



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

September 11, 2024, at 3:00 PM

www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab

Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Michael Stara, Chair	A	13	2
Enrique Bargioni, Vice Chair	A	2	1
Jay Adams	P	7	1
William Feinberg	P	14	1
Russ Klenet	P	6	3
Mark Giarratano	P	6	2
Nicolas Kollias	P	5	2
Marianna S. DeJager	P	5	1
Latasha Gorman	P	3	1

Staff

- Von Howard, Administrative Supervisor (Present)
- Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Division Manager (Present)
- Ashley Dixon, Management Analyst (Present)
- Melissa Mata, Management Fellow (Not Present)
- Luisa Agathon, Neighbor Support Manager (Present)

I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Von Howard, City Staff Liaison, called the roll. Quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM. Chair Stara and Vice Chair Bargioni were not present therefore, Mr. Howard presided over the meeting.

Quorum was established at 3:06 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

City Staff, Von Howard, carried out a motion to approve the EDAB Minutes from the meeting that took place on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. Motion moved by Member Klenet and seconded by Member DeJager. Motion passed; EDAB Minutes were approved at 3:07 PM.

III. Guest Speaker – Luisa Agathon, Neighbor Support, Safety & Security of Downtown

The agenda began with a presentation from Luisa Agathon, Manager and Director of the Neighbor Support Division. Public Affairs Manager, Daphnee Sainvil, requested to address the board following the presentation. Ms. Agathon discussed the issue of homelessness in the community, beginning with an overview of Neighbor Support, which connects the city to issues of homelessness, community engagement, and volunteerism.

Ms. Agathon explained the "Point in Time" count, which occurs nationwide in January, during

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

September 11, 2024, at 3:00 PM

www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab**Meeting Minutes**

which homeless individuals, both sheltered and unsheltered, are counted over a three-day period. Broward County, which is part of this continuum of care services, had a 2023 count of 2,400 homeless individuals, with 1,600 being unsheltered. Member DeJager asked the percentage Fort Lauderdale holds and Ms. Agathon responded that Fort Lauderdale holds 48% of the county's unsheltered population. The conversation then shifted to shelter capacity and the attendance rate for community court, with Ms. Agathon confirming that warrants are issued if individuals fail to appear.

Ms. Agathon presented on the new state legislation – HB 1365, Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping and the City's strategies to follow the regulation. In a nutshell the new law prohibits counties and municipalities from allowing public camping or sleeping on public property without Department of Children and Families certification. Further it defines "public camping or sleeping" and excludes lodging in a legal motor vehicle or designated recreational camping; requires counties to obtain certification for designated public camping areas by proving insufficient shelter beds, non-contiguous location to residential areas, no negative impacts on local property values or safety, and a management plan; mandates the publication of standards and procedures for designated public camping areas including safety, sanitation, behavioral health services access, and prohibitions on illegal substance use; empowers the Department of Children and Families to inspect properties and recommend closure if standards are not met; allows residents, business owners, or the Attorney General to file a civil action to enforce the prohibition on unauthorized public camping; exempts fiscally constrained counties from some requirements under financial hardship conditions; and specifies exemptions to the law during state-declared emergencies.

The "Fix It FTL" application was introduced as a way to address unauthorized public camping or sleeping. Users are required to submit the location of the complaint and an optional photo. Complaints are addressed in written format to the governing body, and police must respond within five days. Neighbor Support provides follow-up on complaints.

Furthermore, Ms. Agathon explained the trespass affidavit program, which allows property owners or managers to file an affidavit that enables the police to remove individuals sleeping or interrupting business operations from the premises. Member Klenet inquired about mental health and substance abuse services, and Ms. Agathon responded that nonprofit service providers offer housing and services for those needs.

Discussion then turned to city spending, with Ms. Agathon outlining that \$2 million is allocated from the city's general fund and an additional \$12 million from federal grants for fiscal year 2024, with Fort Lauderdale spending significantly more compared to neighboring cities. Turning to Community Court topic – it currently does not have a secured location, though efforts are being made to resolve this. Member Klenet invited members to discuss homelessness and litigation of

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

September 11, 2024, at 3:00 PM

www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab**Meeting Minutes**

creating a police district in downtown Fort Lauderdale, with Chief Schultz and other management leaders as attendees.

A member noted that 67% of taxes are allocated to police and fire services, leaving little funding for Neighbor Support and homelessness efforts. Member Giarratano inquired about the availability of additional federal grants, and Ms. Agathon responded that the Continuum of Care receives grants based on population and performance. A spreadsheet with more information on these programs was noted as being available. The presentation concluded at 3:35 PM.

IV. Discussion on Communications to the Commission

The board moved on to an email referencing a Communication to the City Commission, sent by the Public Affairs Manager (Daphnee Sainvil). A question arose from the Acting City Manager, Susan Grant, regarding the implementation plan that was stated in the communication. It was unclear whether the Advisory Board would develop the plan **or** recommend that the city hire someone to do so. The board was addressed via email communications on this matter, with no consensus.

Member Klenet then discussed the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Board (ITFA), had held four months of public hearings regarding the process of the new Reimagined City Hall and next steps. Member DeJager suggested that the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) should support the ITFA, which prompted a broader discussion of agreement. Member Adams raised concerns about programming, and Member Klenet suggested with confirmation that City Hall will be a public-private partnership (P3), with developers working alongside construction companies and city officials to develop proposals.

Member DeJager emphasized the need for EDAB to encourage the development of a programming plan, which led to a change of the communication wording by board consensus. Member DeJager introduced a motion and seconded by Member Adams to send the new drafted communication to the commission. The motion passed, with one member voting against the motion. Further discussion centered on which EDAB members would be present at an upcoming meeting to answer any potential questions from the Commission. Member Adams raised concerns about the ITFA's experience in city-building and there was a suggestion attend ITFA meetings to provide insight building development.

With discussions on whether EDAB should support ITFA and the Commission on items already addressed by the Commission, the board moved to reconsider the Communication to the City Commission. Motion was moved by Member DeJager and seconded by Member Feinberg to not send a Communication to the City Commission.

V. Request to Reschedule October 9th Meeting



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

September 11, 2024, at 3:00 PM

www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Howard began the discussion to reschedule or cancel the October 9th meeting because it conflicts with the State of the City scheduled for the same that afternoon. Manager, Daphnee Sainvil, invited the members to attend the State of the City by providing event details. Member Klenet moved to cancel the October 9th meeting. Member DeJager seconded the motion.

VI. Areas of Concentration

Member Klenet began a discussion on the economic impact of sports in Fort Lauderdale was highlighted, with 70 to 80 sporting events taking place in the city. The EDAB discussed their potential involvement in the 2026 International Travel Week Conference (IPW 2026), the world's largest travel conference. This event will bring 6,000 to 8,000 travel professionals to the city, and it presents a major economic opportunity. Suggestions were made to invite presenters to future meetings to discuss the economic impact of the hospitality industry. Members then discussed the courthouse and its location, noting that fire assessments are becoming prohibitively expensive for small businesses.

VII. Division Reports

Ms. Sainvil began with the division reports by backtracking and adding information from past topics of the member discussions. The discussion continued regarding the federal courthouse, which the city is looking to acquire, and City Hall, where no decisions will be made until a new City Manager is hired after the November general elections.

The board discussed economic incentives, noting that Fort Lauderdale is mimicking a new incentive program with collaborations from the County and the Alliance. The city currently has an incentive program that offers direct cash incentives to businesses, with three businesses already solidified and committed to relocating to the city. A minimum of 10 jobs must be created, paying wages above the industry average. Ms. Sainvil also discussed the upcoming transfer of the CRA to a nonprofit called Invest Fort Lauderdale, which will facilitate funding opportunities for businesses as well as have the opportunity to solicit funding.

Lastly, members were reminded to adhere to the Sunshine Law and to address any concerns about inappropriate behavior among board members to City Staff. Ms. Sainvil announced she will be contacting board members regarding an investigation of certain behaviors that have been reported by City Liaisons. Members had no additional comments or concerns. The meeting was then adjourned after a motion was made by Member Klenet and seconded by Member DeJager.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM.

The next EDAB meeting will be November 13, 2024, at DSD Building.



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

September 11, 2024, at 3:00 PM

www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

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