



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

APPROVED
BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
VIRTUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.

Board Member	Attendance	10/2020 through 9/2021	
		Cumulative Attendance Present	Absent
Brian Donaldson, Chair	P	4	0
Jeff Lowe, Vice Chair	P	4	0
Ross Cammarata	P	4	0
Catherine Graham	P	4	0
Michael Marshall	P	2	2
A. Abidemi Oladipo	P	3	0
Prabhuling Patel	P	4	0
Adam Sabin	P	4	0
Johnnie Smith	P	4	0
Christopher Williams	P	3	1

Also Attending

- Chris Lagerbloom, City Manager
- John Herbst, City Auditor
- Laura Reece, Director, Office of Management and Budget
- Susan Grant, Finance Director
- Yvette Matthews, Assistant Budget Manager
- Parth Patel, Budget and Management Analyst
- Charmaine Crawford, Budget Department and Board Liaison
- Jamie Opperlee, Prototype Inc. Recording Secretary

Communications to the City Commission

None

Purpose: To provide the City with input regarding the taxpayers’ perspective in the development of the annual operating budget; to review projections and estimates from the City Manager regarding revenues and expenditures for upcoming fiscal year; to advise the City Commission on service levels and priorities and fiscal solvency; and to submit recommendations to the City Commission no later than August 15 of each year regarding a budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Budget Advisory Board was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes **A. February 17, 2021**

Motion made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Ms. Graham, to approve the minutes of the Board's February 17, 2021 meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business

1. Continuation of Non-Profit Organization Grant Application Review **a. Board's Request for Presentation from Identified Organizations**

Broward Partnership for the Homeless

Ryon Coote, Chief Development Officer for Broward Partnership for the Homeless, said theirs was the largest public/private alliance addressing homelessness in Broward County and offered a complete array of health and social services. They were requesting funds for their emergency shelter program at the Central Homeless Assistance Center near downtown Fort Lauderdale. Services included access to case management, meal, childcare, medical care, mental health services, substance abuse treatment/education, housing navigation and placement, vocational training and employment assistance needed to establish self-sufficiency and housing stability.

Ms. Graham asked if other Broward County municipalities provided funds and Mr. Coote stated they did. Nick Green said their proposal to Fort Lauderdale was specific to their Fort Lauderdale facility. Tom Campbell stated they worked with Broward County Homeless Initiative Partnership and other service providers and behavioral health providers.

Chair Donaldson thought the organization's housing goals were low compared to historical actuals and Mr. Campbell said these were more realistic goals in the COVID environment and they did not see them lifting for two years or so.

Chair Donaldson asked how they determined who got beds, how many nights someone was permitted to stay and what happened when they exceeded the limit. Mr. Campbell stated shelters in Broward County were currently operating at approximately 60% capacity. He described their mobile outreach teams who sought clients on the street. He said they were increasing workforce development to meet demand. They used to have a

60-day limit, but their average now was about 160 days [the national average was 180 days]. He said everything was increasing due to the pandemic.

Chair Donaldson said he had been unable to determine exactly how the City's requested \$50,000 donation would be used. Mr. Campbell said their request was for general operations; programs, services and staff, and noted what a difficult budget year this was going to be.

Mr. Coote reported they received a total of approximately \$300,000 from United Way for their Partners in Health, outreach and other programs.

SOS Children's Villages of Florida

Dawn Seay, Chief Development Officer, said they were a foster care provider who focused on keeping sibling groups together and they could accommodate up to 72 children. She informed the Board that their High School graduation/GED equivalent rate was 100% compared to the national average of 30% for children in foster care.

Ms. Seay stated their requested \$50,000 would be used for the Residential Service program, which included independent living skills classes. This program included tutoring, which allowed them to achieve their educational outcomes. They also had a Next Steps Program for young adults ageing out of foster care.

Ms. Seay informed Ms. Graham that they received \$2 million from the State last year and they needed to raise the other \$2 million to provide their programs.

Mr. Patel asked the impact the pandemic had on the children. Ms. Seay said the children needed additional therapy service because they had been home schooled. There had been an increase in expenses for things such as food and IT because of the home schooling as well. Ms. Seay said with the funds from Fort Lauderdale, they wanted to invest in additional education and add to their independent living program.

Mr. Lowe asked how they had arrived at their \$50,000 request. Ms. Seay explained that they had relied on special events to bring in significant funds and the events had decreased because of the pandemic. She acknowledged they had requested additional funds from many of their partners because of the decrease in fund raising events.

Mr. Cammarata asked how many of the program participants were from Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Seay said all but three participants were from Broward County. She stated they were also requesting \$50,000 from Broward County.

Mr. Smith asked the basis of the \$50,000 request and Ms. Seay stated it represented just under 10% of their residential services program.

Children's Home Society of Florida

Nicole Spencer-Whiting, Clinical Program Supervisor, said they were the largest, oldest state-wide child-serving non-profit in Florida. They served almost 60,000 children and families each year, offering child welfare, early childhood education, behavioral health and community services programs. She stated they needed ongoing funding to provide counseling to children and families without insurance. Ms. Spencer-Whiting said they served approximately 300 individuals in this area.

Ms. Spencer-Whiting stated the request was specifically for services in Fort Lauderdale. This would target kids who would be unable to receive services otherwise.

Ms. Graham asked if they were requesting funds from other Broward County municipalities. Ms. Spencer-Whiting stated there were, and the funds would remain in the areas from which they had been donated.

Ms. Spencer-Whiting said they had requested only \$5,000 because it was specifically for underinsured kids in Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Cammarata asked how many Fort Lauderdale families would be served with \$5,000 and Ms. Spencer-Whiting said approximately 50 families, with services individualized to their needs. Chair Donaldson had calculated that the counseling service cost \$100 per hour, so the \$5,000 would cover 50 hours. The average person required three sessions, so only 16 people would be served over one year. He felt this indicated that there was either not enough need or the request was too low. Chair Donaldson asked Ms. Spencer-Whiting how many people in Fort Lauderdale in the past had fallen through the cracks. Mr. Cammarata wanted to know the specific need for City residents. Ms. Spencer-Whiting agreed to provide this information.

A Child is Missing

Jackie Breen said the organization began by helping law enforcement with the search and recovery of missing persons, but they had added child safety education and personal safety, anti-bullying and internet safety. Police had participated in the Alert program for missing children at no cost in the past because the organization had previously received State funding, but in July 2020, the State had cut funding without notice. They had then asked Police to pay for the programs, which they typically paid for out of their Law Enforcement Trust Fund [LETF].

Chair Donaldson clarified that Fort Lauderdale Police had participated in the Alert program in the past, without being required to pay. Ms. Breen stated in August 2020, after the State funding was cut, the Fort Lauderdale Police had chosen not to make any contribution, so A Child is Missing had stopped handling any missing persons cases. She

informed Ms. Graham that the Child Safety Education Program was ongoing, with funds coming from the Broward Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Cammarata wanted to seek data from the Fort Lauderdale Police indicating the impact of ceasing to fund the Alert program. He asked Ms. Reece how Police LETF funds were used. Ms. Breen stated LETF funds must be spent according to State guidelines. She said they had recently held a meeting to discuss contacting the new interim Police Chief. She said until this past summer, they had received \$5,000 per year for the Child Safety Programs.

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County

Renee Jaffe, CEO, stated they administered childcare reimbursements through their School Readiness Program and provided childcare small business educational support and training, enabling them to provide a high quality learning experience to children aged 0-5. She explained that their federal grants carried a minimum match requirement.

Ms. Jaffe stated Fort Lauderdale was the single largest beneficiary of their school readiness assistance in Broward County, with almost 3,000 City residents in their program. This translated to \$11 million in reimbursements to their providers last year.

Ms. Jaffe confirmed for Ms. Graham that the City's \$50,000 contribution would be matched by \$50,000 from the State and this would serve approximately 3,000 Fort Lauderdale children. She stated they were the only organization in Broward County that was providing a childcare subsidy from federal and state funds that were passed down.

Ms. Jaffe explained that there was a cap on reimbursement for the costs of the childcare. Chair Donaldson asked if there was a way to show that the City's \$50,000 would serve additional City residents on the wait list. Ms. Jaffe said the funds would be used to take new families off the wait list and would serve 18-20 children.

Helping Abused, Neglected, Disadvantaged Youth [HANDY]

Kristen Nelson stated HANDY provided emergency needs and support to youth, and their mission was to achieve positive, lasting change for youth by providing life skills, education and a supportive community. Approximately 52% of their 1,400 participants came from Fort Lauderdale, mostly from the 33311 zip code. They were requesting funds for the Life Program, which provided wrap-around support for youth aged 10-25. Ms. Nelson reported that during the pandemic, 80% of their families had lost 70% of their income.

Kirk Brown stated they had seen serious impacts on youth during the pandemic and they needed more intensified case management now. They wanted to be able to see families twice per week. He stated 95% of their youth graduated High School; 90% attended post-secondary education and 70% of those achieved certification.

Mr. Brown confirmed that the \$100,000 they were requesting was specifically for Fort Lauderdale residents.

Mr. Lowe asked if any of their services overlapped with other providers. Mr. Brown stated there were enough clients that their services did not.

Mr. Cammarata wanted a breakdown of the number of participants in each City district. Mr. Brown agreed to provide that information, and said they were need-focused, not zip code focused.

Chair Donaldson wanted to know how many participants were in the 33311 zip code and what percentage they represented of the total Fort Lauderdale participants. Chair Donaldson asked how many Fort Lauderdale kids 18 and under had been served last year. He also noted that the application indicated only \$34,000 of the \$100,000 request would go to the counselors, and would therefore only help 25 individuals.

Mr. Brown explained that they considered “youth” to include people ageing out of foster care, which can extend to 23 years old. He stated the program would serve 25 youths and the remaining funds would go toward auxiliary service for those young people and their families, including rent, school and life assistance. Ms. Nelson stated they performed an assessment on the whole family on intake.

Ms. Nelson informed the Board that 76% of their youth were 18 and below and 42% of those from Fort Lauderdale came from the 33311 zip code.

Jack and Jill Children’s Center

Lauren Bernstein, Grants Manager, said they provided high quality education and family strengthening services to 140 low-income children aged 6 weeks through 5 years. They focused on the children and their families, offering case management, emergency funds, food and clothing pantries and adult education. Their request for funds was for their Early Childhood Education Program. Ms. Bernstein said 62% of their families lived in Fort Lauderdale. She said they had requested \$60,000 because their Early Education Program budget was at a \$400,000 loss this year.

Mr. Patel asked how COVID had affected Jack and Jill’s clients. Ms. Bernstein said their clients’ job and food security had been affected.

Mr. Lowe asked who they were targeting for their capital campaign for their building on Broward Boulevard. Susan Stanley, CFO, said they were focusing on foundations, corporate partners and individual donors already providing funding.

Chair Donaldson thought \$60,000 to serve approximately 80 Fort Lauderdale residents might be “too aggressive” and not benefit enough City residents.

The Board took a brief break.

Museum of Discovery and Science

Joe Cox, President and CEO of the museum, said they provided STEM education programming to every second and fourth-grade student in all 19 public elementary schools in Fort Lauderdale. He remarked on the need for STEM education in schools to raise educational achievements, noting that only 34% of Fort Lauderdale students received a passing grade in the Florida State-wide science assessment.

This grant would allow the museum to provide free educational content to 3,221 students in Fort Lauderdale. The program included two full-day experiences to the museum, two STEM Mobile full-day visits to each school, a take-home STEM kit for each pupil and professional development to 130 elementary school teachers. This investment equated to \$22 per experience, per child, or \$7 per hour of programming per child.

Chair Donaldson was impressed by their target of 3,200 students. He would like to see a breakdown of the costs of each component of each program in order to make an educated decision and Mr. Cox agreed to provide it.

Kids in Distress

Kevin Bochenek, Director of Educational Services, said the funding they were requesting was for their Full STEAM Ahead program enhancement. They had added a STEAM component to their preschool program and wished to expand it to year-round, instead of the current nine months. The funds would allow them to purchase supplemental supplies and develop additional curriculum. He explained to Ms. Graham that the existing program received \$50,000 from United Way of Broward County.

Mr. Bochenek said once pre-school came back after COVID, he estimated 10-15 Fort Lauderdale students would be in the program.

Mr. Sabin requested their 2019 tax return and Mr. Bochenek agreed to provide it.

Chair Donaldson was concerned because the program would only serve 10-20 Fort Lauderdale residents.

Broward Performing Arts Foundation

Kelley Shanley, President and CEO of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts said the request was for their Arts for Action: Black Voices Program. They would produce live events with the goal of encouraging people of color to write their own stories. They wanted to create awareness of social justice issues and ways to address them in the larger community. Mr. Shanley said they were requesting approximately 20% of project budget

from Fort Lauderdale. He said they would very deliberately seek audiences, partners and businesses to accomplish their diversity, equity and inclusion goals.

Mr. Shanley said they had received \$90,000 from the Community Foundation for this program. This was their largest gift so far, and they anticipated a lot of smaller gifts from other donors.

Mr. Shanley said they hoped that the relationships and collaborations would sustain themselves and continue work in this area.

Chair Donaldson was concerned about paying artists' salaries without a full house. He wanted it to make more of an impact on the community to justify using taxpayers' funds. Mr. Shanley said they would also record performances, and the artists would tell their stories with a moderator. He stated the events would draw interest to the artists, but the most important part of the project was the conversations that would happen before and after the events, the conversations that happened during the live stream, and the conversations recorded for later use.

ArtServe

Jason Hughes, Executive Director, said ArtServe was a community hub and their facility housed artist studios and non-profit offices. He reported they taught Fort Lauderdale artists the "art of business." Their grant request was to create a strong, impactful 2022 season. Jennifer Gettinger, Grants Manager, described their six upcoming exhibitions for 2022.

Ms. Graham asked if they requested funding from other Broward County municipalities and Mr. Hughes said they were requesting funds from other municipalities, as well as from corporate and private donors.

Chair Donaldson had not seen in the application that this would reach the general public more than in the past, justifying the new revenue stream. Mr. Hughes explained that this was a new business model for them; in the past, they had rented the galleries. This season, they were creating their own exhibits tailored to the community. In doing so, they would lose those rental fees.

Master Chorale of South Florida

Brett Karlin, Artistic Director and Conductor, described their concert series and said they had applied for the funding from Fort Lauderdale to produce Verdi's Requiem, and a Family Series Concert the following day.

Mr. Karlin said on the stage would be the Chorale's 136 singers, plus an 80-90 member orchestra. Their venue accommodated 1,500 attendees and he anticipated 750-800 would attend the Verdi Requiem at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Chair Donaldson asked the ticket prices and Mr. Karlin stated it was approximately \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door and could change depending on the program. The family series concert, which was free, was a pared-down version of the main stage event, with additional narration and explanation. They intended to allow kids to interact with the artists and musicians afterwards.

Chair Donaldson asked how many participants typically attended the family event and how they would market it to increase participation. Mr. Karlin stated these would be their first family series concerts.

Bonnet House

Patrick Shavloske, CEO of Bonnet House Museum and Gardens, said they had gained independence from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation in 2020 and the museum was now in local community hands. This funding was being sought to replace their obsolete radio system. They typically spent \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year replacing radios, which were becoming difficult to find.

Mr. Shavloske stated they had approximately 75,000 visitors per year, and they estimated 15,000 came from Fort Lauderdale.

Chair Donaldson understood the need for new equipment but was unsure if this was an appropriate use of taxpayer funds.

2. Floor Open for Neighbor Input - Public Comments Regarding Non-Profit Grant Applications

Junior Achievement

Laurie Sallarulo said they had served 3,300 Fort Lauderdale students over the last few years. Their core mission was financial literacy, workforce readiness and entrepreneurial training. They partnered with every Fort Lauderdale school to provide this education. Chair Donaldson agreed to contact Ms. Sallarulo if the Board desired additional information.

Learning for Success

John Casbarro, President of Learning for Success Inc., said their Kids And the Power Of Work [KAPOW] Partnership program helped kids connect what they learned in school with work application and brought kids into workplaces for real life work experiences.

Their program was co-produced with the City's HR Department and 92 City volunteer employees, in 6 Fort Lauderdale schools. He stated they helped more than 140,000 students in 125 schools identify, develop and maximize their strengths, skills and talents to develop a vision for their futures.

FAIR Foundation/Get Ready Broward

Matthew Schnur said their mission was to create safer, stronger, more resilient communities. Get Ready Broward was a program to proactively address the future consequences of climate change. They wanted to have a community-wide conversation about whether they were as prepared as they needed to be. They projected there were 15,000 Fort Lauderdale residents who were eligible for, but not currently on, the County vulnerable population registry.

Board Member Comments

Chair Donaldson asked if hearing from the organizations had been helpful and Board members felt it was.

Mr. Lowe wanted the Board to be able to recommend a different funding amount. Chair Donaldson thought the Board should come to consensus if they recommended a different amount.

Mr. Sabin suggested adding a section on the application asking applicants what they could do with different tiers of funds instead of the entire amount.

Mr. Cammarata suggested categorizing the requests more would help. He asked if they would hear from those organizations to whom the City was currently providing funding.

Mr. Oladipo was curious to see if they could re-assess the applications based on the information the organizations provided this evening. In the future, he wanted to put the requests in tiers, by the amount being sought.

Mr. Marshall said going forward, they could refine the criteria and how they scored them. He was unsure it should be up to the Board to discuss a dollar amount for the funding.

Mr. Smith suggested holding more, shorter meetings for the question and answer session so the Board members did not lose focus due to fatigue.

Chair Donaldson asked the Board if they wanted to add a March meeting instead of going late. He and Ms. Reece would discuss possible dates for two March meetings and send dates to Board members.

Motion made by Mr. Cammarata, seconded by Mr. Smith, to hold a second March Board meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

3. Joint City Commission Workshop Preparation

- a. Tuesday, March 2, 2021; 11:30am – 1:00pm

Chair Donaldson was working on the agenda and asked Board members for input. Mr. Patel wanted to discuss the tax rate.

Chair Donaldson said he would discuss an ad valorem tax increase and if the Board should limit consideration for non-profit funding to the Commission's priorities of homelessness and Covid relief.

Chair Donaldson advised Board members to send staff any questions to compile prior to the meeting.

V. Communications to/from the City Commission

None

VI. Adjourn

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by J. Opperlee ProtoType Inc.