

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015 DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER
COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS



2015 Fort Lauderdale Elections: I want to take this occasion to thank everyone for the vote of confidence by giving me another opportunity to continue to serve our great community. At the closing of the qualification period at noon on January 9th, no opponent filed to run for election in District 1. Commissioner Romney Rogers also ran unopposed. As a result, the upcoming elections will not feature a District 1 or District 4 race. However, the Mayoral and District 3 races will have a primary on February 10th among the three candidates in each contest. Anyone who gathers more than 50% of the votes in the primary is elected; otherwise, the top two move on to a final election on March 10th. With just two candidates, the District 2 race will have to be decided on March 10th. Please mark your calendars and get out to **VOTE ON FEBRUARY 10TH**.

At your direction, the current Commission has guided the City through the Great Recession without diminishing vital services such as public safety; we have been fiscally conservative and maintained the same millage rate; we have nurtured a measured economic development which protects the quality of life in our neighborhoods; and we continue to budget for implementing your 2035 Vision through an interactive Five Year Strategic Plan, an Annual Action Plan, Neighborhood Surveys and Advisory Board recommendations. Let's continue that momentum.

2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING REQUESTS: The following list reflects the official position of the City of Fort Lauderdale regarding State of Florida issues and pending legislation that would impact the operation of local government. It also provides priorities for the pursuit of funding for various City initiatives. **The City of Fort Lauderdale will ENDORSE and SUPPORT legislation that will:**

1. Permit municipal government to make necessary changes to local law pension plans
2. Support expansion of passenger rail options
3. Promote improved water quality and quantity
4. Provide for local regulation of short term rental properties and remove the state's preemption of local regulations on vacation rentals
5. Preserve and/or enhance municipal home rule
6. Support municipal government initiatives to curb homelessness
7. Enhance municipal participation in state environmental permitting processes
8. Encourage energy development and conservation and the development and implementation of alternative energy sources
9. Remove the state's preemption of local regulations on vacation rentals
10. Clarify existing laws regarding community redevelopment agencies (CRA's) in order to further redevelopment within established community redevelopment areas
11. Support the transfer of spending authority for the Tourism Development Tax to cities based on tourism activity
12. Change the allocation of Florida Department of Emergency Management and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding to cities to be based on each city's risk profile assessment
13. Enact Complete Street Design Initiatives and legislation that will provide cities with the ability to regulate traffic flow within their city limits (i.e. setting speed limits and use of stop signs for traffic calming)
14. Strengthen and expand environmental education, physical activity, and healthy lifestyles for Fort Lauderdale youth while ensuring that they are as protected as possible while participating in parks and recreation programs
15. Regulate anchoring of vessels in waterways adjacent to residential properties
16. Address repeat juvenile offenders and other juvenile justice issues
17. Create smoke-free zones on Fort Lauderdale beaches

The City of Fort Lauderdale will OPPOSE any legislation that will:

1. Restrict Home rule
2. Create unfunded mandates

3. Restrict or decrease any revenue allocations to local governments
4. Decrease the City's tax base through manipulation of tax exemptions on properties
5. Modify, restrict or eliminate the City's ability to levy, collect or spend franchise fees, communications service taxes or local business taxes
6. Restrict or decrease allocation of red light camera revenues to local governments

The City of Fort Lauderdale will SEEK FINANCIAL SUPPORT for the following initiatives:

1. Crime reduction
2. WAVE development
3. Transportation enhancements specifically focused on greenways, complete street initiatives and pedestrian safety
4. Flood prevention and hazard mitigation
5. Riverwalk enhancement and activation
6. Comprehensive homelessness strategy
7. Climate change and sea level rise mitigation
8. Promotion of Fort Lauderdale's marine industry
9. Water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure improvements
10. Fort Lauderdale Beach re-nourishment, revitalization, and enhancement
11. Additional parks and recreational programs and facilities, including athletic fields

FIRE STATION #54: The new Fire Station #54 is currently designed to be located at 3201 Northeast 32nd Street (across the street and slightly east of the current location). The station will be a 10,000 square foot, two-story satellite facility and have two back-in apparatus bays, seven bunk rooms, a full kitchen and dining room, small exterior patio, a day room, two offices, a laundry room, gymnasium, and community meeting room. The 90% design of the Fire Station was carried out by in-house engineers and architects, while an outside consultant completed mechanical, electrical, plumbing (MEP) and structural design. A new consultant will be selected through a Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA) Process for which proposals were received on December 15, 2014. Next steps will include the review of proposals, panel ratings, presentations, staff recommendations, negotiations and award. The construction of a temporary Fire Station #54, located on the south side of the Oakland Park Bridge, was finished and the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) was issued on December 12, 2014. The Fire Department is expected to occupy the temporary station very soon. The Information Technology Department is coordinating the transfer of communications from the existing facility to the temporary facility to enable the move.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE: Building upon the success of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit, we were honored to recently host United States Senator Sheldon Whitehouse from Rhode Island. Senator Whitehouse joined Mayor Seiler and City and County staff on a walking tour of the downtown Riverwalk area to obtain a firsthand look at the effects of rising sea levels and seasonal high tides. Earlier that same morning, a cross-department team of City staff took a similar tour, visiting several areas affected by the high tides. They discussed the City's extensive stormwater master plan, as well as aggressive maintenance procedures and innovative adaptation solutions to improve drainage in areas that are susceptible to flooding. During the tour, staff learned about tidal valves which have been found to effectively reduce the impacts of flooding in low-lying neighborhoods. Tidal valves are just one example of the proactive measures we are exploring to strengthen our resilience and build a stronger community, which neighbors identified as a top priority during the citywide Visioning process. To learn more about our ongoing efforts to build a resilient and safe coastal community, visit the Sustainability Division page on the City website. www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/sustainability

NEW DIRECTOR FOR SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT: Jenni Morejon is the new Director of the Department of Sustainable Development. After years of progressively moving up the ranks of our organization, Jenni is now the go-to person for all things in development. As Director, she will oversee the day-to-day operations of the entire Department which includes: Building Services, Code Compliance, Economic and Community Reinvestment/Community Redevelopment Agency, Housing and Community Development and Urban Design and Planning. Jenni began her career at the City in 2000, serving in urban design and community planning positions with a focus on

managing projects and programs that encourage high quality development to meet the economic and livability objectives of a growing South Florida urban coastal community. She is a graduate of the University of Colorado, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design. Jenni serves on the board of directors of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale and is a member of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Downtown Council. She is also a member of the Leadership Fort Lauderdale Class, writes a monthly column for the Go Riverwalk magazine, and is an active member in the Urban Land Institute's Southeast Florida/Caribbean Council. Greg Brewton, past director, retired from the City last year.

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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.