

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
Virtual Meeting
March 22, 2021 - 6:00 PM**

Cumulative Attendance					
1/2021 through 3/2021					
	Members	Appt by	Attendance	Present	Absent
1	Elizabeth Adler, Chair	M	P	2	0
2	Muge Nurgun, Vice Chair	II	A	1	2
3	John Bonavita-Goldman	II	P	2	1
4	Kelly Charles	IV	P	3	0
5	Patxi Pastor	I	P	1	0
6	Owen Cylke	C	P	2	1
7	Whitney Dutton	IV	P	3	0
8	Carolann Mazza	III	P	3	0
9	Douglas Meade	I	P	3	0
10	Carol Tamburly	III	P	3	0
11	Vacant Position	M			

Staff Present

Public Works Department

Stephanie Wilk, Sustainability Specialist, Staff Liaison

Kimberly Pearson, Sustainability Coordinator

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager

Jason Bocchinfuso, Sustainability Administrator

Melissa Doyle, Program Manager - Solid Waste and Recycling

Guests Present

None.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Wilk at 6:03 p.m. An announcement was made to explain the videoconferencing process. Ms. Adler welcomed the new member Mr. Pastor. Mr. Pastor introduced himself to the Board. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for February 22, 2021 were introduced. Ms. Tamburly identified a typo under Old Business. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended by Ms. Tamburly and seconded by Ms. Adler. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Wilk suggested the Board introduce themselves to Mr. Pastor. Introductions were made.

Ms. Wilk shared that the City Clerk's Office is hosting a digital training session for Board and Committee members on March 30th, 2021. She added that it would be advantageous for new and experienced Board members.

Presentations

Water Quality Testing Updates {Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager}

Mr. Hadwen shared that Todd Hiteshew was unable to present but Mr. Hadwen presented in his stead. He stated that if there are any questions that he is unable to answer that Mr. Hiteshew would be happy to come back in April. Mr. Hadwen reminded the Board that waterway quality was a City Commission top priority for 2020 and have selected it as a top priority again in 2021. The purpose of the priorities charter is to monitor and improve the quality of our waterways.

Mr. Hadwen listed the 2020 Initiatives and they are on-going:

- National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) implementation and reporting,
- Stormwater operations pollution prevention activities,
- Education and awareness.
- Algal Bloom monitoring plan and pilot project,
- Proactive waterway quality sampling program.
- Implementation of amended Florida-friendly fertilizer use on urban landscapes.

Mr. Hadwen elaborated on the 2021 initiatives, which are:

- Education and awareness through NPDES implementation,
- Implementation of stormwater quality improvements,
- Continuation of waterway quality monitoring program,
- Remediation of impacted waterbodies from 2019-2020 wastewater discharges,
- Researching the feasibility of a program to increase the availability of mobile pump-outs and cost effectiveness,
- Continuation of the canal cleaning program to remove floating debris,
- Implementation of aeration and the pilot projects from the algal study.

Mr. Hadwen shared that in 2021, the City of Fort Lauderdale entered a contract with the Miami Waterkeeper to continue weekly waterway quality monitoring. Results are posted on www.swimguide.org. This webpage displays the tracking history of each monitored location and states whether it is safe to swim or not.

Mr. Hadwen reminded the Board that if they have any waterway quality issues to report to call the 24-hour customer service line at (954) 828-8000. They can also report them online at www.fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv, download the *LauderServ* mobile app, or email customer service at cservice@fortlauderdale.gov.

A question and answer segment ensued.

The full presentation is attached.

New Business

Bahia Mar Lease Extension

Ms. Adler disclosed that she is an attorney for Greenspoon Marder LLP who represents Bahia Mar. Her father also owns a small ownership interest in Bahia Mar. Consequently, she is unable to speak or vote on this topic. However, she stated that her position at this time is that she thinks it is premature for the Board to draft a communication to the City Commission. She added that before the Board advises the City Commission on this matter, they should compile as much information as they can. Ms. Adler suggested inviting the developer for a presentation to understand the status of the lease negotiations.

Mr. Hadwen shared that in the last Information Exchange email sent to the Board, it included a media summary from the Sun Sentinel about the March 16, 2021 City Commission meeting where they discussed Bahia Mar. Mr. Hadwen summarized the article and explained that the land is leased from the City. The property consists of thirty acres and there were three dozen speakers present at the meeting. The Commissioners declined the plan to build condos on the property but are open to negotiating a new lease. He added that the current lease ends in 2062, and, per the article, the developer is returning to the drawing board. There will be additional discussion between the lessee and the City to come up with a proposal.

Mr. Hadwen shared that when the current lease was negotiated in 2016, the SAB discussed the topic and submitted a Communication to the City Commission. He suggested that if the Board wants to consider this topic, that they review the past communication. Mr. Hadwen added that at this time, there is nothing on the table. He advised that the Board think about what the sustainability issues are to consider. Ms. Adler added that in 2016, when the Communication was written, there was an actual site plan completed.

Ms. Mazza shared that she was at the City Commission meeting on March 16, 2021. She shared that she understands one of the overarching themes of the people in opposition to developing the condos is that the public has not had the opportunity to give input. She added that at this time the only options seem to be condos or to remain as it is. Ms. Mazza urged that the Board is missing a big opportunity right now. She added that the issues in the 2016 SAB Communication to the Commission still exist. She shared that she suggested to the Commission and City Manager, that while the lessee is going back to the drawing board there should be a public input process simultaneously. Ms. Adler added that the intention of the proposed site plan is something that is extraordinarily sustainable, but she suggested the Board table this topic until they have more information about the site plan.

Ms. Mazza stated that it seems the Commission is willing to consider alternative ideas for the property. Mr. Meade added that the SAB is not the Planning and Zoning Board, but he believes that the property should be rezoned for public use. He added that this is an opportunity to bring it into the public realm for future generations. Mr. Meade said that the privatizing a public asset is the wrong way for the City to go in a global sense. He urged that the City protect as much free public land as possible and this is a great opportunity to express that to the City Commission. Ms. Mazza responded that it was a great time to remind the Commission of where the SAB stood in 2016.

Mr. Pastor shared that he feels tourism is the basic economy of Fort Lauderdale. Fort Lauderdale is the *Venice of America*, and Bahia Mar is an iconic piece of property in the City. He added that the community has aging infrastructure that is going to cost 6 or 7 billion dollars to update and repair. Mr. Pastor stated that the way to get that done is public and private partnerships. He advised the Board to look at the partnerships. He added that the City needs privatization for the tax basis, the clientele, the marinas, and the festivals. He added that the Tate family is very giving and supportive. Mr. Pastor said that is the reason from a sustainability standpoint to look at some commonalities. Further, he stated that the partnership has a lot of potential. There could be an iconic facility that would be extraordinary in terms of sustainability and resiliency. It could support conservation and scientific research. Mr. Pastor believed that the potential is untapped.

Mr. Pastor asked that before the Board drafts anything for the Commission that there is a clear recommendation. They should identify how the asset could leverage the community. Ms. Mazza clarified that she isn't asking the developer to go away, rather she believes that instead of doing the same thing over and over, expecting a different result with this property, they need to involve the public. She added that waiting for the developer to come up with a plan and retrieving public input after the fact is not productive.

Mr. Pastor responded that we need the private sector to help make Fort Lauderdale the showcase for resiliency, especially with Bahia Mar, an iconic piece of property. He believes the Board should encourage support for a conversation between the public and private sector. He warned that at a certain point the private sector will walk away. Mr. Bonavita-Goldman agreed. He added that it is much better to make an ally with the developer. Mr. Bonavita-Goldman added that the Board hasn't done their homework and it is premature to make a Communication at this time.

Mr. Pastor suggested inviting the developer to present to the Board to provide more information. He has seen the plans and it is really inspiring. He added that there is push back and concerns about traffic and other impacts. Mr. Pastor said residents will have a bigger issue if we lose tourism and that the City needs help to pay for the aging infrastructure. He said if you look at the world and concentration of risk, we have some of the greatest assets at risk. It's about relevancy and urgency. It's going to require innovation and people working together. He would like to be part of the conversation to bring people together.

Ms. Adler shared that if the Board would like a presentation from the developer, she is happy to invite them to present to the Board. Ms. Mazza she is okay with asking the developer to present, maybe someone from the marine advisory board, and the Boat Show. She added that tourism is important for Fort Lauderdale and she has never gone somewhere for condos or apartments. However, Ms. Mazza agreed that the Board needs a full picture of what is being suggested and how they can best support the Commission.

Mr. Meade asked what the status of the lease negotiations were. Mr. Hadwen replied that the Sun Sentinel article stated that the developer was heading back to the drawing board, so there is not any immediate activity. Ms. Mazza expressed concern about waiting to draft a Communication and not making it to the Commission on time.

Ms. Mazza motioned to form a Communication to urge the City Commission to invite all interested groups and list them. Mr. Meade said that the beach, marina, and tourism are assets to the City, and it should be made for the public. If you privatize it, there is tourism and events, but they are the ones making money. It's not sustainable for the City. He added that traffic would increase, and quality of life would decline for residents. Mr. Meade used Central Park in New York as an example. He said it was deemed public land 100 years ago and it is an amazing piece of property and is a tourist attraction. Ms. Mazza shared that in the 2016 SAB Communication, it notes the concern about shade on the beach. At this time, it is the only part of the beach that doesn't have shade in the afternoon. She clarified that she is against privatizing that property.

Ms. Adler listed three possible next steps that the Board has discussed:

1. Table this topic and invite stakeholders to present,
2. Send a Communication to the City Commission that states the SAB is aware that Bahia Mar is under lease negotiations and the Board feels there should be no condos on this property, and it should be public land; or
3. Send a Communication to the City Commission that states the SAB is aware that Bahia Mar is under lease negotiations and the SAB wants to ensure the City Commission understand the importance of this property and involves all stakeholders, including the public, when it comes to decision making.

Mr. Meade added that he would like to express, if it's the boards opinion, to bring this land back into the public realm. Mr. Dutton said he is not comfortable making a decision without attending the previous Commission meeting. Ms. Wilk shared that the meeting was available on YouTube and she can send the link to the Board in their Friday Information Exchange email. She added that if the Board decides to invite people to present then she would be the one to reach out and schedule it.

Ms. Adler said they will keep Bahia Mar on the agenda and that Board members are welcome to draft a communication and send to Ms. Wilk to share in the weekly Information Exchange email. Mr. Hadwen asked if the Board wanted to invite some presentations. He reminded the Board that they usually limit it to one or two presenters. If they go beyond that it would be beyond the capacity of the normal meetings.

Ms. Adler said that it seems that everyone would try to prefer to at least have a presentation from the developer. She added that if it is not possible to at least have a stakeholder to share at the meeting.

Ms. Mazza said it would be beneficial to have a representative from Lauderdale Tomorrow to present as well. Mr. Pastor said he can get Ms. Wilk in contact with the Tate family, Informa, and intercom. Ms. Wilk asked if the Board had a specific question or two that they wanted the panel to address because with this number of speakers, this could get out of hand. Mr. Pastor said that they want to hear how they can bring value to the land and community.

Old Business

Insurance Rate and Climate Change Speaker

Ms. Wilk shared that Mr. Cylke was unable to make it to the Board meeting but he did share what he has been working on. Mr. Cylke's update was shared in a previous Friday information exchange email. She added that he is still looking for a speaker on the topic.

Joint Meeting with Other Cities Planning

Ms. Wilk reminded the Board that Ms. Adler and Ms. Mazza were going to work on the agenda. She shared Ms. Mazza's notes in the last Information Exchange email to the Board. Ms. Adler said she did not have a chance but will work on it for the next meeting.

Proposed Communications

Staff Support Request for Joint Meeting with Other Cities

The Board decided to table this as it may not be necessary depending on the structure of the meeting.

Proposed State Preemption Legislation

Mr. Hadwen stated that there are a number of bills related to preemption and to sustainability in various stages of the legislative process. He added that some are changing as they go to session. Mr. Hadwen shared that the City is part of the Florida Sustainability Directors Network, and that network has been providing updates on the bills that are evolving. He added that the City Managers Office has a legislative affairs specialist and she is keeping track of these state bills. Mr. Hadwen said that he is not sure if there is value in the SAB sending a communication that may encourage the City to adopt a resolution. Mr. Hadwen said that from his understanding from the legislative affairs staffer is that the City is generally not using resolutions as a tool but are expressing their opinion through their lobbyists. The Board agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

City Contracts to Include Green Language

Mr. Hadwen shared that he attended a virtual meeting with Miami Beach and San Francisco about sustainable purchasing. He asked San Francisco about green purchasing and about mandating green purchasing. He shared with San Francisco that the City of Fort Lauderdale has a policy that encourages green purchasing. San Francisco suggested that the City of Fort Lauderdale focus on the product types that have the biggest impact. For example, targeting products identified by Project Drawdown as having the greatest impact on greenhouse emissions. The Project Drawdown study found that refrigerants was

most impactful; next, concrete and carpet. Mr. Hadwen said that there isn't a one size fits all solution, and there is an opportunity to think about this differently.

Ms. Adler stated that she would like to do a short communication to the City Commission. The Board began drafting a Communication but will complete it at their April meeting.

Bahia Mar

Ms. Adler stated they will keep this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Comments

Mr. Pastor shared that he is honored to be a part of the Board. He added that he was a founding member of the Miami Beach Sustainability Committee and is a part of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Economic Resilience Committee. He recommended that the Board have a plan. He said that by 2050 he would like to see Fort Lauderdale become the showcase of the world for resiliency. Mr. Pastor added that we can learn from other communities who have done this already. It would be great to work with other communities and collaborate. He added that the Board needed clear goals, objectives, key performance indicators and facilitate the dialog between the public and private sector. He believes that should be a priority and without a plan we cannot get there. He stated that it is critically important, and Fort Lauderdale deserves that. He is looking forward to facilitating that amongst this Board.

Items for Next Meeting

Presentation:

- Climate Change Impact Updates and Sea Level Rise
- Bahia Mar Lease Extension

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

- Insurance Rates and Climate Change Speaker
- Planning for Joint Meeting with Other Cities

Proposed Communications:

- Staff Support Request for Joint Meeting with Other Cities
- City Contracts Including Green Language
- Bahia Mar Lease Extension

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Mazza and seconded by Mr. Meade to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTED OFFICERS (continued)

- A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency.
- The form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

IF YOU MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION EXCEPT BY DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING:

- You must disclose orally the nature of your conflict in the measure before participating.
- You must complete the form and file it within 15 days after the vote occurs with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who must incorporate the form in the minutes. A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency, and the form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

I, Elizabeth Adler, hereby disclose that on March 22, 20 21 :

(a) A measure came or will come before my agency which (check one or more)

- inured to my special private gain or loss;
- inured to the special gain or loss of my business associate, _____ ;
- inured to the special gain or loss of my relative, Barry Somerstein ;
- inured to the special gain or loss of _____ , by whom I am retained; or
- inured to the special gain or loss of Greenspoon Marder LLP , which is the parent subsidiary, or sibling organization or subsidiary of a principal which has retained me.

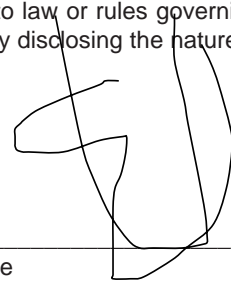
(b) The measure before my agency and the nature of my conflicting interest in the measure is as follows:

My employer, Greenspoon Marder LLP, represents Bahia Mar and my father has a small ownership interest in the Bahia Mar.

If disclosure of specific information would violate confidentiality or privilege pursuant to law or rules governing attorneys, a public officer, who is also an attorney, may comply with the disclosure requirements of this section by disclosing the nature of the interest in such a way as to provide the public with notice of the conflict.

3/22/21

Date Filed



Signature

NOTICE: UNDER PROVISIONS OF FLORIDA STATUTES §112.317, A FAILURE TO MAKE ANY REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR AND MAY BE PUNISHED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT, DEMOTION, REDUCTION IN SALARY, REPRIMAND, OR A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.

A blue gradient slide with white text and decorative white lines in the bottom right corner. The text reads: "WATERWAY QUALITY CHARTER", "City Commission Top Priority 2021", and "Todd Hiteshew Environmental Compliance Manager".

**WATERWAY QUALITY
CHARTER**

City Commission Top Priority 2021

Todd Hiteshew
Environmental Compliance Manager

1

A blue gradient slide with white text and decorative white lines in the bottom right corner. The text reads: "SCOPE" and "Monitor and Improve the Quality of our Waterways".

SCOPE

Monitor and Improve the Quality of our
Waterways

2

2020 INITIATIVES

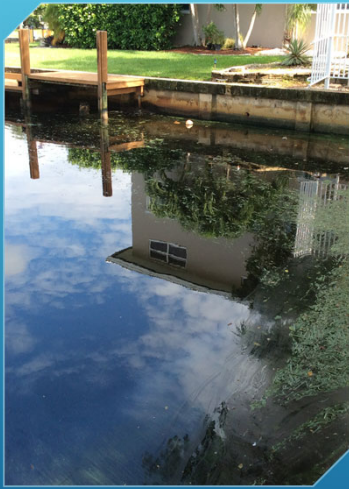
- National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) Implementation and Reporting – **On-going**
- Stormwater Operations Pollution Prevention Activities - **On-going**
- Education and Awareness - **On-going**
- Algal Bloom Monitoring Plan and Pilot Project – **On-going**
- Proactive Waterway Quality Sampling Program - **Initiated**
- Implementation of amended Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes – **On-going**

3

2021 INITIATIVES

- Education and awareness through NPDES implementation
- Implementation of stormwater quality improvements
- Continuation of Waterway Quality Monitoring Program
- Remediation of impacted waterbodies from 2019-2020 wastewater discharges
- Researching the feasibility of a program to increase the availability of mobile pump-outs and cost effectiveness
- Continuation of the canal cleaning program to remove floating debris
- Implementation of aeration and the pilot projects from the algal study

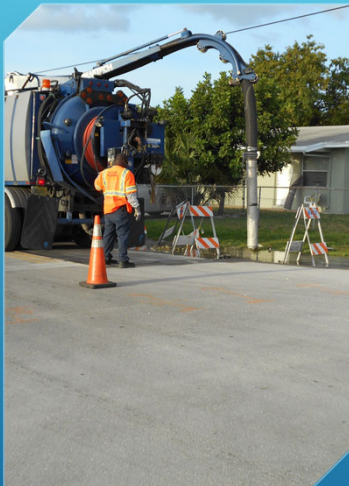
4



EDUCATION AND AWARENESS THROUGH NPDES IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ NPDES Outreach
 - ▶ Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer
 - ▶ Illicit discharges and improper disposal
 - ▶ Proper use and disposal of oils, toxics, and household hazardous waste

5



IMPLEMENTATION OF STORMWATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

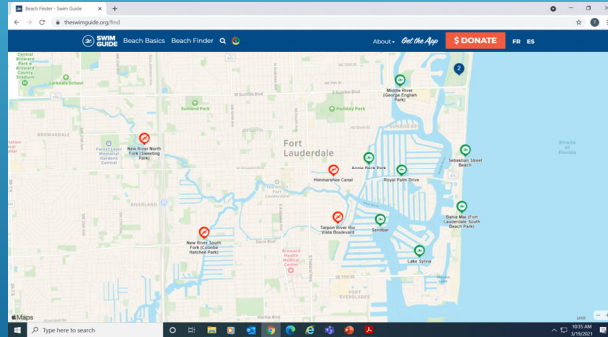
- ▶ Verify ownership of stormwater catch basins to ensure maintenance
- ▶ Create inventory of catch basins that contain pollution control baffles
- ▶ Develop a plan to retrofit catch basins that contain pollution control baffles
- ▶ Implement a proactive swale rehabilitation program to improve water quality treatment of stormwater

6

WATERWAY QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

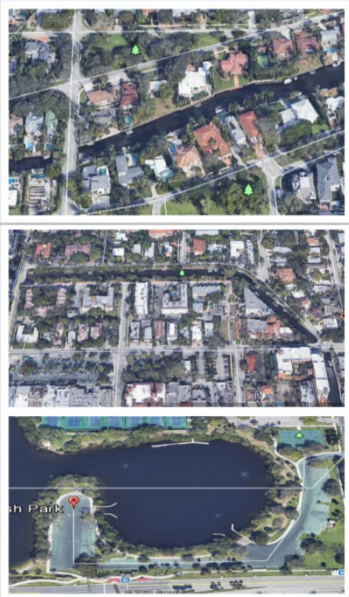


- ▶ Continue weekly waterway quality monitoring with Miami Waterkeeper
- ▶ Monitoring 10 recreational sites weekly for bacteria pollution
- ▶ Monitoring started in January 2021
- ▶ Results are posted in www.swimguide.org



7

REMEDATION OF IMPACTED WATERBODIES FROM 2019-2020 WASTEWATER DISCHARGES



- ▶ George English Lake
 - ▶ Permits obtained
 - ▶ Gator Dredging contracted to perform sediment removal
 - ▶ Expected start date: mid to late April
- ▶ Tarpon River
 - ▶ Broward County Environmental Resources License obtained
 - ▶ Florida Department of Environmental Protection regulatory exemption for maintenance dredging obtained
 - ▶ US Army Corps of Engineers permit still pending
- ▶ Himmarshee Canal
 - ▶ Assessment still on-going. Report expected in April.


8



RESEARCHING THE FEASIBILITY OF A PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF MOBILE PUMP-OUTS AND COST EFFECTIVENESS

- ▶ The use of pump-out facilities is important to reduce or eliminate the discharge of sewage into our waterways
- ▶ This initiative seeks the feasibility for increasing the availability of mobile pump-outs and making it cost-effective and convenient


9



CONTINUATION OF THE CANAL CLEANING PROGRAM TO REMOVE FLOATING DEBRIS

- ▶ City currently has a contractor that removes floating debris from all the City's waterways on a monthly basis
- ▶ This initiative will monitor the waste generated from canal cleaning to understand volumes and locations and identify hot spots.


10



IMPLEMENTATION OF AERATION AND THE PILOT PROJECTS FROM THE ALGAL STUDY

- ▶ Increased dissolved oxygen increases microbial activity that can help improve water quality and reduce algal blooms
 - ▶ FY22 Budget Request
 - ▶ Research the feasibility of aerators in Lake Melva, Cliff Lake, Tarpon River, and Himmarshee Canal
 - ▶ Implement pilot projects from algal study (a completed 2020 initiative)
 - ▶ Evaluate effectiveness of existing current aeration system at Lido Dr.
 - ▶ Install a bubble curtain near SW 12th Ct
 - ▶ Install shellfish/oyster bags near SW 27th Ave


11



LAUDERTRAC – UPDATES ON THE COMMISSION PRIORITIES

- Regular newsletter on the progress of the Commission's Top Priorities for 2021.
- First issue for 2021 scheduled for March/April
- <https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/Home/Components/News/News/5285/16>

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QUESTIONS?

- ▶ Please call 954-828-8000 to report any waterway quality issues
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fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv
- ▶ Or email cservice@fortlauderdale.gov