



# 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](http://fortlauderdale.gov/citycommissionmeetings).*

In case you missed them, the following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. The video is available at [youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale](https://youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale), and the vote summary will be available later this week at [fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar](http://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar).

### **CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING**

#### **Commission Receives Presentation on Net Zero Plan**

The City Commission received a presentation on the Net Zero Plan, which outlines strategies to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for government operations by 2040 and for the entire community by 2050. In 2023, the city engaged WSP USA to develop a roadmap for achieving net-zero emissions. The plan identifies 55 action strategies, divided into community-focused and municipal-focused categories, aimed at reducing emissions, enhancing sustainability, and building climate resilience. The plan prioritizes cost-effective strategies, social equity, and alignment with the City's existing priorities. Key initiatives include renewable energy programs and emission reduction efforts, both municipal and community based. For more details, visit [ftlcity.info/3XrZaQ6](http://ftlcity.info/3XrZaQ6).

#### **Commission Receives Presentation on Business Tax Study and Recommendations**

The City Commission received a presentation on the findings from the City's Business Tax Study, conducted by HdL Companies. The study analyzed the City's current business tax framework, identifying key areas for improvement. Key recommendations included streamlining the business tax categories, enhancing revenue opportunities, and adjusting fee structures to align with comparable cities. The City's business tax system requires all individuals with a permanent business location within the city, or who engage in interstate commerce or home-based businesses, to obtain a Business Tax Receipt (BTR). The study, contracted in 2023, benchmarks the City's current tax rates and processes, exploring ways to improve both the application and renewal processes. The Commission provided direction to staff to proceed with the streamlining of business tax categories, but not to make adjustments to the tax amounts. For more details, visit [ftlcity.info/41ITvYs](http://ftlcity.info/41ITvYs).

#### **Commission Receives Update on International Swimming Hall of Fame Phase Two**

The City Commission received an update on Phase Two of the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) project, which includes the West Building and the Promenade. In September

2023. The City Commission approved a comprehensive agreement with Hall of Fame Partners, LLC for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the East and West Buildings at the ISHOF Complex. Phase One focused on seawall improvements, the construction of the Ocean Rescue Headquarters, and the demolition of the West Building. The project team provided updates on Phase Two, including current efforts, updated renderings, and future programming considerations. Key additions include an aquarium, event spaces, improved pedestrian access, and enhancements to the promenade's landscaping and public amenities. For more details, visit [ftlcity.info/3F3rfa9](https://ftlcity.info/3F3rfa9).

## **CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

### **Commission Approves Scholarship Fund Agreement with the Broward Education Foundation**

The City Commission adopted a resolution authorizing the City Manager to approve a Scholarship Fund Agreement with the Broward Education Foundation, allocating \$13,300 to fund twelve scholarships for students from six Fort Lauderdale public high schools. Two students from each school will be awarded a scholarship, which will cover 30 credit hours for Florida Pre-Paid scholarships. The total scholarship value, including fees, is \$38,098.80. This initiative is part of the City's commitment to supporting educational opportunities for local students and aligns with the Education Advisory Board's recommendations. For more details, visit [ftlcity.info/41pHeXK](https://ftlcity.info/41pHeXK).

### **Commission Approves Agreement for Bass Park Improvements**

The City Commission approved an agreement with H.A. Contracting Corp. for Bass Park improvements in the amount of \$6,410,000. This contract includes the construction of a new 9,500 square foot recreation center with pool access, a restroom building, fitness stations, landscaping, parking improvements, and other enhancements. The work also includes sidewalk, curb, and pavement improvements, as well as an interactive water feature. This project, which is funded through the Parks General Obligation Bond, is part of the City's ongoing efforts to enhance public spaces and support community initiatives, aligned with the Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan. For more details, visit [ftlcity.info/3XwfEa6](https://ftlcity.info/3XwfEa6).

### **Commission Approves Change Order for New Police Headquarters Construction**

The City Commission approved Change Order No. 22 in the amount of \$1,123,206.46 for construction management services related to the New Police Headquarters project with Moss & Associates, LLC. This change order addresses the repairs required based on the findings of the third-party engineer's report from Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), which was received on December 31, 2024. The repairs are related to errors identified in the foundation and first-floor superstructure of the building. The additional costs will be reimbursed through the City's claim concerning roof deflection. Funding for the change order is available in the Police Headquarters project budget. For more details, visit [ftlcity.info/43oKCVo](https://ftlcity.info/43oKCVo).

### **Commission Approves First Amendment to Agreement for Snyder Park Improvements**

The City Commission approved a First Amendment to the Comprehensive Agreement with My Park Initiative, LLC, modifying plans for improvements at Snyder Park. The original agreement required My Park Initiative, LLC to rehabilitate Building 1 for Parks and Recreation staff, but

severe damage from the April 2023 flood made renovation unfeasible. Under the revised agreement, My Park Initiative, LLC will demolish the structure and construct a new facility with equivalent functionality. The City will provide an additional contribution up to \$3,900,000 toward the project, with the City receiving \$400,000 back through annual revenue contributions from My Park Initiative, LLC. Other amendments include adjustments to financial obligations, facility use terms, and contribution rates. For more details, visit [ftlcity.info/4kCqEwy](https://ftlcity.info/4kCqEwy).

### **Commission Appoints Rickelle Williams as City Manager**

The City Commission adopted a resolution appointing Rickelle Williams as City Manager of Fort Lauderdale, effective April 2, 2025. The resolution approves an employment contract, setting Williams' initial annual salary at \$350,000 and outlining benefits, severance terms, and residency requirements. The contract has a four-year term, expiring on April 1, 2029, unless renewed. The agreement also includes provisions for professional development, retirement contributions, and a longevity bonus to encourage long-term tenure. For more details, visit [ftlcity.info/4buAjekt](https://ftlcity.info/4buAjekt).

### **Commission Accepts \$88 Million in Disaster Recovery Funds**

The City Commission approved a resolution accepting \$88,051,000 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to support recovery and mitigation efforts following the April 2023 flood. The funding, allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, will be used for housing reconstruction, public facility improvements, business recovery, and mitigation initiatives. The City will develop an Administrative Action Plan to manage the grant, including a needs assessment and programmatic action plan, which will be presented to the Commission for approval. For more details, visit [ftlcity.info/41IVXyj](https://ftlcity.info/41IVXyj).

### **Information**

For more information on the March 4, 2025, Commission meetings, visit [fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar](https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar).

### **Upcoming City Commission Meetings**

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will occur on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in the Mary N. Porter Riverview Ballroom, 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312.