



**APPROVED  
BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
MAY 29, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.  
Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport  
Red Tails Conference Room  
6000 NW 21st Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>10/2023 through 9/2024 Cumulative Attendance</b>	
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Jeff Lowe, Chair	P	5	0
William Brown, Vice Chair	P	5	0
Jeremiah Carter [via Zoom]	P	2	0
Ross Cammarata	P	5	0
Mildred Lowe	P	2	0
Michael Marshall	A	2	3
Melissa Milroy	P	5	0
Prabhuling Patel	P	4	1
John Rodstrom	A	4	1

**Staff**

Susan Grant, Acting City Manager [via Zoom]  
 Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager  
 Laura Reece, Acting Assistant City Manager  
 Yvette Matthews, Assistant Director, Office of Management and Budget  
 Christopher Cooper, Director of Development Services Department  
 Milos Majstorovic, Acting Director of Transportation and Mobility Department  
 Stephen Gollan, Fire Chief  
 William Schultz, Police Chief  
 Juan Rodriguez, Division Manager - Development Services Department  
 Charmaine Crawford, OMB Department and Board Liaison  
 J. Opperlee, Prototype Inc. Recording Secretary

**Communications to the City Commission**

None

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Budget Advisory Board was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

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

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2024**

**Motion** made by Ms. Milroy, seconded by Mr. Cammarata to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2024 meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Floor Open for Neighbor Input**

None

**V. Old Business**

None

**VI. New Business**

None

**VII. Communications to/from City Commission**

Northwest Progresso CRA

Chair Lowe said the City Commission wanted the BAB to make a recommendation regarding the CRA. Ms. Reece had drafted a document for the City Commission describing possible options and agreed to provide it to Board members. She stated the City only had control over whether it would contribute its roughly \$10 million per year. The County would cease its contribution.

Mr. Brown said no tax dollars from the CRA were going toward operations, such as Police and Fire, so the rest of the City was subsidizing the area. Mr. Cammarata asked if the City could require that a project was charged for City services. Ms. Reece stated they could not, per CRA rules. They could reduce the amount sent to fund the CRA and the Board could recommend it go toward operations. Mr. Brown stated Invest Fort Lauderdale had been established to be used when the CRA sunsetted. Mr. Brown wanted to know the increase or decrease in calls to the Northwest Progresso CRA area for the last 5 years.

Ms. Reece agreed to put this on the Board's June agenda.

**VIII. Board Member Comments**

None

**IX. Adjourn Regular Meeting**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

**Special Meeting - FY 2025 Departmental Budget Review Presentations**

The Special Meeting was called to order at 5:18 p.m.

- **Police, Development Services, and Transportation and Mobility**
  - i. **Police**

Police Chief William Schultz discussed Police Department accomplishments over the past year:

- Developed a relocation plan, including finding a physical location.
- Reduced vacancies from 50 to 28 [25 in a few days].
- Devised an action plan to get guns off the street and reduce the homicide rate, both of which had been successful.

Chief Schultz discussed the proposed Decision Packages

Decision Package 1

- Police Operations Janitorial and Maintenance Services [4 positions]

Decision Package 2

- Enhanced Community Presence Program [10 positions]
  - Positions include 1 PSA, 1 sergeant, 6 officers and 3 unsworn civilian positions. The officers and sergeant would be dedicated to the “hot topic of the day.”
  - Message boards with license plate readers, 2 tower cameras, additional drones for SWAT unit.

Decision Package 3

- School Zone Speed Enforcement Camera Program [2 positions]
  - This program was proposed by the City Commission.

Decision Package 4

- Additional Professional Staff Development [8 non-sworn positions]
  - Positions would enhance existing administrative positions in place.
  - Help managing evidence and support Economic Crimes and Endangered Persons units.

Decision Package 5

- Off-Duty Detail Administration Program [3 positions]
  - This was a requirement per FOP contract negotiations.

Decision Package 6

- Investigations Bureau Enhancements [6 positions]
  - Combining intelligence gathering and crime statistics.
  - Administrative assistance in the Violent Crime unit and Threat Response Team, including ongoing tracking of threat response cases.
  - More specific training in economic crimes such as forensic accounting. Software for crypto currency cases.

Decision Package 7

- Support Services Right-Sizing [15 positions]
  - The ability to have a 24-hour per day reception area, including people to answer phones.
  - A communications specialist to assist dispatch

- An evidence specialist
- Fleet management
- A multi-media specialist/webmaster

#### Decision Package 8

- Recruitment and Retention Incentive Program
  - A Police Department employee could receive \$2,500 to recommend someone who stayed through certification.
  - A City employee could receive \$1,000.
  - An HOA or Civic Association would receive \$1,000 for a successful referral.

#### Decision Package 9

- Training Incentives
  - Bringing trainers in or sending employees out locally for specialized training.

Chief Schultz discussed a recent incident at the beach with a large group of youth who had gotten into a fight.

Mr. Bown liked the Enhanced Community presence program. He noted public safety was a major concern for residents.

Mr. Patel asked how they had reduced gun violence and street guns and Chief Schultz said they had brought in State, Federal and County partners and formed a task force. They had targeted known felons, especially repeat offenders, and arrested them if they were in possession of a gun.

Mr. Carter asked about the School Behavior Threat Assessment and Chief Schultz said he wanted a caseworker to help monitor ongoing cases.

Mr. Cammarata asked Chief Schultz about his priorities and what could be postponed until they were in the new building. Chief Schultz said the Enhanced Community Presence Program was a strategic request. Also, anything technology-related was a force multiplier.

Ms. Milroy said these requests would help maintain their quality of life. She suggested requiring recruits to sign a contract indicating they would stay working for the City for at least two years. Chief Schultz said they could consider retention bonuses.

Chair Lowe asked about FTEs in the Property Appraiser's office and Chief Schultz stated they had been instrumental in addressing property theft. Chair Lowe asked about the strategy to reduce overtime. Chief Schultz noted the impact planned and unplanned City events had on overtime. He said addressing the staffing shortage would help. He noted how they had reconfigured training schedules to require less overtime.

Chair Lowe had received the Citation report and agreed to provide it to all Board members. He noted how the amount paid in citations had decreased and asked if there was a plan to increase it. Chief Schultz remarked on the small amount the City recovered from traffic citation fines. He pointed out that the real goal was correcting behavior, not making money. Chief Schultz explained that only private events paid for Police personnel costs.

## **ii. Development Services**

Christopher Cooper, Director of Development Services, discussed some accomplishments in the past year, such as going paperless for permitting, creating a new Consolidated Customer Service Call Center, implementing affordable housing opportunities through development incentives, and implementing the Live Local Act. They had also created a vision plan with stakeholders in the Himmarshee area and would begin work on the mixed-use corridor form-based code.

Mr. Cooper discussed their decision packages:

General Fund/Building Fund

Decision Package 1

- Engineering Plan Review Services [2 positions]
  - One engineering technician for intake
  - One Urban Engineer II for Engineering plan review services
  - He anticipated that the Building Fund's 30% of the costs could be covered by the projected revenue increases.

Decision Package 2

- Code Compliance Officer for Housing Quality Inspections [1 position]
  - He projected this would be 90% funded by Federal and State grants and 10% would come from the General Fund. This was federally mandated for the entitlement programs.

Decision Package 3

- Zoning Administrative Support [1 position]
  - Entry level administrative position for the Zoning Division
  - This would be funded 31% from the Building Fund and 69% from the General Fund.

Decision Package 4

- South Regional Activity Center Code Update
  - The Poinciana Park civic association, residents and business owners had requested the expansion.
  - The initial funding was for community outreach to understand what the interests were. In the second year they would hire a consultant.

Decision Package 5

- New Placemaking Signage for the Henry E. Kinney Tunnel
  - This was requested by the City Commission.

#### Building Permits Fund

##### Decision Package 6

- Private Provider Administrative Support [1 position]

##### Decision Package 7

- Digital Transformation Computer Upgrades
  - Replacing permit intakers' desktops with laptops.

#### Unified Customer Service Fund

##### Decision Package 8

- Consolidated Customer Service Call Center Division Manager

##### Decision Package 9

- Maintaining the training budget.

Ms. Milroy pointed out that the report indicated if they received the requested funding in the engineering plan, plan review applications that exceeded 30 days would be reduced from 25% to 15%. Mr. Cooper said this would also help them to meet the State mandates for turnaround time.

Chair Lowe asked about the Business Tax fee study they had requested last year and Juan Rodriguez, Division Manager - Development Services Department, explained the State allowed them to increase the fee 5% every other year. The consultant was in the process of creating the final study. He said they could consolidate the number of business tax categories, making it more business friendly.

### **iii. Transportation and Mobility**

Milos Majstorovic, Acting Director of Transportation and Mobility Department discussed their current efforts, such as building relationships with other agencies to advocate for projects beneficial to the City and securing funding. They were focusing on expanding mobility options, including micro transit. Mr. Majstorovic said they were enhancing the Community Shuttle service and seeking more funds for further expansion. They had improved roadway capacity on Las Olas and SE 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue by creating dual southbound left turn lanes and were currently designing dual northbound left turn lanes on Broward Blvd. and SE 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Mr. Majstorovic stated the consultant was working on the one-way pairs for 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and Andrews Ave. and the Las Olas mobility pedestrian corridor project had been awarded to a consultant and they hoped to award a contract for the Las Olas mobility eastern corridor by the end of the summer. They were also pursuing an urban Core Master Plan that would help them determine how to prioritize projects. Mr. Majstorovic said they received many requests for traffic calming, which was currently underfunded and was included in one of their Decision Packages.

Mr. Majstorovic stated their 2025 budget was aligned with the City Commission priorities, which included improving traffic flow, pedestrian safety and walkability, and expanding micro transit options.

#### General Fund

##### Decision Package 1

- Grant Preparations Technical Assistance

##### Decision Package 2

- Citywide Transportation Master Plan
  - Cost: approximately \$1 million
  - This had not been done in 10 years.
  - Mr. Majstorovic said this would help facilitate grant funding in the future.

##### Decision Package 3

- Traffic Calming Program Enhancements
  - Enhance Traffic Calming
  - Replace or repair electronic pedestrian crossing sign.

##### Decision Package 4

- Real-Time Traffic Monitoring Notification and Incident Management
  - Better monitoring, analyzing and managing of traffic.
    - Secure funding for a City employee in the Regional Transportation Management Center with FDOT and Broward County employees who would advocate for the City's interests and communicate incidents to law enforcement and the City.

##### Decision Package 5

- Intersection Improvements - Las Olas and SE 2 Ave.
  - The County was re-evaluating the intersection.
  - Improvements may include installing larger Stop signs and enhanced pavement markings.

Mr. Cammarata discussed the bad condition of Las Olas between the beach and the main restaurant area. He felt if it were in better shape, it would discourage people from using the other streets as alternatives. He asked about removal of the olive trees. Mr. Rogers noted the difficulty in repaving Las Olas while leaving the brick crosswalks intact. They were in the process of evaluating the best way forward.

Mr. Majstorovic stated the design contract for the western portion of Las Olas had been awarded and the consultant would develop concepts in the next 10 months or so. Mr. Rogers acknowledged the project was years in the future and they had not yet identified a funding source for construction.

Board members discussed the large percentage Fort Lauderdale contributed to the Transportation Surtax while recovering little for projects. Mr. Rogers informed the Board

that a third amendment would be made over the summer, which would hopefully provide more funding opportunities.

Chair Lowe asked if they could begin the Master Plan in one area at a time for less funding. Mr. Majstorovic said less funding would limit the scope and/or area.

Mr. Rogers stated the Las Olas garage on Seabreeze north of Las Olas had issues unresolved from the original construction. The funding requested was to help with some of those issues prior to getting into litigation.

**X. Discussion of FY 2025 Department Budget Presentations**

Discussed after agenda items.

**XI. Adjourn Special Meeting**

The special meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.