



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 20-120**

**Date:** December 22, 2020

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

**From:** Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**Re:** 2020 City Commission Priorities – Quarterly Progress Report (December 2020)

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I am pleased to present the second quarterly report of the 2020 City Commission Priorities. The Commission Priorities are an important short-term component of the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan* and *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*. The Commission Priorities are also a key component of our budget process as we ensure that funding is in place to advance the Commission's priorities (Exhibit 1).

In January 2020, the City Commission met to identify and articulate the City's highest priorities for the 2020 year. At that juncture, six Top Priority and six Priority projects were identified. Updates to the Top Priority projects are provided monthly to the City Commission and community through the LauderTrac newsletters (the newsletters may be accessed online at <https://bit.ly/3oPvZTf>). This memo will serve to provide an update to the six Priorities which include Streetscape and Tree Enhancements, Uptown Master Plan, Airport Workforce Training Facility, Safety, Smart Growth, and Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Build Outs.

### Streetscape and Tree Enhancements

This project is centered around enhancing the beauty of the City with well-planned streetscapes including City entryways, tropical landscaping, and healthy maintained trees. Over the course of the past year, many community beautification activities were completed including enhanced medians with improved landscaping and enhancements to the Landings. Improvements to the median in the Gateway area of Sunrise Boulevard and Federal Highway are currently underway, while work on the Sistrunk corridor is in the planning stages and expected to begin in the second quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2021. The SR A1A Streetscape Improvements project is also moving forward to enhance the pedestrian experience by including new pedestrian lighting on the west portion of SR A1A from the entrance to the South Beach Parking Lot north to Sunrise Boulevard. The project also includes hardscape improvements, new trees, and a café zone delineation in the outdoor seating areas. The project is funded through the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and a Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of

Transportation (FDOT), and is anticipated to be advertised at the beginning of 2021 with construction estimated for completion in November 2021.

Other projects addressed through this Commission Priority include the Breakers Avenue Streetscape, North Galt Shops Streetscapes and Parking Improvements, and Riverland Road Street Improvement projects. The design on the Breakers Avenue Streetscape project is 30% complete and will ultimately create an iconic corridor that provides both mobility and a safe, attractive, climate-resilient public space for neighbors and visitors in Fort Lauderdale Beach. The North Galt Shops Streetscapes and Parking Improvements will address beautification and safety. Construction for this project is ongoing with substantial completion in January 2021. The Riverland Road Street Improvements project is a part of a regional Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant to improve bicycle connections within Broward County; construction is anticipated to begin in April 2021. City Community Investment Plan (CIP) funds have been dedicated to design traffic calming measures which will be installed following the TIGER grant project.

Additionally, a draft of a proposed new Tree Ordinance is anticipated for presentation and consideration by the City Commission in Spring 2021. The revised language will address the loss of old growth specimen trees, particularly in terms of trees approved for removal during site development. The City also increases the tree canopy via ongoing programs such as planting 929 trees in public places as well as giving another 1,358 trees to neighbors in FY 2020.

### Uptown Master Plan

This project was recognized to explore the redevelopment and adaptive reuse potential of the area to the south of the recently adopted Uptown Village. The intent of this effort is to continue the momentum created by the adoption of the Uptown Zoning Districts that make up the Uptown Village and the recent redevelopment of Lockhart Stadium for Major League Soccer (Inter Miami). As such, this project will analyze available options to modify the zoning from industrial to mixed-use industrial/commercial, and further develop incentives to support that vision.

The study area has been identified as Uptown South, consisting of approximately 192 acres, bound by the Uptown Village to the north, Commercial Boulevard to the south, Lockhart Stadium to the west, and I-95 to the east. A draft analysis report of the study area has been developed to identify existing conditions and context, outline opportunities and challenges for the area, identify case studies that can provide guidance, and make recommendations for next steps. The report is pending review from management and is anticipated for distribution in the second quarter of FY 2021. Once the study has been completed, staff will seek to engage a consultant to administer a comprehensive study to understand the impact commercial use will have before any modifications to the existing zoning and land use are developed and recommended.

### Aviation and Aerospace Training Program

The City aspires to become a training hub for aviation, aerospace and related technology deemed critical for future jobs. Collectively, the City along with secondary and higher education partners, seeks to create technical training pathways that establish an employment base for the industry, increase the median income for the region, and bolster the economy. To date, a Request for Proposal has been released to identify a consultant to explore a range of training program options, including the possibility of a training facility. The consultant will evaluate the viability and economic impact of operating programming out of existing and planned community centers along with new construction at identified sites. In consideration of the range of program options, the City has identified possible locations for a training facility at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) through the Airport Master Plan and on municipal land surrounding FXE.

### Safety

This Commission Priority was established to improve the overall safety of the public by maintaining control of recognized hazards and determining strategies to prevent and mitigate risks.

To provide greater public safety performance, plans for new public safety facilities are underway. Progress toward the new Police Headquarters, funded by a \$100 million bond approved by votes in 2019, includes selecting and awarding an architectural firm and construction management firm. The project is currently in the design phase and progressing within the projected schedule and budget. Bi-weekly meetings are taking place between the Police Department's Public Information Office and a community engagement consultant to further develop public outreach. The City has also begun work toward a new fire rescue station, Fire Rescue Station 88, to serve the southeast area of the City. The new station, to be located at 507 SE 11<sup>th</sup> Court, will provide better response times to areas both north and south of the Henry E. Kinney Tunnel. Approximately \$1.8 million dollars remain in the project account for this station.

Other collaborative efforts have made significant progress toward improving safety. The Police Department implemented ShotSpotter technology in October 2020 to provide real-time location detection at the onset of a shooting incident, further enhancing public safety response. To improve safety in neighborhoods, street lighting is being addressed with the upgrade to energy efficient LED bulbs and Smart Node technology, to decrease outages and repair times. The Smart Nodes have been ordered and the installation of LED lights will begin following the completion of the Streetlight Master Plan, which is currently in the solicitation process.

The City's Community Enhancement team is also engaged as a part of this Commission Priority, as their enforcement of City ordinances keeps all neighbors, visitors, and businesses safe, especially considering the COVID-19 pandemic. As of November 2020, 50 cases for nuisance violations, obstruction of intersection sight triangles, and properties

without water service were opened. Another 39 cases for Citywide graffiti abatement projects were opened, and 1,489 COVID-19 inspections were conducted.

### Smart Growth

For the purposes of this project, Smart Growth is defined as an urban planning and transportation growth concept based on the principle that developers are required to mitigate, contribute, or construct infrastructure and right of way improvements that not only benefit a project, but the surrounding community.

The City has pre-established processes in place that guide the approval of development projects. To better understand and guide developers, the City tracks voluntary development improvements that are identified during the Development Review Committee (DRC) process. Voluntary development improvements can be defined as water and sewer infrastructure enhancement or replacement which the City identifies as needed for a development to be adequately serviced. These improvements are typically the responsibility of the City and are provided for in a Community Investment Project (CIP). However, in some instances, a developer's schedule and the City's CIP timeline may not align, so the developer will proffer to contribute to the infrastructure improvement to make the project feasible. Needed improvements are typically identified by the City in a water/sewer capacity analysis that is provided to the development applicant. Any voluntary improvement is stated within the final development permit conditions. The City will be compiling up to three years worth of this information as a part of an Impact Fee Analysis. The completion of the analysis is expected for March 2021.

The City is also working with Gridics, a zoning and mapping software, to complete a 3D development map to visualize development and infrastructure improvements. The tool will be used to better understand capacity to encourage development in areas where there is available infrastructure to support growth. The tool is anticipated for public viewing in early 2021.

### Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Build Outs

This project examined Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) incentive opportunities to provide adequate financial support to qualifying candidates for build outs and facades. The project focused on opportunities available through the Property and Business Improvement Program (PBIP) as this program serves to eliminate slum and blight, remove deterioration, retrofit and rehabilitate structures to remove undesirable uses, improve the "energy efficiency" of existing buildings, or renovate existing structures to bring them into compliance with current building codes. The focus area of the PBIP is Sistrunk Boulevard between NW 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the FEC Railway, one block north and south of Sistrunk Boulevard; 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue (between Sunrise Boulevard and Broward Boulevard); and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue (between Sunrise Boulevard and Broward Boulevard).

In FY 2020, the PBIP program provided a total of \$650,000 in incentives for four projects. Of these projects, Smitty's Wings Restaurant has been completed and recently held its ribbon cutting ceremony. Additionally, the City continues to invest in incentives for our redevelopment areas; \$11.8 million has been budgeted for all incentive programs, including the PBIP for FY 2021. In FY 2021, PBIP incentive funding has been approved for seven recipients in the amount of \$1,462,500.

I am pleased with the continued success these projects have had and will continue to make toward achieving the Commission's priorities. Please contact me for any further information regarding the projects and our progress.

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – FY 2021 City Commission Priorities Budget Alignment

c: Tarlesha W. Smith, Assistant City Manager  
Greg Chavarria, Assistant City Manager  
Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney  
Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Clerk  
John C. Herbst, City Auditor  
Department Directors  
CMO Managers

TOP PRIORITIES	FUNDED ITEMS (★ Newly funded initiatives)
<p><b>Homelessness and Housing Opportunities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Funding for the Community Court Program in the amount of \$114,866 is included in the General Fund and Grant Fund.</li> <li>• The Homeless Intervention Administrator position continues to be funded by the City Manager’s Office in the amount of \$92,023.</li> <li>• Entitlement grant funding will continue to support homelessness initiatives and is managed by the Housing and Community Development Division:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funding.</li> <li>○ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Police Department continues the efforts of the Homeless Outreach Unit (approximately \$340,000 in General Funds).</li> <li>• The City funds a social contribution to the United Way to address homelessness in Fort Lauderdale in the amount of \$710,000.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Infrastructure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Stormwater Bond in the amount of \$200 million is planned for issuance in FY 2021 to support improvements in seven (7) neighborhoods identified as high priority areas.</li> <li>• The Water/Sewer Revenue Bond was issued in FY 2018 in the amount of \$200 million to fund priority projects. Many of these projects have a multi-year implementation cycle and are ongoing.</li> <li>• The Water/Sewer FY 2021 budget includes approximately \$19.6 million in cash funded capital projects. The Central Region Wastewater budget includes \$14.3 million in cash funded capital projects prioritized based upon a renewal and replacement study.</li> <li>• The FY 2021-FY 2025 Community Investment Plan includes \$200 million in revenue funded debt to be issued in FY 2023 to fund projects identified in the Water and Sewer Master Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Master Plan Implementation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$5,000 is available for the ongoing funding of archeological consulting services.</li> <li>• The Department of Sustainable Development operating budget includes \$23,200 for updating the future land use map.</li> <li>★ \$100,000 for affordable housing consulting services is available with a focus on collecting and monitoring affordable housing data in the Downtown Regional Activity Center (RAC).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Waterway Quality</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parks and Recreation Marine Facilities Division budget includes ongoing funding to maintain public pump out facilities that are accessible to the public free of charge to prevent degradation of the City’s water quality.</li> <li>• The City recently was awarded a Clean Vessel Act Grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) which will provide up to \$64,700 in funding for the repair and renovation of the New River Docking Facility Vessel Sewage Pump out System.</li> <li>• Stormwater funds \$45,417 toward Broward County Annual Water Quality Monitoring for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.</li> <li>★ Weekly water quality testing at ten (10) sites.</li> </ul>

TOP PRIORITIES	FUNDED ITEMS (★ Newly funded initiatives)
<b>Transportation and Traffic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City is developing a Transportation Master Plan with the Metropolitan Planning Organization as a part of the Interlocal Agreement approved in FY 2021.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Community Investment Plan includes \$200,000 for Traffic Improvements to improve traffic flow throughout the City of Fort Lauderdale, which will include technology improvements, and will be done in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Broward County Traffic Engineering to improve critical areas and pinch points throughout the City.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Community Investment Plan includes \$200,000 for Traffic Improvements on Riverland Road along State Road 7 and Davie Boulevard.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ \$50,000 in General Funds are included to fund a new Speed Radar Program to collect traffic data for potential synchronization improvements and to slow down drivers that are driving above the designated speed limit.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ \$61,250 in General Funds are allocated to fund Blue Tooth Sensors that will collect data to view live traffic data, perform on the spot traffic analysis, and create custom dashboards for monitoring and reporting from blue tooth enabled vehicles to analyze traffic patterns.</li> </ul>
<b>Resiliency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asset Management:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allocated \$3.9 million in the FY 2021 Community Investment Plan (CIP) for a multi-year Cityworks software project.</li> <li>Stormwater Operations has \$1.3 million allocated to support both asset inventory improvements and implementation of a Watershed Asset Management Plan.</li> <li>The City funded Water &amp; Sewer Operations in the amount of \$330,022 for the Valve Maintenance Team.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hurricane Resilience: Undergrounding of utilities is funded by a voter-approved FY 2021 non-ad valorem special assessment of \$7.7 million.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea Level Rise: Seawall restoration and replacement is funded through the CIP in the amount of \$1.5 million.</li> </ul>
PRIORITIES	FUNDED ITEMS (★ Newly funded initiatives)
<b>Streetscape and Tree Enhancement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City has appropriated \$1.6 million for the North Galt Shops Project to revitalize the neighborhood, including streetscape and tree components.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are available funds in the Beach CRA, included in the SR A1A Streetscape Improvements (Westside), in the amount of \$6.5 million to provide a safe pedestrian walkway.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is approximately \$5.0 million in funding appropriated to the Breakers-Birch Streetscape Project in the City's Community Investment Plan.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City funds \$2,199,659 for community beautification in the Parks and Recreation Department budget.</li> </ul>
<b>Uptown Master Plan</b> <i>*Focusing on Uptown South</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ The City has allocated \$100,000 to hire a consultant for the Uptown Master Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Aviation and Aerospace Training Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ The City has allocated \$50,000 to hire a consultant to study the most viable approach to launch and sustain the program.</li> </ul>

PRIORITIES	FUNDED ITEMS (★ Newly funded initiatives)
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Safety</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CIP funds an EMS sub-station in the amount of \$3 million.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Funding in the amount of \$10,000 is included in the Human Resources Department for Active Killer Threat Response Kits.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ The Police Department budget includes \$400,000 for critical equipment replacement.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ The Police Department budget includes \$195,000 for ShotSpotter Technology.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Community Investment Plan includes \$100 million in voter approved bonds for the Police Headquarters replacement project.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ The Parks and Recreation Department budget includes \$1 million to improve lighting throughout the City.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Smart Growth</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Funding in the amount of \$48,000 is included for 3D Visualization to extend the Zonar contract for 3D development mapping.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Build Outs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CRA funds the Commercial Façade Incentive Program in the amount of \$424,250.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CRA funds the Property &amp; Business Improvement Incentive Program in the amount of \$424,250 in the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Area and \$404,387 in the Central City Community Redevelopment Area.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CRA funds the Streetscape Enhancement Incentive Program in the amount of \$424,250.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CRA funds the Development Incentive Program in the amount of \$10.2 million.</li> </ul>

*\*Some of these projects have elements that are components of other programs and initiatives; as such, the funding identified above may extend to other Commission Priorities.*