



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.

In case you missed them, the following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, September 17, 2024. The video is available at youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale, and the vote summary will be available later this week at fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

CITY COMMISSION JOINT WORKSHOP WITH THE CHARTER REVISION BOARD

Commission Discusses Recommendations and Potential Actions for Amending the Charter

The City Commission held a joint workshop with the Charter Revision Board to explore proposed amendments and other actions related to the City's Charter. Recommendations from the board included clarifications regarding qualifications for Mayor and City Commission candidates, how the Vice Mayor is designated, forfeiture of office, qualifications for a City Manager, and other items. The Commission will submit their priority topics for the board to consider as part of a comprehensive review of the entire charter. Public outreach will follow, and the discussion will continue at a future City Commission Conference Meeting with the potential for quarterly updates. For details, visit ftlcity.info/47sXbPf.

CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING

Commission Hears Update on the Status of the Prospect Lake Clean Water Center

The City Commission was provided with an overview of the progress made to the construction of the Prospect Lake Clean Water Center since the groundbreaking in October 2023. The new facility will replace the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant and deliver clear, clean water to City residents. To date, the project site has been elevated by 7 feet, 27,000 of 37,000 linear feet of underground pipe has been installed, and 105,000 of 138,000 linear feet of underground electrical conduit has been installed. Progress continues as the underground and backfill phase is expected to be completed in October and the major equipment foundations are to be completed the following month. The facility is scheduled to begin operations in September 2026. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4gl6q8p.

Commission Hears Overview of City's Homeless Initiatives and Action Plan for New State Law

The City Commission was given an update about efforts to address homelessness in the City, including an overview of programs and services that are currently in place. In 2023, a point-in-time count found nearly 2,500 homeless individuals, both sheltered and unsheltered, in the

county, including approximately 800 in Fort Lauderdale. Currently, there are 612 shelter beds countywide, though only 553 are available at the moment due to construction work at one of the three facilities. Some of the initiatives to address homelessness in the City include Community Court, which provides a wide range of services, Fort Lauderdale Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), housing navigation, and more. Moving forward, the City plans to secure 10 mental health beds and 10 substance abuse treatment beds, establish a temporary overnight respite shelter, and host educational town halls, among other actions. Over the long term, the city will explore programs such as safe parking and pallet homes while continuing to work with partners for a refined approach and satisfactory solution for issues related to homelessness. The Commission also reviewed actions the City will take to be compliant with the new state law that prohibits sleeping or camping on public property, including the process for reporting a possible violation. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3XNGon5.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Agrees to Accept Narcan Doses and Devices for Emergency Responses

The City Commission authorized the acceptance of 500 nasal Narcan devices and 350 pre-filled syringes with a single dose of Narcan from the Florida Department of Health. The donation to Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue from HEROS (Helping Emergency Responders Obtain Support), a state program that provides free naloxone (Narcan) to emergency response, is valued at \$14,277. Naloxone is a medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. Fire Rescue received more than 900 opioid-related calls in fiscal year 2023 and is on track for more than 1,000 this year. The donation will help the department save lives related to opioid overdoses. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4gwbQxa.

Commission Approves Improvements Associated with a New Crosswalk on A1A

The City Commission adopted a resolution authorizing agreements for the installation of the bulb outs and pavers, stamped asphalt crosswalk, and pedestrian turtle-compliant lighting associated with a new signalized crosswalk on State Road A1A south of NE 14th Court. In 2021, the City received a request from residents seeking an additional crosswalk in that location to allow pedestrians to safely cross A1A, which is under the jurisdiction of FDOT. FDOT agreed a crosswalk should be added, and construction is anticipated to commence in summer 2025. The project will include decorative elements to match the existing conditions in this area consistent with the treatments installed in the past. While FDOT will include the design of decorative elements in the plans, the City will be responsible for cost of installation of those decorative elements. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3Tuep9e.

Commission Signs Off \$3.7 Million Project for Standby Generators at Wastewater Plant

The City Commission approved an agreement with Solares Electrical Services, Inc., for approximately \$3.7 million for the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant Generators Phase 1 Project. The City previously purchased four generators that are currently in production. The new project is for phase I of the installation of the four new standby generators that will provide power to run the effluent pumps during a power outage. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4evqcfL.

Commission Advances Ordinance Addressing Camping and Sleeping on Public Property

The City Commission moved an ordinance forward to address and ensure compliance with Florida House Bill 1365. The ordinance prohibits unauthorized public camping and sleeping on public property at all times of the day or night unless specifically authorized by the appropriate governing authority. Public property includes any street, alley, sidewalk, pedestrian pathway, bicycle lane, or any other area encompassed within the public right-of-way, recreation facility, or any other grounds, buildings, or other facilities owned by the City or any other governmental entity. City parks are excluded from the proposed ordinance because they are governed by existing rules that only allow the public to be present during operating hours. Fort Lauderdale Beach is subject to the park rules. The ordinance will be brought back to the Commission on October 1 for adoption and, if approved, will become effective at that time. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4epuchE.

Commission Establishes Codes of Conduct for Itself and City Boards and Committees

The City Commission adopted separate ordinances creating a code of conduct for the Commission and a code of conduct for City boards and committees. While there are state and county ethics laws that are broadly applicable, there are currently no unique codes of conducts for either the Commission, which is applicable to the Mayor and Commissioners, or boards and committees. At a previous meeting, the Commission discussed the need and benefit of establishing such codes of conduct to set standards for decorum and behavior of the Commission and its appointees. For details about a code of conduct for the City Commission, visit ftlcity.info/47xQ7kl. For details about a code of conduct for members of City boards and committees, visit ftlcity.info/3TtxClk.

Information

For more information on the September 17, 2024, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will occur on Tuesday, October 1, at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in the Mary N. Porter Riverview Ballroom, 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312.