



# LauderBriefs

## Updates from City Commission Meetings

*The City of Fort Lauderdale hosts City Commission meetings in person at various temporary locations. If any person wishes to address the City Commission, the person shall sign up using the City Clerk's iPad. The public can listen to and view City Commission meetings on [FLTV](#), [YouTube](#), Comcast Channel 78, and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. To learn more about City Commission meetings, visit [fortlauderdale.gov/citycommissionmeetings](http://fortlauderdale.gov/citycommissionmeetings).*

In case you missed them, the following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. The video is available at [youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale](https://youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale), and the vote summary will be available later this week at [fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar](http://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar).

### **CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP: 2024-26 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

#### **Commission Discusses Priorities for the City's 2024-26 Federal Legislative Program**

City Commissioners reviewed the working draft of the City's 2024-26 Federal Legislative Program and provided feedback for updates that will be finalized at an upcoming Commission meeting. The draft includes fundamental principles statements, policy priorities, and appropriation requests. The Commission's legislative priorities include improving water quality and wastewater management, infrastructure enhancements, supporting public safety initiatives, strengthening neighborhoods, addressing climate change and disaster resilience, and promoting economic stability and business development. The draft also included 13 appropriation requests totaling more than \$75.9 million from City departments, ranging from a project to address homelessness, a new fire station, and infrastructure improvements. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/49j301Z](http://ftlcity.info/49j301Z).

### **CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING**

#### **Commission Hears Presentation Regarding Land Use and Development Opportunities**

The City Commission was provided with a presentation that evaluates the potential of a mixed-use development zoning district along major corridors in the city to create regulations to help guide future development. The areas include stretches of US-1, portions of State Road 84, and portions of Sunrise, Oakland Park, and Commercial Boulevards. The objective of this effort is to enhance overall livability in Fort Lauderdale, provide a variety of housing options, support walkability and multiple modes of transportation, and promote a successful mix of uses. The presentation included recommendations from technical assistance panelists (TAP), qualified experts who provide objective advice to local municipalities on land use and development issues. Next, staff will prepare a scope of work and procure a consultant to start the project in the summer of 2024. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3SKpemo](http://ftlcity.info/3SKpemo).

### **Broward County Staff Provides the Commission with a Traffic Signalization Presentation**

Staff from the Broward County Traffic Engineering Division provided an update to the City Commission about the use of the Broward County Transportation surtax funding for traffic signalization improvements. The main goals include improving travel times, reducing traffic congestion, and streamlining traffic signal coordination. With commuter and pedestrian safety a crucial component, efforts will be made to deploy new and emerging technologies such as adaptive signal control and vulnerable user detection. The presentation outlined corridor retiming projects that have occurred, are in progress, and are scheduled for the future. Broward County stated its commitment to work with the City to create a safer transportation system in support of Vision Zero and to continue collaboration with the City, FDOT, and the MPO on funding opportunities to enhance mobility and safety. For details, visit

[ftlcity.info/42LdtRe](https://ftlcity.info/42LdtRe).

### **Commission Provided Status Update About the City 2024 State Legislative Efforts**

The City Commission was provided an update regarding the status of the City's 2024 state legislative efforts, including appropriation requests, vacation rentals, municipal utility rates, development regulations, taxation, and more. With less than three weeks remaining in the session, several projects continue to move forward. Appropriation requests currently under consideration by the Florida House and Senate include projects for sidewalk repairs, Breakers Avenue, and Riverland Road, as well as efforts to address homelessness, among others. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3wgeDYL](https://ftlcity.info/3wgeDYL).

### **Commission Discusses Topics Regarding Advisory Boards and Committees**

The City Commission addressed several issues important to the makeup and functions of Advisory Boards and Committees. The topics discussed included whether lobbyists can serve on a board or committee, whether quasi-judicial board members can serve on a committee or task force, if a code of conduct should apply to board and committee members, and if a Commissioner can take action to remove his or her appointed advisory board or committee member. The Commission will further evaluate their options during a future discussion. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3T6FRJp](https://ftlcity.info/3T6FRJp).

### **Commission Considers Adopting a Code of Conduct for Mayor and Commissioners**

The City Commission signaled support to adopt a code of conduct for the Mayor and Commissioners. Currently, there is no code of conduct applicable to elected officials in the City; however, there are Florida ethics laws that broadly apply to all elected municipal officials and a Broward County Code of Ethics that applies to City elected officials. The City Commission can adopt its own code of conduct detailing specific expectations and standards as long as it is consistent with federal and state laws. Commissioners were provided with several examples of adopted codes of conduct from Florida cities, including Cape Canaveral, Cooper City, Maitland, Pensacola, Malabar, and Miami Beach. Following recommendations from the Commissioners, a code of conduct will be drafted and presented to the Commission for consideration at a future meeting. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3wgrhqH](https://ftlcity.info/3wgrhqH).

## **CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

### **Commission Approves Motions for Food and Alcoholic Beverages Service on the Beach**

The City Commission adopted separate motions for the sale, service, and consumption of food and alcoholic beverages on the public beach, including at the Bahia Mar Beach Resort and The Ritz Carlton Hotel. The motions apply to hotel guests or any person occupying a beach chair rented from a City-approved beach concessionaire and are limited to the area within each hotel's upland property boundary lines that extend to the beach. The City may temporarily suspend or revoke, or permanently terminate the agreement if expectations are not met. For details about Bahia Mar, visit [ftlcity.info/3UPJLbQ](https://ftlcity.info/3UPJLbQ). For details about The Ritz Carlton, visit [ftlcity.info/3UHNliR](https://ftlcity.info/3UHNliR).

### **Commission Shows Support for Programs Designed to Enhance Mobility**

The City Commission approved a resolution of support endorsing new municipal capital projects as part of the 2024 Mobility Advancement Program projects for Broward County surtax funding. The one-cent surtax, which started in 2019 and continues for 30 years, aims to increase mobility and address transportation challenges. The City recommends submitting three project applications in 2024, including \$6.5 million for NE 26th Street Complete Streets Projects construction funding, \$2.3 million for SW 14th Avenue and Middle Street construction funding, and \$3 million for Lauderdale design funding. If the 2024 applications are awarded, funding will be received in 2029. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3SEjGtu](https://ftlcity.info/3SEjGtu).

### **Commission Agrees to Study Changing Andrews and SE 3rd Avenues to One-Way Streets**

The City Commission approved an approximately \$320,000 agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., for consultant services for the one-way pairs study for Andrews Avenue and SE 3rd Avenue between SE 17th Street and Sunrise Boulevard. One-way pairs are a concept that includes converting Andrews Avenue and SE 3rd Avenue to one-way streets – one in each direction – with the intent to create more efficient intersections and traffic flow. Goals include reducing the number of signal phase traffic signals, creating dedicated transit-only lanes, and adding more space for pedestrians and bicycles. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/49Cg4z8](https://ftlcity.info/49Cg4z8).

### **Commission Approves Funding Agreement for Housing for Low- to Moderate-Income Families**

The City Commission approved a \$1.5 million funding agreement with the Broward County Habitat Community Housing Development Corporation for the development and construction of 20 affordable residential townhouse units for qualified low- to moderate-income families. The energy-efficient units will be located between Powerline Road and NW 19th Street, and homeownership opportunities will be provided to families with a household income that does not exceed 80% of the area's median income. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3uFIU2R](https://ftlcity.info/3uFIU2R).

### **Commission Finalizes Fiscal Year 2024 City Commission Priorities**

The City Commission approved the fiscal year 2025 City Commission priorities, which are an important component of the City's budget planning process. Additionally, the priorities advance the goals and objectives in the City's five-year strategic plan and its long-term vision plan. The Commission's priorities established for FY 2025 include public safety, homelessness initiatives,

affordable housing and economic development, transportation and traffic, infrastructure and resilience, and public spaces and community initiatives. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3wkYqSd](https://ftlcity.info/3wkYqSd).

### **Commission Supports Pursuit of a Federal RAISE Grant for the New River Crossing**

The City Commission approved a resolution supporting the submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the New River crossing. Recent studies for a New River crossing for commuter rail have identified four crossing alternatives – three bridge options and a tunnel, which is the City’s preferred alternative. The RAISE program has a \$25 million maximum grant threshold for the planning phase and requires a 20% local match. The City intends to submit a grant application for \$2.5 million for a total project cost of \$3 million with the \$500,000 local match. The City will provide notification to Broward County regarding the intention to apply and is seeking future partnership opportunities with the county. The study will provide a SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunity, threat) for four different alternatives to determine which configuration, if any, would advance to the design phase. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3T6r4j2](https://ftlcity.info/3T6r4j2).

### **Commission Approves Measures to Mitigate Impact of Spring Break**

The City Commission took steps to reduce the potential disruption of high-impact events such as Spring Break on beach property, including a boost to the maximum parking violation fee and an increase in the per-day parking rate during these events. In years past, the City Commission has taken steps such as prohibiting tents, tables, and the consumption of alcohol on the beach. To incentivize rideshare and other modes of transportation, the Commission approved a new parking violation fee of \$125, which is \$25 more than the current maximum special event rate, and the implementation of a parking rate of up to \$100 per day per vehicle during high-impact events.

### **Information**

For more information on the February 20, 2024, Commission meetings, visit [fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar](https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar).

### **Upcoming City Commission Meetings**

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will take place on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at NSU Art Museum – Horvitz Auditorium, 1 E. Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.