



LauderBriefs

Updates from City Commission Meetings

The City of Fort Lauderdale hosts City Commission meetings in person at various temporary locations. If any person wishes to address the City Commission, the person shall sign up using the City Clerk's iPad. The public can listen to and view City Commission meetings on [FLTV](#), [YouTube](#), Comcast Channel 78, and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. To learn more about City Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.gov/citycommissionmeetings.

In case you missed them, the following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, October 1, 2024. The video is available at youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale, and the vote summary will be available later this week at fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING

Commission Provided with Update about Fortify Lauderdale Program

The City Commission was presented with an update regarding Fortify Lauderdale, a program designed to help the City's most vulnerable neighborhoods and communities better handle the effects of climate change. First introduced in November 2023, the program includes expansion and acceleration of neighborhood stormwater improvement projects, increased stormwater operational capacity, and an educational program to assist private property owners in identifying vulnerabilities and addressing risk within their properties. Within the eight neighborhoods prioritized for improvements in the first phase of the Stormwater Master Plan, projects are substantially completed or currently in construction in four of those neighborhoods. The second tranche of 17 neighborhoods have been consolidated into 12 projects based on proximity and similar needs, among other factors. Conceptual designs are being developed with final recommendations scheduled for presentation to the Commission in December 2024. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4gHPr07.

Commission Reviews Progress of Melrose Manors Neighborhood Stormwater Project

The City Commission was given an overview of Melrose Manors Neighborhood Stormwater project, an effort to address flooding within the Melrose Manors and Riverland Civic neighborhoods due to the lack of stormwater infrastructure. Considerable progress has been made, including environmental studies, initial data collection, public outreach, and a recommended design concept. The final design is currently underway, with ongoing data collection and public meetings, among other actions. Proposed improvements project a significant reduction to the level and duration of potential flooding. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4eJiFtB.

Commission Hears Overview of 2024 King Tides

September's King Tides exceeded predictions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) by as much as 12 inches resulting in the most severe King Tide to date,

causing flooding in low-lying areas and inundating areas rarely experiencing tidal flooding. An update was provided to the City Commission regarding the conditions and actions taken to mitigate the impact on neighborhoods. The City has been proactive by prioritizing drainage improvements, constructing higher seawalls, and inspecting tidal valves prior to the first King Tide, among other efforts. Additionally, steps have been taken to respond to requests for inspections, remove ponded water, and identify and cite private seawall violations. Going forward, priorities include accelerating the design of higher City seawalls in impacted areas, continuing stormwater and resiliency projects, and more. For details, visit ftlcity.info/47L2g5C.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING

CRA Board of Commissioners Provides Funding Increase for Mixed-Use Development

The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners provided a \$1.5 million increase in Development Incentive Program forgivable loan funding for a mixed-used development project located at 1217-1223 Sistrunk Boulevard. The final proposed development is a six-story building with 3,582 square feet of commercial space on the first floor, two parking levels with 58 parking spaces, and 27 residential rental units, three of which are dedicated in perpetuity for low-income housing. With the funding increase, the total CRA contribution will be \$5 million, which is 33% of the total project investment. In addition to the CRA's contribution, the project will be financed by a loan in the amount of \$6.4 million from Grow America. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3zS8bcB.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Accepts Grant Funds to Hire 28 Additional Firefighters

The City Commission authorized the acceptance of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant for \$11.4 million to hire 28 additional firefighters. The SAFER program was authorized by Congress and implemented by FEMA's Department of Homeland Security with the goal of strengthening national preparedness and resilience. The funding will support the hiring of more Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue firefighters, increasing staffing on six additional Fire Rescue trucks and ensuring that each of these units are staffed with a three-person team. When rescue trucks are staffed by three crew members as opposed to two, survivability increases by about 17%. Acceptance of the SAFER grant will require approximately \$585,000 in matching expenses from the City. Part of the funding will be used for the promotion of current firefighters to lieutenants, uniforms, and equipment for the new firefighters. For details, visit ftlcity.info/47MY4SS.

Commission Approves Amendment to Breakers Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project

The City Commission approved a first amendment to an agreement for the Breakers Avenue Streetscape and Infrastructure Improvements project to include additional time and funding. The City envisions Breakers Avenue as a showcase project that will create an iconic corridor that provides for multi-modal transportation, safety, sustainability, and accessibility serving all residents and visitors. The agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. outlines actions to prepare final engineering plans for the construction of the project. In July 2024, the State of Florida awarded the City \$3 million dollars for this project to complete the design and pursue

construction for one phase. The amendment allows the project engineer to develop 100% of the plans, and any associated revisions of the existing plans required to account for FPL's hardening project on Breakers Avenue. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3TPWGcy.

Commission Brings on Design Consulting Services for Part of Las Olas Mobility Project

The City Commission approved an agreement for approximately \$2.5 million for design consulting services for the eastern portion of the Las Olas Corridor Mobility Project. In 2021, the Commission accepted the Las Olas Boulevard Vision Plan, which was separated into eastern and western corridors. The vision plans identified improvements along Las Olas Boulevard, and the character area segments were defined to have the eastern corridor span from SE 17th Avenue to State Road A1A, which includes Las Olas Isles and the Beach, while the western corridor spans from SE 17th Avenue to Andrews Avenue, which includes Colee Hammock, Retail Shops, and Downtown. The approved agreement advances design development of the cross sections identified in the accepted version of the 2021 Las Olas Mobility Vision Plan up to and including 60% design. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4gIOJQ9.

Commission Agrees to Amend Landscape and Tree Preservation Requirements

The City Commission approved an amendment to a section of the City's Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR) regarding landscape and tree preservation requirements. Among the changes is new language that aims to minimize the removal or loss of trees and palms and to ensure that they are maintained in healthy and non-hazardous conditions, encouraging the planting of landscape species that are sustainable and appropriate for existing site conditions. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4gFxfhfo.

Commission Enacts a New Ordinance Addressing Camping or Sleeping on Public Property

The City Commission adopted a new subsection of the City's Code of Ordinances to comply with Florida House Bill 1365, which compels local governments to prohibit unauthorized overnight camping or sleeping on public property. City Ordinance 16-32 defines terms related to camping or sleeping, temporary shelter, and public property, and provides for an enforcement procedure for law enforcement to take when encountering a violation. The ordinance prohibits public camping and sleeping on public property at all times of the day or night on any street, alley, sidewalk, pedestrian pathway, bicycle lane, or any other area encompassed within the public right-of-way, recreation facility, or any other grounds, buildings, or other facilities owned by the City or any other governmental entity. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3N8lwQ3.

Information

For more information on the October 1, 2024, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will occur on Tuesday, October 15, at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in the Mary N. Porter Riverview Ballroom, 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312.