



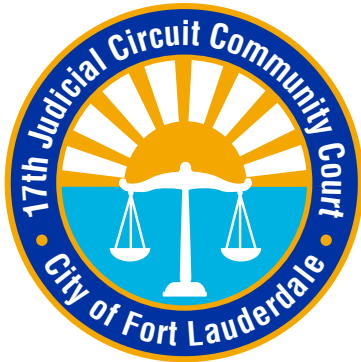
LAUDERTRAC

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING
OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE FORT LAUDERDALE
Tracking Progress on Commission Priorities for 2020



September/October 2020

BUILDING A BRIDGE THROUGH HELP, HOUSING AND HOPE



Community Court Offers Proactive Approach to Quality of Life Offenses

The City of Fort Lauderdale was one of five jurisdictions in the nation to receive a federal grant to implement Florida's first Community Court.

Community Court was launched in Fort Lauderdale in early 2019 in collaboration with the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, Broward County, Broward County Clerk of Courts, the Office of the Public Defender, the State Attorney's Office, and service and treatment providers.

The overarching goal of Community Court is to address low-level, quality of life offenses and municipal ordinance violations. Fort Lauderdale police officers, City staff and community partners proactively engage individuals in need to connect them with supervised treatment and community-based resources and services offered through Community Court. Community Court focuses on the root causes of defendants' behavior and provides them with centralized access to benefits and services, such as substance abuse treatment, behavioral health, housing, employment, personal identification and medical care.

Goods and services, such as hygiene kits, showers, haircuts, meals, clothing, and housing placements are also provided to both Community Court clients and walk-ins through generous donations from community partners and residents.

In lieu of jail time or to have their cases dismissed, Community Court participants receive appropriate therapeutic and community service-based remediations and are required to complete community service, drug treatment and/or social services instead of jail time or to have their cases dismissed.

Fort Lauderdale's Community Court is thriving as a collaborative, neighborhood-focused court aimed at helping citizens in need of services and resources. In 2019, 122 Community Court cases were documented by the Broward County Clerk of Courts and 1,100 walk-ins received services through the program.

Court hearings are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, participating providers continue to offer treatment and services to participants. The City is currently working with its partners to launch a modified, virtual version of Community Court in the near future.

For more information about Community Court or volunteer opportunities, please contact Christopher Leonard, Community Court Coordinator, at (954) 828-6139 or cleonard@fortlauderdale.gov.



Time is Running Out to Complete Your Census

The 2020 Census ends September 30, which is one month earlier than originally announced by the U.S. Census Bureau. With less time for residents to be counted, we must all pull together and act now by responding to the census today at my2020census.gov, 1-844-330-2020, or by mailing back your questionnaire





Local Video Production Collaborates with City to Donate Food to SunServe

Fifty Three Films, a local video production company, recently recorded a South Florida dance troupe competing in the quarter-final round for the television show “America’s Got Talent.” The video shoot took place on top of the Pelican Grand Beach Resort located at Fort Lauderdale Beach.

Adolfo Ferro, the production company’s director, ordered food from the hotel for the production crew, but once it was delivered, he noticed there was too much. Ferro did not want the food to go to waste.

Ferro reached out to Lieutenant Charlie Studders, Commander of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department’s Community and Traffic Services Division, to see if the Department could assist with finding a place to donate the food.

Lieutenant Studders knew who to ask and went straight to Fort Lauderdale City Hall.

The City’s Office of Neighbor Support connected Ferro with SunServe, a local organization that provides critical life assistance and mental health services to South Florida’s LGBTQ community. As a result, Fifty Three Films was able to help support more than 17 households for two days with the food donation. These meals included Asian chicken and rice, mixed salad, Cuban sandwiches, potato chips and fruit.



New Townhomes Offer Affordable Housing Options in Northwest Neighborhood

The new River Gardens Townhomes are now for sale in northwest Fort Lauderdale. The development features 25 townhomes that front Sistrunk Boulevard between I-95 and N.W. 22nd Avenue. There are two three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath models to choose from.

Both models have a garage and range in size from 1,443 to 1,757 square feet. All new townhomes come equipped with a full appliance package and stone countertops. The townhomes also include energy-efficient R-30 ceiling insulation, high-efficiency air conditioning and heating systems, programmable thermostats and a quick recovery, 50-gallon water heaters, all of which support the City’s “Press Play” strategic plan of building a sustainable and resilient community.

The townhome units are affordably priced from \$249,900 to \$259,000. Residents may qualify for purchase assistance (i.e., down payment and closing costs) under the City of Fort Lauderdale Purchase Assistance Program for low-and-moderate income households, subject to funding availability.

The developer, STKR Sistrunk, LLC also received a \$1,500,000 forgivable loan from the City of Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency to assist with the development of the townhomes.

For purchasing information, please contact Oasis of Hope Community Development Corporation at 954-586-1283, ext. 2295.

GET INFORMATION AND UPDATES



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

24-hour Neighbor Call Center: 954-828-8000

Website: www.fortlauderdale.gov

Email Updates: www.fortlauderdale.gov/enews

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CityofFortLauderdale

Twitter: www.twitter.com/FTLCityNews

YouTube: www.youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale

Nextdoor: www.nextdoor.com