

**FROM COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS**  
**JULY/AUGUST 2014**



**FORT LAUDERDALE NAMED ALL-AMERICA:** The City of Fort Lauderdale has captured the prestigious All-America City Award! The official announcement honoring Fort Lauderdale with the 2014 national title was made by the National Civic League at its annual conference in Denver, Colorado. Established in 1949, the All-America City Award recognizes cities, counties, towns, neighborhoods, and metropolitan areas across the country for exemplary community-based problem-solving and civic engagement efforts that involve public, private, and non-profit entities. For two days, groups of civic leaders and community activists from 25 cities met in Denver to present their stories of positive change to a jury of civic experts and to network and exchange ideas and insights. The National Civic League commended Fort Lauderdale for numerous projects that demonstrate outstanding civic engagement, cross sector collaboration, inclusiveness, and innovation. An array of Parks and Recreation programs that promote healthy active lifestyles were recognized including Wise Kids, Presidential Challenge, First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Campaign, Fit Kidz Club, and the City's after-school programs and youth camps. Three major initiatives taking place in the community were highlighted as examples of positive meaningful change:

- The Dillard Innovation Zone Promise Neighborhood, an initiative of the Broward Regional Health Planning Council (BRHPC), that is cultivating community and business collaborations to support school improvement, health service interventions, mentoring, enhanced classroom technology, reading and literacy initiatives at Dillard Elementary School and initiating innovative solutions to reinvigorate a neighborhood in need.
- The redevelopment of Flagler Village, a downtown neighborhood that has been transformed from a desolate and abandoned warehouse district into a vibrant center for arts and culture. The revitalized area features unique businesses including a master puppeteer, media and photography company, event planning and marketing business, advertising agency, theatre troupe, and an innovative landscape architecture firm. Flagler Village's popular monthly Art Walks are a celebration of the neighborhood's innovation, vision and urban lifestyle, as well as a strong sign of the area's rebirth.
- Northwest Gardens, a neighborhood development located in the City's Northwest Community Redevelopment Area, is a model affordable housing project that showcases social, environmental, health, engagement, and economic sustainability. Spearheaded by the City of Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority in partnership with community members, private sector developers, and non-profit organizations, Northwest Gardens was the first LEED-ND Certified Neighborhood in Florida. The project promotes healthy living by providing residents with places to walk and bike safely, community gardens and fruit trees, energy efficient housing, solar streetlights, self-sufficiency training, job training, and cultural activities.

Fort Lauderdale was also lauded for its Complete Streets policy, which was recently ranked #1 in Florida and #3 in the nation; a wheelchair tennis program at George English Park; a walking club at Carter Park; and the hundreds of sports, programs and community activities that have taken place during the past year at the new Orange Bowl Field at Carter Park.

**FY 2015 COMMISSION ANNUAL ACTION PLAN:** The City Manager presented this proposed Annual Action Plan to the Commission for approval at the 7/1/14 Commission Meeting. This action plan includes the City's highest priority strategic initiatives for FY 2015. The steps and foundation used to develop this plan include:

- *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale, Our City Our Vision 2035;*
- *Press Play Fort Lauderdale, Our City, Our Strategic Plan 2018*, which incorporates 42% of the Vision Plan ideas;
- The city-wide statistically valid Neighbor Survey conducted in November and December of 2013;
- Department Performance Analysis and Outlook, developed by each Department and their staff; highlighting the current and upcoming strategic initiatives, successes, challenges, an environmental scan, and a three to five year outlook;

- A meeting with the Directors and Assistant Directors of the Community Building Leadership Team; and
- Two prioritization workshops with the Commission on April 17<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Project plans (including scopes and milestones) are being developed by key staff in an interdepartmental approach. Preliminary funding has been allocated through the proposed budget. These initiatives will be integrated as the main priorities of each Cylinder of Excellence team's annual work plan. (Teams: Infrastructure, Public Places, Business Development, Neighborhood Enhancement and Public Safety.) **Top priority on policy agenda for the Commission:** 17<sup>th</sup> Street Mobility Plan; Stormwater Management Plan; Comprehensive Homeless Strategy and Beach Renourishment. **High priority for the Commission:** Traffic flow and Signal Synchronization Analysis: Moving Cars and People; Comprehensive Canal Dredging Master Plan; Riverwalk District Plan; Las Olas Marina and Tunnel Pedestrian Plaza and Intersection Improvements. **Top priority on the management agenda:** All Aboard Florida Passenger Rail and Station Area Plan; Soccer and Lacrosse Athletic Fields; Public Private Boathouse for Crew; Central Beach Master Plan and Marine Industry Strategy. **High priority on the management agenda:** Wastewater Infiltration and Inflow; Shared Use of School Facilities; Code Compliance Improvements; Comprehensive Plan Amendments and Emergency Preparedness. The management agenda items are currently in progress but need to be completed. Quarterly progress reports of the plan will continue to be provided to the Commission.

**FY 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET:** The City Manager's proposed budget recommendations were submitted to the City Commission July 1<sup>st</sup> and the Commission takes action at the public hearings on **September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**. Also on July 1st, the Commission kept the FY 2015 operating millage rate at 4.1193, and maintained the Fire Assessment Fee at \$225 per residential dwelling. The proposed General Fund Budget of \$293,765,001, while 2% higher than the current FY budget, exceeds policy with total fund balances of \$65.7 million or 23.7%. A special thank you is in order to our Budget Advisory Board; these volunteers have devoted countless hours to improve the budget process by working hand in hand with all City Departments and by conducting several public budget workshops with your Commission. The Budget Advisory Board concurs with the City Manager's proposed budget. The City is committed to providing accurate and transparent reporting, and focusing on the results which the community requested in the Vision Plan, the Strategic Plan, the Annual Action Plan and in the two Neighborhood Surveys.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE:** The City has partnered with neighboring communities to provide convenient, new options for residents to dispose of household hazardous waste and electronics (proof of residency required with driver's license or utility bill). The drop-off events are critical to protecting the environment by reducing the volume of waste in landfills and preventing the contamination of ground water.

- **August 2: City of Fort Lauderdale/Mills Pond (9am-2pm) – 2201 NW 9<sup>th</sup> Ave**
- **September 13: City of Coconut Creek (9am-2pm) 4800 W. Copans Road, Coconut Creek**
- **November 8: City of Pompano Beach (9am-2pm) 1660 NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street (Community Park), Pompano Beach**
- **December 6: City of Tamarac (9am-2pm) 6011 Nob Hill Road, Tamarac**

**NEW BUSINESSES IN FORT LAUDERDALE:**

- Fresh First - 4520 N. Federal Hwy. - Restaurant
- A1 Total Marine Management - 401 NE 8th St. - Self-Storage Facility
- Fish Window Cleaning - 621 SW 21st Ter. - Cleaning Service
- Certified Aircraft Management - 1805 NW 51st Pl. - Aircraft Repair
- Bayview Animal Clinic - 2900 E. Commercial Blvd. - Veterinary Clinic
- Garden of Eden Nursery - 2301 NW 19th St. - Nursery
- Aircraft Turbine Repair - 729 NW 1st St. - Aircraft Repair
- Florida Community Bank - 1501 SE 17th St. - Bank
- Transwestern - 450 E. Las Olas Blvd.#740 -Property Management
- Fort Lauderdale Collision - 5050 NW 12th Ave. - Vehicle Repair

***Trader Joe's*** announced it will bring a store to Fort Lauderdale in 2015. The popular grocery franchise will open at 1590 N. Federal Highway, north of Sunrise Boulevard, within the existing Office Depot plaza. Trader Joe's recently opened a store in Wellington and Boca Raton.

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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.

**NOTE:** Although the Commission is on recess from July 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P. M. to discuss the finalization of the Schlitterbahn Project Lease. Office staff will be here to assist with any concerns or issues you may have. Scheduled meetings will resume August 18<sup>th</sup>.