the marine industry.

Addressing Homelessness – On April 8, the City Manager and I toured the County's proposed "Community Programs Campus," formerly the Broward County Stockade (on Powerline Road) in view of a possible City / County partnership to assist the homeless. Captain Scott Russell and David Scharf, both with BSO's Department of Community Services, led the tour. Future programs may include: (1) Alternative Booking Site and Processing Center, (2) Homeless Transition Center, (3) Mental Health Facility, and (4) Boot Camp. Captain Russell and I both served as members of the Leadership Broward Foundation panel, "How Homelessness Affects Us All," on March 19.

Telephone Town Hall Meetings – Upcoming meetings: District II Commissioner Trantalis - May 14 and District III Commissioner DuBose - June 9. My Telephone Town Hall Meeting is set for July 10.

- To join in and comment on City issues, please call toll free 1-855-269-4484 from 7 - 8 PM.
- Audio recordings of past Telephone Town Hall Meetings are at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/tth/index.htm>.

Recent Recognition –

Several outstanding citizens were honored at the City's 40th Annual Citizens Committee of Recognition Awards (April 15). Please join me in congratulating **Jim Ellis – Citizen of the Year**, **Carolyn Michaels – Distinguished Citizen**, **Sandy Casteel – Honored Founder**, and **David Deal – Exemplary Former City Employee**.

And I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in my 2014 Downtowner of the Year recognition, a memorable occasion not soon to be forgotten. I am both grateful for and humbled by the honor.

Household Hazardous Waste – With proof of residency, City residents can participate in this free, bi-monthly drop-off event, the next one being in the City of Pompano Beach, 1660 NE 10th Street, April 26 from 9 AM - 2 PM. There is another event in the City of Tamarac, 6011 Nob Hill Road, May 3 from 9 AM - 2 PM. For the guidelines, please visit http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/public_services/trash/hazardous_waste.htm.

Events –

- **Broward County Convention Center Expansion Master Plan Public Forum:** Tuesday, April 22, 6 PM, Broward County Convention Center, Room 220/221.
- **Riverwalk's Spring Get Downtown:** Thursday, April 24, 5 - 8 PM, YOLO Plaza on E Las Olas. This 21+ event will take place rain or shine. Tickets are available at www.GoRiverwalk.com or for \$25 at the door.
- **Joint Commission / Budget Advisory Board Workshop:** Monday, April 28, 7 PM, 8th Floor, City Hall.
- **Joint Commission / Historic Preservation Board Workshop:** Tuesday, April 29, 7 PM, 8th Floor, City Hall.
- **Las Olas Wine & Food Festival:** Friday, May 2. For tickets, go to <http://lasolaswff.com>.
- **3rd Annual Transportation Summit:** Wednesday, May 14, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. FAU Downtown Campus. Call 954-828-3700.
- **5th Annual Riverwalk Burger Battle™:** Friday, May 23, Huizenga Plaza. This 21+ event will take place rain or shine. For tickets, please see www.GoRiverwalk.com.

- **My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 2 – 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM – Noon (in non-Commission weeks). For appointments, please contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov.**