



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

December 13, 2023, at 3:00 PM

[www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab)

### Meeting Minutes

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Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Michael Stara, Chair	P	7	1
Enrique Bargioni, Vice Chair	P	8	0
Jay Adams	P	8	1
William Feinberg	P	8	0
Russ Klenet	A	5	2
Jadicineia Bess	P	1	1
Mark Giarratano	P	2	0

#### **Staff**

Von Howard, Administrative Supervisor (Present)

Melissa Mata, Management Fellow (Present)

Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Division Manager (Present)

#### **I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum**

Chair Micheal Stara called the meeting to order at 3:01PM. Roll was called, and it was noted that there was a quorum present.

Quorum was established at 3:01pm.

#### **II. Special Guest Speaker - Zoie Saunders, City of Fort Lauderdale, Chief Education Officer**

Guest Speaker, Zoie Saunders, presented on the current and future projects implemented by the City of Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Saunders presented on the different audiences targeted by these programs which includes High School Students and entrepreneurs. The City's projects have a focus in workforce readiness, promoting career connections, and promoting entrepreneurship.

Chair Micheal Stara opened discussion on how the Advisory Board can indirectly make a recommendation to the commission evolving the business community with the education system. Members discussed the importance of preparing and motivating students for career development even before high school.

Chair Stara requested one member to work with Ms. Saunders on a strategy to present to the Mayor and Commission. Chair Stara requested to make the education system a priority for next year. Member Enrique Bargiani offered to work with Ms. Saunders. Chair Stara agreed.

#### **III. New Business**

##### **Roll Call**

Chair Stara requested a Roll Call for the new members to introduce themselves and welcome them to the Board. New members were introduced, and Chair Stara explained how meetings are usually held. Chair Stara continued by expressing the importance of attending the EDAB Meetings. Chair Stara continued to explain how each member is assigned to a topic of their choice to advocate and provide updates during



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meeting. Members expressed frustration of not feeling they have advanced or looked further into any agenda items. Members would like to be more proactive with their meetings to be able to demonstrate their support to city initiatives.

#### **Himmarshee Revitalization Recommendations**

Chair Stara moved on to the 2<sup>nd</sup> item on the agenda. Members were not clear on what type of recommendations to provide in the agenda item. Mr. Howard and Melissa Mata from the City of Fort Lauderdale, explained Himmarshee Street is an ongoing project to revitalize the street through public input.

Member, Jay Adams, opened discussion by recommending the city to rewrite the historic building policies. Mr. Adams expressed the new developments are removing the historic buildings in the city – which have been a key branding for the city.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **GIS Map**

Vice Chair Enrique Bargioni opened discussion to the GIS Map that was requested on the last meeting by Member Russ Klenet. Ms. Mata and Mr. Howard displayed the GIS Map on the screen for the members to see. The GIS Map represented the current and future buildings for members to provide recommendations to the City Manager and the Mayor on Economic Development. The GIS Map showed the following city points:

“North to Sunrise, South to Himmarshee Street, East to US1; and West to 7th Avenue”

Members advised they were looking to viewing only properties that are city owned. Member Enrique Bargioni requested a member of the City to speak and demonstrate city-owned properties to the members. Members would like to know which city properties can be turned into a park or used for different purposes.

#### **V. Meeting Reports**

Member, Enrique Bargioni, opened discussion to a letter sent by Mayor Trantalis to the community about the New River Crossing for Commuter Rail. Member Bargioni expressed his opinion towards the Mayor’s letter and his request to the community. Member Bill Feinberg expressed the City and the County need to collaborate to reach a decision.

Daphnee Sainvil, Director of Public Affairs, explained to the members the progress of the project along with a summary of the workshop the County and the City had on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Sainvil told members



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she will forward the recording of the Joint Workshop with Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

After member reports, Ms. Sainvil announced the Walk of Fame Nominations for 2024 were currently opened. Members can nominate any individuals they believe have made an impact to the community of the City of Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Sainvil mentioned last day to nominate is on December 29<sup>th</sup>, all nominees will be announced at the Great American Beach Party in May.

Member Mark Giarratano asked if EDAB members carried an individual project throughout their term. Chair Stara clarified all members can have a topic of their choosing and provide any updates in meetings.

Chair Stara requested members to vote where they would like the EDAB meetings to be held. Members asked for available locations. Von Howard from the City of Fort Lauderdale explained the members can have their meetings in any City building. Members only requested the building to be close in distance and with parking. Members voted to have the meeting held at DSD Building with a 4 to 2 vote.

#### VI. Meeting adjourned at 4:29 PM.

**The next EDAB meeting will be January 10, 2024 at DSD Building**

*Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.*