



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, December 3, 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 a Presentation on Las Olas Intracoastal Bridge Rehabilitation Project

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) presented plans for the Las Olas Intracoastal Bridge Rehabilitation Project, scheduled to begin construction in 2026. Proposed improvements include replacing the old deck with a new solid surface aluminum deck, painting the movable bridge deck and fascia elements, replacing important electrical components and wiring, replacing the mechanical span locks that connect the two halves of the movable bridge deck in the “down” position, replacing the existing navigation and marine fenders in the waterway including timber piles and support beams, renovating the bridge tender house, performing minor repaving of the roadway at the bridge ends, and restoring the traffic monitoring site. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4ik39Hq.

Commission Provided with an Update on Parks Bond Projects

The City Manager's Office provided an update on the Parks Bond program, highlighting the allocation of \$200 million across Signature Parks, other projects, land acquisition, and future initiatives. Updates focused on the Signature Parks including Lockhart Park, Holiday Park, Carter Park, and Tunnel Top Park and how inflation has significantly impacted project costs. City staff plan to meet with individual members of the Commission to discuss funding strategies before bringing recommendations back to the full Commission for discussion. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/49obGVM.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Approves Grant Agreement for Lauderdale Isles Boat Ramp Renovations

The City Commission authorized the City Manager to execute a reimbursable grant agreement with the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) to fund the design and permitting of renovations to the Lauderdale Isles Landing boat ramp. The grant provides up to \$75,000 or 50% of eligible project costs, requiring a City match of up to \$75,000. Proposed upgrades include widening the existing ramp and reconfiguring staging docks to reduce congestion and improve efficiency. The total estimated project cost is \$150,000, plus \$30,000 for ineligible in-house project management fees. This initiative aligns with the City's goals to enhance public access to waterways and improve recreational facilities. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3VjUoD6.

Commission Approves Naming of New Park as Bal Harbour Park

The City Commission approved naming the new park at 2201 NE 19th Street as Bal Harbour Park. The property was purchased using Park Bond Dollars in October 2024 to increase park area throughout the City. The recommendation followed a request from the Bal Harbour Homeowner's Association and a review process in compliance with the City's naming guidelines. The Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Board unanimously supported the name during their September 25, 2024, meeting. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3BnjkmT.

Commission Approves MicroTransit Pilot Program with Circuit Transit Inc.

The City Commission approved a two-year agreement with Circuit Transit Inc. for MicroTransit Pilot Services, funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The service will operate in northwest Fort Lauderdale neighborhoods, including Rock Island, Lake Aire Palm View Homeowners Association, Golden Heights Neighborhood Association, Dillard Park Homeowners Association, Lauderdale Manors Homeowners Association, River Garden Sweeting Estate Homeowners Association, and Home Beautiful Park Civic Association. The pilot program aims to enhance accessibility and mobility by providing on-demand transit connections to Broward County Transit and LauderGo. Any changes to this service would require FDOT approval. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3ZddCeW.

Commission Approves Phase 1 Improvements for Jimmy Evert Tennis Center

The City Commission approved a \$7.3 million agreement with Shiff Construction & Development, Inc. for Phase 1 improvements to the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center (JETC) at Holiday Park. This phase includes constructing 20 clay tennis courts with subsurface irrigation, a stadium court, lighting, fencing, bleachers, pathways, and shade structures. The improvements are part of the \$20.95 million Parks Bond Program for Holiday Park. Funding includes a \$1.5 million Legacy Gift from the Orange Bowl Tennis, LLC, which will also relocate the annual Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships to JETC. Additional phases will include broader park enhancements such as activity center renovations, athletic fields, and pickleball courts, with an overall budget of \$23.9 million. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3VkVper.

Commission Approves Piggyback Agreement for Emergency Infrastructure Repairs

The City Commission approved a piggyback agreement with FG Construction, LLC, utilizing a Broward County contract for emergency and disaster-related repairs to bridges, roads, utilities, and stormwater infrastructure. The contract allows the City to respond quickly to emergency

and disaster events requiring infrastructure inspections, repairs, or reconstruction. This agreement supports Fort Lauderdale's goals for public safety and resilience, promoting preparedness for hazards and emergencies. The agreement will only be activated if a qualifying event occurs. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3VnTp4V.

Commission Approves \$1.975 Million Settlement in LaToya Ratlieff Case

The City Commission approved a \$1,975,000 settlement in the case of *LaToya Ratlieff v. City of Fort Lauderdale, et al.* The claim arose from injuries sustained by Ms. Ratlieff during a protest on May 31, 2020, when she was accidentally struck above the brow by a foam baton deployed by a Fort Lauderdale Police officer. The lawsuit was filed on May 31, 2022. A mediation occurred on October 28, 2024, at which time a proposed settlement was reached.

After evaluating potential financial exposure, City staff and defense counsel recommended settlement as the most cost-effective resolution. The funds for the settlement will come from the City's self-insurance claims budget. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3B9iwlq.

Commission Approves Nautica Mixed-Use Development Project Site Plan

The City Commission approved a quasi-judicial resolution for a Site Plan Level III Development Permit and Design Deviation for *Nautica* mixed-use development at 400 SW 3rd Avenue in the Downtown Regional Activity Center. The project includes 560 residential units, a 119-room hotel, a 90-slip marina, commercial spaces, and various amenities. Design deviations are requested for building height, building wall length, podium height, tower stepback, and tower separation to align with the Downtown Master Plan. The project received input from the Historic Preservation Board, Marine Advisory Board, and Planning and Zoning Board, with conditions to address Riverwalk connectivity, infrastructure upgrades, parking, and affordable housing contributions. The developer has committed to a \$5.77 million payment in lieu of providing affordable housing units. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3Zm1vw4.

Commission Approves Resolution Vacating Drainage Easement at 1400 Progresso Dr.

The City Commission approved a quasi-judicial resolution to vacate an eight-foot-wide by 175-foot-long drainage easement located at 1400 Progresso Drive. The easement, no longer required for drainage purposes, was reviewed by the Development Review Committee, with no objections from Public Works and franchised utility companies. Conditions for approval include relocating or abandoning any existing infrastructure at the applicant's expense, obtaining the necessary engineering permits and prior to the engineering certificate when the property is platted, the applicant proffers a dedication to the City of the triangular-shaped outparcel of land adjoining NE 13th Street and to incorporate it into future CRA redevelopment plans. The resolution will take effect upon certification by the City Engineer, confirming all conditions have been met. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3VI7aBo.

Information

For more information on the December 3, 2024, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will occur on Tuesday, December 17, at

the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in the Mary N. Porter Riverview Ballroom, 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312.