



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 21-020

Date: April 1, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

From: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

Re: 2021 City Commission Priorities – Quarterly Progress Report (March 2021)

I am pleased to present the first quarterly updates for the 2021 City Commission Priorities. Commission Priorities are an important short-term component of the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan*, *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, and our budget process as we ensure that funding is in place to advance the priorities.

In January 2021, the City Commission met to identify and articulate the organization's highest priorities for 2021. Six (6) Top Priorities and five (5) Priorities were identified. Updates to the Top Priority initiatives are provided monthly to the City Commission and the community through the LauderTrac newsletters accessible online at <https://bit.ly/3oPvZTf>. This memo will provide an update to the five Priorities which include Airport Workforce Training Opportunities, COVID-19 Recovery, Safety, Smart Growth, and Uptown Master Plan South.

Airport Workforce Training Opportunities

The City Commission established the Airport Workforce Training Facility as a Commission Priority for 2020 and renewed their commitment to the initiative in 2021 as Airport Workforce Training Opportunities. This priority emerged from the Commission's longstanding advocacy for aviation training. Efforts toward this project were accelerated in the summer of 2019 by the newly hired Chief Education Officer and with the formation of a Steering Committee which included representatives from Broward County Public Schools, Atlantic Technical College, Broward College, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, the City of Fort Lauderdale including the Executive Airport (FXE), and industry leaders in commercial and general aviation. Through the Steering Committee, an Avionics Systems Technician program was launched in January 2020 through Atlantic Technical College with the intent to transfer the avionics lab to an airport training facility in the City once one is established. An avionics and aerospace program will further create a talent pipeline in this high demand field within the City.

A consultant has been engaged to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the creation of an aviation and aerospace training program in Fort Lauderdale. The study will assess workforce needs, current aviation and aerospace training programs and identify

collaboration opportunities in support of a training program. Additionally, the consultant will represent the City in cultivating additional partnerships with other entities that can inform and support project development. A range of training opportunities will be explored and will consider the physical space required to deliver programming, including existing and planned community centers and the possible location of a new training center at FXE. The final report is expected in December 2021.

COVID-19 Recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic drastically changed the way we interact with one another, negatively impacting our economy and the labor market, housing stability, and education of our neighbors. This Commission Priority will focus on identifying plans and implementing actions to restore our community in three (3) areas, neighbor health and wellbeing, business, and education.

Over the past year, the City has taken several actions to support the community. Through Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funding, the City dedicated \$2.3 million to small business assistance, which included an Emergency Business Investment Program, and another \$1.6 million for residential assistance. In 2020, the City prevented homelessness for over 480 households through rent, mortgage, and utility payments as well as emergency hotel stays. Weekly food distributions continue to be hosted by the City to provide free, nutritious food to those who are in need due to job loss, income loss, or the inability to cover monthly expenses because of the pandemic.

The City also hosted free testing sites at Mills Pond Park and Holiday Park for adults and children with or without COVID-19 symptoms. No appointment was required at either site. The Mills Pond Park testing site continues to offer polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. The Holiday Park testing site is no longer active as it transitioned to a vaccination site before ultimately relocating services to Snyder Park. While active, Holiday Park offered PCR and rapid antigen testing. As of March 2021, over 200,000 antigen, nasal, and oral COVID-19 tests have been provided through City hosted sites. In addition to testing sites, the City offers vaccinations, by appointment only, at both Lockhart Stadium in cooperation with the State Division of Emergency Management and Broward Health, and Snyder Park through the Florida Department of Health in Broward County. Each site provides approximately 1,000 vaccinations per day.

The City also offers supervised e-learning for students. This program provided an option for parents who needed to return to work when schools were not yet allowing students on campus. While students are beginning to transition into the classroom, the supervised e-learning program continues for those who are not yet able or comfortable to return to schools. With financial support from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the City will be hosting a summer enrichment program in Summer 2021 to provide academic instruction focusing on core educational components such as reading, math, and language arts. The goal of the program will be to provide supplemental learning opportunities to re-engage students who have regressed during their time outside of the

classroom so they can continue grade-level course work at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

The City conducted a total of 1,437 COVID-19 related safety inspections. The proactive and complaint driven inspections were for facial coverings compliance, social distancing, maximum occupancy, vacation rental operations, and enforcement of county, state, and City emergency orders. As the City continues to proactively recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, an educational campaign will be developed to promote awareness on healthy and safe behaviors, updates to the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) guidelines, and valuable information about City services and programs related to COVID-19 support.

Safety

The primary focus of this Commission Priority is to improve the overall safety of the public by identifying major hazards to the community and developing strategies to mitigate the risks. Building on the momentum of this 2020 Commission Priority, the City will expand collaborative efforts, improve emergency incident notifications and increase community engagement.

To further achievements into 2021, the Fire-Rescue Department's focus remains on expanding Community Risk Reduction (CRR) through outreach efforts and improving fire and medical response times. Additionally, a preliminary design for Fire Rescue Station 88 will be initiated sometime in 2021. This new station will improve response times in the southeast portion of the City.

The Police Department enforces public safety regulations and other additional measures to keep neighborhoods safe. License Plate Reader (LPR) technology and National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) bullet tracing technology will provide quick and reliable intelligence to investigate and solve crimes. Additionally, the final construction design for the Police Headquarters will be completed this year with groundbreaking expected in October 2021.

The Parks and Recreation Department continues to work on the Citywide Lighting Master Plan to address lighting needs throughout the City. To increase light outage response times for streets and at parks, over 500 Smart Nodes will be installed into City owned lights this year. This technology will allow for real time reporting of light outages. Additionally, over 25% of existing lights will be enhanced with energy efficient LED bulbs.

Furthermore, Active Killer Response Training and National Safety Council Training, including Stop the Bleed Response, automated external defibrillator (AED), and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training, will also be considered for City staff this year while following the CDC's COVID-19 safety guidelines

Smart Growth

Smart Growth is an ongoing initiative for the City and continues to be prioritized and emphasized in 2021. Under this priority, the City will verify that current infrastructure plans support proposed developments and ensure that newly proposed developments pay a proportionate share of the costs required to expand anticipated infrastructure needs. The City's primary goal is that approved development projects meet established levels of service, fit within the scope of the City's future vision plan, conform with adopted planning regulations, and align with the City's master planning efforts.

In reference to the focus on the relationship between infrastructure capacity and developmental impact, the City initiated an impact fee study analysis last year to analyze the number of voluntary development improvements that exceeded minimum requirements during implementation. All available data has been compiled and is being analyzed and evaluated. The full review is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2021.

Additionally, since last year, significant progress has been made toward the implementation of an interactive digital 3D mapping module. This is an added feature of Gridics' Zonar software which allows staff to better visualize development and infrastructure improvements. The visualizations provided by the tool are expected to emphasize and encourage development in areas where available infrastructure has the capacity to support growth. It will assist staff when analyzing the effects that zoning regulations and proposed zoning changes may have on both existing and future development projects. The software is available online and provides the public with enhanced access to property-specific zoning data as well as visualizations related to approved and upcoming projects to promote transparency. The tool will be presented to Commission in April 2021.

Uptown Master Plan South

This effort was initiated in 2020 and will continue to be a priority in 2021. The initiative will explore redevelopment opportunities within Uptown South and review current land use and zoning patterns to ensure that they provide optimum support for economic growth within the area. An internal preliminary analysis report that provides an overview of existing conditions, outlines present-day land use and zoning requirements, and highlights the challenges and opportunities for redevelopment within Uptown South will be completed and released during the second quarter of 2021.

The Department of Sustainable Development will engage a consultant to further assess the area while focusing on the development of a comprehensive connectivity and mobility plan that links Lockhart Stadium to the Uptown Core and other parts of the City. A preliminary economic and market analysis will be included within the scope of the study to evaluate the feasibility of land use and zoning changes and consider their subsequent impact on other planning efforts of the City. The ultimate redevelopment objective is to

leverage opportunities to foster and expand business development without creating an internally competitive economic environment or duplicating urban planning initiatives currently in place within the City. Simultaneously, initial outreach to property and business owners within Uptown South will be conducted to gauge public reception to prospective land use and/or zoning changes that may have impacts to local stakeholders.

I look forward to continued partnerships and success in implementing the City Commission's Priorities and will provide another update on the City's efforts in June 2021 in addition to the monthly Top Priority LauderTrac newsletters. Please contact me for any further information regarding our progress.

c: Tarlesha W. Smith, Esq., 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