



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 22-047

Date: April 19, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

From: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

Re: 2022 City Commission Priorities – Quarterly Progress Report (April 2022)

The annual City Commission Priorities are an important short-term component of the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan*, *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, and the annual budget process as we ensure that funding is in place to advance the priorities.

In January, the City Commission met to identify and articulate the organization's highest priorities for 2022. Four Top Priorities and six Priorities were identified. Updates to the Top Priority initiatives are provided monthly to the City Commission and the community through the LauderTrac newsletters (accessible online at <https://bit.ly/38gRiKu>). This memo provides the first quarterly update for the six Priorities which include Community Response and Safety, Economic Diversification, Historic Preservation, Smart Growth, Waterway Quality, and Workforce Training and Education.

Community Response and Safety

The focus of this Priority initiative is the response to community health and safety, including the enforcement of code violations and vacation rental regulations, construction of the Police Headquarters, and the provision of COVID-19 testing. Emergency response, for both Fire Rescue and Police assistance, will remain a fundamental aspect of this initiative.

The City's Community Enhancement and Compliance team provides services seven days a week with daytime enforcement from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. Nighttime enforcement is provided Thursday through Sunday from 7:00 pm to 2:00 am. As a part of this initiative, staff is evaluating resources and opportunities in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget to extend the hours of nighttime code enforcement and to promote additional enforcement of community concerns such as noise disturbances, commercial vehicles parked in residential areas at night, and vacation rentals. The City has a contract for vacation rental monitoring services and has identified 352 unregistered rentals Citywide; as of March 2022, the City had registered 1,040 rentals. While the number of unregistered rentals fluctuates based on the seasonal nature of some properties, the Community

Enhancement and Compliance team is putting a strategy in place to achieve full enforcement and registration of all rentals in the City.

Additionally, the design for the new Police Headquarters is underway. The new headquarters will provide a safer and more efficient public space for the community and law enforcement. Key deliverables on the horizon include finalizing the design and breaking ground on both the headquarters and parking garage by Fall 2022. The completion of the parking garage is anticipated for 2023 with completion of the headquarters scheduled for 2024.

A key success that has already been seen this year is the closure of the City's COVID-19 testing sites due to a significant reduction in demand. In 2020 and 2021, the City hosted free COVID-19 testing for the community and City employees. In February 2022, the testing sites at Mills Pond and Snyder Parks were closed signaling progress to the City's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Economic Diversification

The purpose of this initiative will be to evaluate and reduce the City's economic reliance on the tourism and marine industries and to better position itself as resilient to any future economic downturn. Some of the strategies that the City will take include advocating for State, Federal, and other funding sources for cultural affairs and historic preservation. Expanding the City's historical and cultural areas will provide incentives for new businesses to locate to the City. Another strategy the City will take to diversify its economy is to attract new businesses and industries to the City such as the film, pharmaceutical, aerospace/aviation, and creative and design industries. Through targeted marketing and promotion, the City seeks to be known as an innovative City with thriving opportunities for entertainment, investment, and quality of life.

Historic Preservation

This initiative has been identified to enhance the City's Historic Preservation Program, increase awareness of historic resources and the importance of historic preservation, and develop a holistic strategy to achieve historic preservation goals. A Historic Preservation Strategic Plan will be developed and include an analysis of resources needed to support historic preservation efforts. The Plan will create a path to recognize and retain the City's built history, identify potential incentives for designating properties as historic, and provide options to support disaster resilience. Other elements of this initiative will include amending the Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR) to add thematic districts, which recognize properties and structures that are related to each other through a common theme and create a certification process for digs that are in an archeological conservation area.

Smart Growth

Smart Growth is an ongoing initiative for the City and continues to be prioritized and emphasized in 2022. Under this priority, the City will continue to ensure growth and development is both sustainable and balanced with a focus on addressing infrastructure improvements and affordable housing needs. This initiative will ensure that land use patterns, transportation plans, and water and wastewater capacity improvements are considered to meet the demands of the City's growing population. As a part of this work, the City will focus efforts and resources to complete a sidewalk ordinance, submit an amendment to the existing flood ordinance, and coordinate and implement a tidal flood barrier ordinance.

Waterway Quality

Waterway Quality continues as a priority of the City Commission to ensure that the City's 165 miles of waterways are clean and safe. The primary strategies for this work include educating neighbors and visitors regarding how to prevent discharges that negatively impact waterways and implementing actions, such as dredging, to directly restore the quality of waterways. Key actions to improve the City's waterway quality this year include installing four permanent aerators, which circulate the water to improve its quality, and completing the Tarpon Waterway Dredging Project. The City will also continue to monitor waterways with regular quality testing to ensure that the waterways are safe for aquatic life and recreational use.

Workforce Training and Education

Through this initiative, the City continues its progress to become a training hub for aviation, aerospace, and related technology. The scope of the initiative will expand in 2022 to encompass workforce training and education to build on the City's educational successes and align with an increased portfolio of education projects.

Deliverables for the initiative in 2022 include continuing work with a consultant to identify aviation workforce training opportunities. The initiative is being completed in three phases: Phase I - Feasibility Study, Phase II - Project Planning, and Phase III - Implementation. Upon completion of the Feasibility Study in 2021, to assess workforce needs and current training programs, the City will progress to Phase II of the initiative. This next phase will develop an education model and partnership framework, include an economic impact study, and identify future funding opportunities.

The initiative will also continue the success and sustainability of integrating academic enrichment into Parks and Recreation programs such as the After School Literacy and Summer Enrichment Programs. A third component of the initiative will provide planning for education and workforce training community wide. As a part of this work, the City will look to complete a gap analysis and develop a Community Outreach Plan.

I look forward to continued partnerships and success in implementing the City Commission's Priorities and will provide another update on the City's efforts in June 2022, in addition to the monthly Top Priority LauderTrac newsletters.

Please contact me for any further information regarding progress in any of these areas.

c: Tarlesha W. Smith, Esq., Assistant City Manager
Greg Chavarria, Assistant City Manager
Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney
David R. Solomon, City Clerk
Department Directors
CMO Managers