



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
NUISANCE ABATEMENT BOARD
CITY HALL, CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023, 7:00 P.M.**

Cumulative

Committee Members	January-December 2023		
	Attendance	Present	Absent
John Forman, Chair	P	1	0
Joel Slotnick, Vice Chair	P	1	0
Glen Lindsay	P	1	0
Robert Phaneuf	P	1	0
Avigdor Pemper	P	1	0

Staff Present

Don Londeree, Assistant City Attorney
Joyce Hair, Board Clerk
Sergeant HERNS Eugene
Leslie Harmon, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

None.

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<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Respondent</u>	<u>Page</u>
5.	22-04-01	5100 n State Road 7, Plaza Hotel – Status Hearing	2

Purpose: Promote, protect, and improve the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens by imposing administrative fines and other non-criminal penalties in order to provide an equitable, expeditious, effective, and inexpensive method of enforcing ordinances under circumstances when a pending, or repeated violation continues to exist.

1. Call meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll call; witnesses sign log; swearing in

Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present. Any individuals planning to speak at tonight’s meeting were sworn in.

3. Approval of minutes for December 8, 2022

Motion made by Mr. Lindsay, seconded by Vice Chair Slotnick, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

An update was requested on the #00 Shato property. A member of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department reported that on December 13, 2022, the sale of this property became final. The Board may now vote to release it from nuisance abatement jurisdiction.

Motion made by Vice Chair Slotnick, seconded by Mr. Lindsay, to release Shato 00 from the Nuisance Abatement Board, as they have been sold and met all the requirements to do so. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (5-0).

Cases

4. Case Number 22-11-03

5100 N State Road 7

Plaza Hotel

- **Status Hearing**

The representative of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department reported that the hotel's manager has been very cooperative in communicating with the Department. Findings and facts were delivered to the manager on December 21, 2022, as well as an invoice on December 22. Over the past 30 days, there have been a total of 107 calls for service, with the following breakdown:

- 8 larcenies/burglaries
- 32 trespass calls
- 2 narcotic purchases

Detective Jameson Jones visited the subject property and took a number of photos, which were shown to the Board. On December 21, the Police Department received a copy of an invoice from Mr. Santiago addressing the replacement and repair of parking lot lights. On January 7, 2023, they also received video of the repaired lights.

On December 26, 2022, the Police Department received photos of four nuisance abatement signs, which were installed around the building. Proof of investigative fees was also provided. The room rate was raised from \$50 to \$89. It was noted that cash payment is still accepted at the hotel. Crime and other incidents are expected to decrease when cash is no longer accepted.

Replacement locks on the property are roughly 30% complete. The Police Department has received a list of current employees and tenants, as well as the property's weekly occupancy rate. An updated 32-camera system has been installed and is expected to be complete by Monday, January 16, 2023.

Photos and videos of the hotel were shown to the Board at this time.

A number of the Police Department calls were briefly reviewed, including burglary complaints and one aggravated battery. It has been recommended that at least two detail Officers be present in the parking lot beginning February 1, 2023. It is believed that the detail Officers and the elimination of cash payments will help alleviate crime.

Danny Santiago, manager of the Plaza Hotel, explained that he is increasing the amount of the required deposit for guests, which is expected to be a deterrent. Tenants who are already paying cash will be permitted to continue doing so for some time, as making this change would have great financial impact on the business. Cash payments from new guests will no longer be accepted.

It was asked if the Board has the authority to recommend that a private business not accept cash. It was clarified that a change of payment terms is permitted under the jurisdiction of the Board, along with recommendations for background checks, Police details, hours of operation, and other specifications.

The two recommendations made at this time were as follows:

- No longer accept cash payments from guests, and give the hotel until March 1, 2023 to convert existing residents from cash payments
- Provide two detail Officers on-site

Motion made by Vice Chair Slotnick to follow the recommendations of the Fort Lauderdale Police for this nuisance abatement case that we have.

It was noted that the cost and hours of the detail Officers would be negotiated with the Police Department's Detail Coordinator. The need for these Officers is not expected to be permanent.

The hours in which most calls for service are made are 12 p.m. to 7 a.m. Assistant City Attorney Don Londeree clarified that the time of the detail must be specified in the order. It was determined that the detail Officers would work 12-hour shifts, which would be coordinated to prevent overlap with the hotel's private security in order to keep down costs. The Police detail would be scheduled to begin February 1, 2023.

Mr. Lindsay **seconded** the **motion**. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (5-0).

5. Board Discussion

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Nuisance Abatement Board

January 12, 2023

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Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]