



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 22-071**

**Date:** July 7, 2022

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

**From:** Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**Re:** 2022 City Commission Priorities – Quarterly Progress Report (June 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. Attachment 1 outlines the funding that is included per the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Proposed Budget.

In January, the City Commission met to identify and articulate the organization's highest priorities for 2022. Four (4) Top Priorities and six (6) 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/3QIQCgd>). This memo provides the second 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 initiative is to improve response to community health and safety. As a part of this initiative, the City is emphasizing enforcement of vacation rental regulations. While the number of unregistered rental properties fluctuates seasonally, as of May 2022, 1,407 vacation rentals had been registered within the City. The Community Enforcement and Compliance Team has developed and implemented a strategy to ensure complete compliance or enforcement of all vacation rental properties in the City. The outcome of this successful strategy resulted in all (352) unregistered vacation properties in the City being addressed through enforcement action by the Community Enforcement and Compliance Team in April 2022. To further assist in code compliance concerns, four additional Code Officer positions have been recommended for funding in the FY 2023 budget. The addition of these positions will increase the consistency of code enforcement efforts and extend the time of weekend enforcement.

In addition to code enforcement, this initiative is also focusing on the construction of a new Police Headquarters. The City's project management team with its project architect, AECOM, has completed the final value engineering process and construction documents

AECOM, has completed the final value engineering process and construction documents for the new facility. The complete construction documents, including the incorporation of all value engineering items, were submitted to the City in June 2022. Upon finalization of those plans, the City's general contractor, Moss Construction, will develop the guaranteed maximum price agreement. City staff is also working with the design team to complete the regulatory review process. Thus far, the City has obtained approval from the Sailboat Bend Historic Board and is in the process of obtaining all remaining approvals from the Planning and Zoning Board. Public purpose meetings with the City Commission are scheduled to begin in July 2022.

In preparation for the next major phase, the Project Management Team is concurrently working on the necessary project permitting at the State, County and City level, utility relocation, and demolition of the property purchased next to the existing complex.

### **Economic Diversification**

To diversify the economy of Fort Lauderdale beyond the marine and tourism industries, staff is focused on developing relationships domestic and abroad to attract interest toward the City. Domestically, staff has directed lobbying efforts towards state and federal officials to obtain funding for a variety of programs that would spur economic growth within Fort Lauderdale. The City has also identified a key educational partner, the Nova Southeastern University Alan B. Levan Innovation Center, that is expected to be a strategic partner in attracting more unique industries. This partnership could spur entrepreneurship and promote alternate career paths in low- to moderate- income areas throughout the City. With the help of the University's resources and expertise, the City could see a more substantial labor market within industries that have otherwise struggled to find qualified candidates. Internationally, the City has begun exploring methods to grow and utilize its relationships with the intent of attracting direct foreign investments in Fort Lauderdale.

### **Historic Preservation**

Through this initiative, the City has reemphasized its commitment to preserving the history of Fort Lauderdale. As such, the City submitted a grant application in May 2022, titled "Telling the Story of the Sailboat Bend Historic District," to the State of Florida. If awarded, this funding will be used to digitally archive records of the Sailboat Bend Civic Association and create an online education application. Grant awarding will be announced in July 2023.

To increase the community's awareness of historic resources, a second grant application was submitted to the State of Florida to fund a new architectural resource survey for South Middle River and Dorsey-Riverbend. On June 6, 2022, the City was notified that \$50,000 has been awarded from the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources to conduct a survey of Rio Vista and Riverside Park. The awarded funding will be available

at the start of the State's fiscal year, July 1, 2022, and staff will provide the City Commission with a grant award agreement for consideration shortly thereafter.

In addition to these exciting grant opportunities, a key position within the Development Services Department has been filled. This position, Urban Planner II, will provide needed support for ongoing Historic Preservation efforts within the City and serve as a resource to the Historic Preservation Board.

### **Smart Growth**

To ensure growth and development is both sustainable and balanced, one of the concentrations of this initiative is to complete a sidewalk ordinance. Sidewalks play a vital role in connecting people and places throughout the City, promote walking, activate streets, and are an important element of the public realm. Additionally, a network of safe, accessible, and well-maintained sidewalks is fundamental to creating a successful, multi-modal environment throughout the City. The purpose of the ordinance is to adopt criteria that guide the installation of sidewalks including when they are required. Development Services Department staff has collaborated with its Engineering and Planning staff, Transportation and Mobility Department, and City Attorney's Office on this policy. To date, a few criteria details are in finalization; it is anticipated that this ordinance will be brought before the Commission in August 2022 for consideration.

### **Waterway Quality**

The purpose of this initiative is to improve the City's waterway quality. As a part of this effort, regular waterway cleaning services continue through private providers to guarantee that the waterways are safe for navigation and recreation. During the period between January 2022 and May 2022, the City's contractor has removed 57.8 tons of tree limbs, palm fronds, coconuts, and litter such as discarded beverage containers. Removal of the decaying vegetation from trimmed landscaping will prevent algal blooms caused by bacterial pollution and nutrient conditions. In addition, four (4) aerators are planned for installation at Lake Melva, Cliff Lake, Tarpon River, and Himmarshee Canal with a bubble curtain planned for installation at Citrus Isle. The bubble curtain is part of a pilot project to prevent debris, algae, and trash from entering the canal. An upward current is created through the creation of bubbles at the waterway floor which guides debris and algae away from the canal into a collection system. The aerators in the other locations increase dissolved oxygen in the water which will help protect marine life and provide for additional water quality benefits. To date, a contract has been awarded for the installation of the aeration systems and all materials and parts are on order. Additionally, the electrical services to provide for the water quality improvements have been confirmed for four locations with the last location pending Florida Power & Light to provide a new service.

### **Workforce Training and Education**

The City has continued to make strides toward enhancing the City's workforce training and held an executive educational partners meeting that confirmed commitment from Broward County Public Schools and Broward College. This commitment is significant in ensuring local educational institutions are promoting aviation careers and preparing our workforce for high-demand, high-wage jobs in a growing sector. The second phase of developing the training facility has also begun as staff is crafting a scope of work, expected for completion in July 2022, for a consultant that will inform the needs of the City and its partners throughout the project planning process.

Regarding youth education, the end of the school year marked the end of the City's Barbara Bush Foundation Book Explorer Program and the beginning of the Summer Academic Enrichment Program. Through the Book Explorers Program, 40 children in the City's PLAY aftercare program developed literacy skills and confidence in reading. Parents lauded the program, one of whom shared that they "*noticed a dramatic improvement*" and "*love the confidence it gave her [child] to be a better reader.*" Staff has prepared for the continuation of the Summer Academic Enrichment Program to replicate the success of the 2021 program wherein 85% of campers maintained or improved in literacy and 78% in math during the summer of 2021. The curriculum has been selected and teachers have been trained to deliver fun and engaging instruction in the seven-week summer program that started on June 20, 2022.

The next quarterly progress report will be provided in September 2022 to share key successes in addition to the monthly Top Priority LauderTrac newsletters. Please contact me for any further information regarding progress.

### **Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – City Commission Priorities FY 2023 Budget Alignment

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



# CITY COMMISSION PRIORITIES

## FY 2023 Proposed Budget Alignment

As part of the City’s commitment to an open and transparent government, the City Commission participated in a prioritization workshop in January 2022 to identify priorities for the upcoming year. Through facilitated sessions, the 11<sup>th</sup> year of City Commission Priorities was developed. This plan articulates our organization’s highest priorities and goals for the year. The table below demonstrates how funding in the FY 2023 Proposed Budget will advance the City Commission’s priorities.

TOP PRIORITIES	FUNDED ITEMS (★ Newly funded initiatives)
<b>Homelessness and Housing Opportunities</b>	The Neighbor Support Division budget includes approximately \$131,700 for the continuation of the Community Court Program.
	The Homeless Intervention Administrator position continues to be funded by the City Manager’s Office in the amount of approximately \$100,600.
	The Police Department continues its efforts toward homeless support in the amount of approximately \$414,400 through the General Fund for the Homeless Outreach Unit and Reunification Travel Voucher Program.
	★ The Neighbor Support Division budget includes \$45,000 for a Bridge Assistance Program to provide short-term temporary hotel accommodation for unsheltered individuals transitioning into transitional, or permanent housing opportunities.
	★ Nonprofit organization funding will support The Salvation Army in the amount of \$200,000 for overnight sheltering of homeless individuals in Fort Lauderdale.
	Entitlement grant funding will continue to support homelessness and housing opportunity initiatives and is managed by the Housing and Community Development Division: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HOME Investment Partnerships funding will provide \$125,000 to be used in part to support affordable housing initiatives.</li> <li>○ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding will provide approximately \$328,400 to support local organizations' homelessness assistance and prevention programs.</li> <li>○ Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funding will provide \$6.8 million to assist with facility-based housing, various rent programs, mortgage assistance, and utilities.</li> <li>○ HOME Investment Partnerships - American Rescue Plan funding will provide \$2.1 million to be used in part to assist those experiencing homelessness and to prevent homelessness.</li> <li>○ State Housing Initiative Partnership funding will provide \$1.6 million to be used in part to assist to those experiencing homelessness and to prevent homelessness.</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure and Resilience</b>	The Water/Sewer Revenue Bond was issued in FY 2018 in the amount of \$200 million to fund priority projects. Many of these projects have a multi-year implementation cycle and are ongoing. The Community Investment Plan (CIP) includes over \$60.0 million in unspent project balances.
	The CIP Water/Sewer Master Plan includes \$18.1 million in new cash funded capital projects in addition to the re-appropriation of over \$60.0 million in unspent project balances. The Central Region Wastewater budget includes \$15.1 million in new cash funded capital projects prioritized based upon a renewal and replacement study in addition to the re-appropriation of over \$50.0 million in unspent project balances.
	The Public Works Department Water & Sewer Fund budget includes \$250,000 for the proactive testing, repairs, and replacement of valves in the system in addition to approximately \$277,500 for the continued operations of the Valve Maintenance Team.
	★ The Public Works Department budget includes approximately \$81,100 for a cooperative study with Broward County for a Variable Density Model.
	The CIP includes \$3.5 million for the repair and replacement of roadways and sidewalks.
	★ The Roadway Maintenance Program will receive \$500,000 in additional funding for five (5) new positions to maintain the City's roadways.
	★ The Public Works Department budget includes \$510,000 for a pavement condition assessment of roads, sidewalks, and alleyways.



# CITY COMMISSION PRIORITIES

## FY 2023 Proposed Budget Alignment

TOP PRIORITIES	FUNDED ITEMS (★ Newly funded initiatives)
<b>Infrastructure and Resilience (continued)</b>	★ The Public Works Department budget includes \$180,000 for a sidewalk master plan gap assessment.
	The CIP includes \$3.6 million for the repair and replacement of bridges.
	The CIP includes \$3.6 million in funding for the restoration and replacement of seawalls.
	The CIP includes \$3.8 million in cash funded Stormwater Fund capital projects.
	The CIP includes \$2.0 million for the Broward County Beach Nourishment initiative.
	The Public Works Department Stormwater Operations budget includes \$1.3 million to support asset inventory improvements and implementation of a Watershed Asset Management Plan.
	★ The Public Works Department Stormwater Operations budget includes \$280,000 for maintenance activities for the Melrose Park Stormwater Drainage Conveyance System and \$112,000 for River Oaks Stormwater Preserve maintenance activities.
	★ A Stormwater Bond in the amount of \$200 million is planned to support improvements in seven (7) neighborhoods identified as high priority areas. Of this, \$70 million has already been appropriated from a line of credit to begin work prior to the issuance of permanent debt.
<b>Public Places</b>	The first \$80 million of the voter approved \$200 million in General Obligation Bonds for improvements to the City's Parks and Recreation System have been issued and projects are underway in parks throughout the City. An additional \$60 million will be issued in FY 2023.
	★ The Parks and Recreation Department budget includes approximately \$187,000 for one (1) new maintenance position and additional operational expenses for the newly renovated Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center.
	The CIP includes re-appropriation of over \$6.0 million in unspent funds for the Aquatic Center and Swimming Hall of Fame Renovation Project, including the replacement of the South Building.
	The CIP includes \$600,000 in funding for renovation of The Parker.
	The CIP includes \$2.0 million for the repair and maintenance of City-owned facilities.
	★ The CIP includes approximately \$221,000 for streetscape improvements.
	★ The CIP includes \$2.5 million in General Fund support for the Galt Ocean Mile beautification project.
	★ The Parks and Recreation Department budget includes \$1.4 million for expanding and enhancing median maintenance.
	The Parks and Recreation Department budget includes approximately \$96,800 for security services for shared use playgrounds based upon an agreement with the Broward County School Board.
Nonprofit organization funding will support the Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale in the amount of \$225,000 for activation of Riverwalk Park and \$105,000 is included in the Parks and Recreation Department's budget for beach open space activation.	
<b>Transportation and Traffic</b>	Municipal Transportation Surtax Grants are planned in the estimated amount of \$7.3 million in Cycle 1 to support multimodal transportation rehabilitation, maintenance, and capital projects including the Las Olas Finger Streets Asphalt Project, the One-Way Pairs Feasibility Review and Implementation Project, and the NW 15th Streetscape Project.
	The CIP includes approximately \$76,000 for traffic flow improvements.
	The CIP includes \$4.8 million for the LauderTrail, a multi-use trail system.
	The CIP includes \$100,000 for improvements required to resume the Galt Link Community Shuttle service.
	The Transportation and Mobility Department General Fund budget includes \$40,000 to continue the Speed Radar Program to collect traffic data for potential synchronization improvements.
	Transportation and Mobility Department General Fund budget includes approximately \$56,300 for Bluetooth sensors that collect traffic data for analysis.



# CITY COMMISSION PRIORITIES

## FY 2023 Proposed Budget Alignment

TOP PRIORITIES	FUNDED ITEMS (★ Newly funded initiatives)
Transportation and Traffic (continued)	★ The Transportation and Mobility Department budget includes \$53,500 for service enhancements to the LauderGO! Community Shuttle System.
	★ The Transportation and Mobility Department budget includes \$100,000 for consulting services to identify funding opportunities for the implementation of the Las Olas Mobility Vision Plan. The CIP includes an additional \$2.1 million for intersection paving and mobility improvements along Las Olas Boulevard.
PRIORITIES	FUNDED ITEMS (★ Newly funded initiatives)
Community Response and Safety	The CIP includes reappropriation of \$100.0 million in voter approved bonds for the Police Headquarters Replacement Project.
	The Police Department budget includes \$1.8 million for the replacement of equipment, such as bulletproof vests and license plate readers, and police animals.
	The Police Department budget includes \$2.7 million in enhanced funding to add seventeen (17) Police Officers to the Patrol Unit, which includes the re-establishment of the City's Neighborhood Action Teams.
	The Police Department budget includes approximately \$326,200 for the staffing of the Real Time Crime Center.
	The Police Department budget includes \$195,000 for the continuation of the ShotSpotter Program.
	Grant funding, in the amount of approximately \$466,300, from the Department of Justice for an Illegal Gun Crime Reduction Campaign will allow the City, among other initiatives, to expand its ShotSpotter Program.
	The CIP includes \$3.1 million for the Southeast Emergency Medical (EMS) sub-station (Fire Station 88).
	The CIP includes \$4.1 million for Fire Station 13.
	The Fire Rescue budget includes \$961,000 for the startup equipment costs and three months of staffing for fourteen (14) new positions to staff the new Emergency Medical substation.
	The Fire Rescue Department budget includes approximately \$655,300 for the replacement of equipment including bunker gear, PowerPro Stretchers, Powerload Systems, and a WaveRunner.
	★ The Fire Rescue Department budget includes approximately \$357,000 to add two (2) positions and create a Mobile Integrated Health Program.
	★ The Development Services Department budget includes approximately \$528,000 for four (4) new employees to enhance after-hours code enforcement.
Economic Diversification	The Government Affairs and Economic Development Division is funded in the amount of approximately \$1.6 million, including \$370,000 which is specifically allocated for State and Federal Lobbying Contracts.
	★ The Nighttime Economy Division budget includes \$40,000 for an impact study to quantify the significance of the City's nightlife on the community, including employment, tax base, business activity, and quality of life factors.
	The Community Redevelopment Agency budgets include approximately \$17.3 million to fund incentive programs to attract new businesses and encourage economic development.
Historic Preservation	The Development Services Department budget includes approximately \$149,000 for planning and administration of the Historic Preservation Program funded by the General Fund.
	Nonprofit organization funding will continue to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Stranahan House, Inc. in the amount of \$100,000 to help residents and visitors to learn about the history of the region, thus furthering social, cultural, and historic viability.</li> <li>○ The Fort Lauderdale Historic Society, Inc. in the amount of \$85,000 which contributes to the City's historical life and serves as a resource within the Riverwalk Arts and Entertainment District.</li> </ul>



# CITY COMMISSION PRIORITIES

## FY 2023 Proposed Budget Alignment

PRIORITIES	FUNDED ITEMS (★ Newly funded initiatives)
<b>Smart Growth</b>	The Development Services Department budget includes \$48,000 for 3D development mapping.
<b>Waterway Quality</b>	To prevent the degradation of the City's water quality, approximately \$50,000 in funding is included to maintain free public pump out facilities.
	The Public Works Department Water & Sewer Fund budget includes \$100,000 in funding for the Waterway Quality Monitoring Program.
	The Public Works Department budget includes approximately \$396,000 for the Canal Cleaning Program.
<b>Workforce Training and Education</b>	<p>Nonprofit organization funding will continue to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Summer Youth Employment Program in the amount of approximately \$302,000 for workforce training in the City, focused on teaching youth in the City about obtaining and maintaining employment.</li> <li>○ Junior Achievement of South Florida, Inc. in the amount of \$34,000 to provide financial and entrepreneurial learning for 5th and 8th grade public school students in the City.</li> <li>○ The Museum of Discovery and Science, Inc. in the amount of \$215,000 to provide 2nd and 4th grade public school students with instruction (both in school and at the Museum) to improve success in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) disciplines.</li> </ul>
	The CIP includes \$425,000 in continued funding for a career center facility rehabilitation on 19th Street. The center is expected to revitalize the affected labor force with career development and training workshops to provide neighbors with a competitive advantage in their search for employment.

*\*Some of these projects have elements that are components of other programs and initiatives, as such the funding identified above may extend to other Commission Priorities.*