



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 21-089

Date: September 22, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

From: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

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

I am pleased to present the third quarterly updates of the 2021 City Commission Priorities. The Commission Priorities are an important short-term element 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.

In January 2021, the City Commission met to identify and articulate the organization's highest priorities for 2021 where six Top Priorities and five 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 provides 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 continues to progress toward becoming a training hub for aviation, aerospace, and related technology. 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 strengthen the economy.

The City of Fort Lauderdale contracted with the Broward College Center for Applied Research to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study establishing Fort Lauderdale as an Aviation and Aerospace Training Hub. The study will be conducted in a three-phased approach: needs assessment, design, and feasibility.

The first phase of the study, the needs assessment, consisted of an analysis of labor market supply and demand, COVID-19 impacts, educational program inventory, training gaps, and opportunities with elementary and middle school grades for early career exposure. The Broward College Center for Applied Research continues to host interviews and focus groups with industry leaders and has begun exploring programmatic

partnerships with educational institutions. A presentation of findings from the first phase of the study will be shared with the City Commission this fall and will represent the completion of the phase.

COVID-19 Recovery

The City is rapidly recovering from the effects of COVID-19 on our community, while also continuing to address relevant needs. Vaccinations and testing remain available throughout the City, and although the vaccination site at Snyder Park has closed, vaccinations are available in Fort Lauderdale at the Reverend Samuel Delevoe Memorial Park drive through site, Holy Cross Health, and at a variety of retail pharmacies. Homebound neighbors may also receive a vaccine through CDR Maguire's Homebound Vaccine Program which brings vaccinations directly to individuals. For those in need of a COVID-19 test, the City has partnered with the Department of Health to provide free testing at Mills Pond Park. The hours of operation for this site have been updated; the site is open 9 am to 4 pm Sunday through Thursday and closed Friday and Saturday. To date, the site has provided over 259,900 tests to the public. The City has also been providing rapid tests for City employees and their dependents at a mobile location that has moved to different sites each week since August 16, 2021. For the period from August 16 through September 3, 2021, 513 tests were administered with 20 positive results.

The City is also providing an Emergency Rental Assistance Program to assist eligible individuals and families who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program may offer up to six months of rental assistance with payment directly to the landlord. Residents who are interested in information regarding the program, eligibility, and how to apply may visit <https://www.consolidatedcreditsolutions.org/ftl-rent/>.

Over the summer, the City provided supplemental learning opportunities to re-engage students that had regressed during the 2020/2021 school year. The City's Parks and Recreation Department's Community Camps provided academic enrichment for 540 campers. As a result of this program, and based on pre- and post-camp assessments, 85% of campers maintained or improved their literacy skills and 78% of campers maintained or improved their math skills. Additionally, the program helped campers build confidence in their abilities. As one camper wrote, *"You've given me confidence...you've given me hope and insight as to what I can become and that anything is possible."* Parents also expressed appreciation for the program, indicating that their children benefited from *"so many activities and love the learning experiences,"* and that the program *"is exactly what is needed to prepare them for the upcoming school year."* As these students begin the next school year, the learning outcomes that they achieved over the summer will be significant to progressing through this year's curriculum.

In addition to helping neighbors, the City will be conducting a study this fall to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on our business community. This study will identify focus areas and develop strategies to address those impacts so that the City can better support existing businesses and attract new businesses to Fort Lauderdale.

As we look to the new fiscal year which will begin in October 2021, the City continues to address the ongoing financial impacts associated with COVID-19. To date, the City has allocated almost \$30.5 million received from external funding to help our community to recover from the pandemic. Initiatives include homelessness and housing assistance; small business assistance; education enrichment services; COVID-19 response, testing, and vaccinations; and support for City services such as personal protective equipment and public safety payroll expenses. In addition, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides a substantial infusion of resources to help address the cascading economic impact of the pandemic on our local government. The City will receive a total of \$38.1 million which will be provided in two tranches; the first half was received in May 2021, with the remainder to be provided approximately 12 months later. The City is using the initial ARPA funding for government services revenue replacement (\$16,166,993) and retaining the balance (\$2,899,890) for an eligible infrastructure project (investment in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure).

Safety

The Safety initiative aims to prevent and mitigate identified risks and improve notification of emergency incidents with the public and increase community engagement.

The Fire Rescue Department remains focused on improving fire and medical response times and amplifying Community Risk Reduction (CRR) outreach. The Fire Rescue Department has completed 16 smoke alarm installations and 102 car seat installations. The Fire Rescue Department has also facilitated 43 public education events including:

- Stop-the-Bleed/Hands-On CPR/Heat Emergencies Training
- Hurricane Preparedness
- Fire Station Tours
- Career Days
- Homeowner Association Presentations

Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue is also working with the Procurement Division on a Request for Quote (RFQ) package to hire a consultant for the preliminary design of the Southeast Emergency Medical Services (EMS) sub-station (Fire Station 88). The purpose of the new EMS sub-station is to improve response times in the southeast portion of the City.

As a result of a national search, the City has hired Larry Sciroto as the new Police Chief to lead the Police Department. Under Chief Sciroto's leadership, the Department will continue to keep neighborhoods safe by enforcing public safety regulations and utilizing advanced investigation technologies such as License Plate Reader (LPR) technology and National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) bullet tracing technology that provide quick and reliable intelligence to investigate and solve crimes. LPR alerts are used to identify stolen license plates, stolen/felony vehicles, wanted persons, and sexual offenders. As of August 2021, NIBIN has analyzed 197 bullet entries which developed 46 leads for cases that are both inside and outside the City.

The final construction design for the Police Headquarters is anticipated to be complete in November 2021. As a cost saving strategy, the City plans to break ground concurrently for both the garage and Police Headquarters in June/July 2022, contingent upon the acquisition of the adjacent property, rezoning approval, and replating the property to accommodate the Headquarters.

Another facet of the Safety initiative is City lighting. To address Citywide lighting needs, 500 Smart Nodes have been installed on City owned streetlights and in parks. An additional 500 Smart Nodes have recently been received and will be installed in the fall. The Smart Node technology allows for real time reporting of street light outages, which will improve repair response times. In total, approximately 1,000 Smart Nodes will be in place throughout the City by the end of this calendar year. The Citywide Lighting Master Plan is expected to be completed by December 2021. Once the Master Plan is complete, the Parks and Recreation Department will begin upgrading and enhancing streetlights throughout the City.

Along with community safety, the City is prioritizing safety for its employees. The Human Resources Risk Management Division has organized and launched an Active Killer Response Training for all City employees. As of August, a total of 391 employees have successfully completed the program. The program offers techniques and insight from the Department of Homeland Security should an employee ever find themselves in an Active Killer situation. Additionally, 300 Active Killer Response (bleeding control) Kits were purchased and assembled for distribution throughout the City. To date, 101 kits have been dispersed to various City locations and the remaining 199 kits will be distributed this year.

National Safety Council Training commenced earlier this month with 26 employees trained to date. This training includes basic first aid, trauma bleeding and wound care, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). The City expects to train approximately 500 employees per year for the next three years in an effort to train the City's entire workforce. The Police and Fire Rescue departments conduct their own internal training.

Smart Growth

The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) continues to maintain, promote, and leverage the Gridics Municipal Zoning Interactive 3D Development Map as a visualization tool for current and proposed development. The application integrates multiple commonly requested data components and consolidates them into a singular comprehensive website for public review. The website can be accessed from the Urban Design and Planning Division's landing page or via <https://bit.ly/3nEtOoh>.

The Department utilizes the software to visually assess the potential impact of proposed development as well as the effects of any proposed zoning regulation changes on the existing built environment. The visual modeling that the platform offers has already

provided numerous internal benefits, and DSD staff is currently exploring opportunities for cross-departmental collaboration to better evaluate the City's transportation and infrastructure needs. The City remains dedicated in supporting DSD with its ongoing objective to ensure that current infrastructure plans support proposed developments, conform with adopted planning regulations, and align with master planning efforts.

Uptown Master Plan South

An internal preliminary analysis report for the Uptown South area was presented at a City Commission Conference meeting in June 2021. The report's purpose was to reassess the current land use and zoning patterns within the area following recent redevelopment, specific to the DRV PNK Stadium, and examine opportunities to advance and/or align economic initiatives with new and existing industries within Uptown South. The report provided a summary of existing land use and zoning requirements in the area before outlining potential redevelopment opportunities and challenges within Uptown South.

Following the presentation, the consensus was that there is a need to solicit feedback from current property and business owners within the surrounding area to survey their long-term goals and overall sentiment, and to identify any zoning or land use issues. In support of further economic growth in the area, the City will engage the Chamber of Commerce and Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance to partner in marketing and outreach initiatives. The City secured Tindale Oliver as a consultant for the project and the company will provide a supplemental economic and market analysis. The project will also contain a multi-modal connectivity plan that will link the area to the Uptown Village while leveraging nearby transportation systems, including the Tri-Rail and the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, among other areas in the City. The primary objective will be to ensure that any proposed redevelopment focuses on the expansion of business development without creating an internally competitive economic environment or duplicating urban planning initiatives currently in place within the City.

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 December 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