



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 25-103**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

**DATE:** July 1, 2025

**SUBJECT: Personnel Announcements - City Manager's Executive Team**

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As noted on my first day on the job (Memorandum No. 25-031), I intentionally began my tenure with an observation period to better understand and evaluate the organizational structure and personnel resources. Effective April 2, 2025, preliminary staffing assignments within the leadership team were implemented with limited modifications to the existing framework. Since then, I have been strategic about meeting with and assessing each department, identifying staffing opportunities, and interacting with employees in various roles within the organization. The Fiscal Year 2026 budget development process has also offered significant insights into the City's various functional areas and teams which provided the context needed to envision the organization's potential.

I appreciate the numerous members of the team, at many levels of the organization, who have served in acting roles over the past year. Many have stepped up (officially or unofficially) and delivered for the organization, and for that I am grateful. One of these team members is Susan Grant. Following her service as Acting City Manager, Susan returned to her role as Assistant City Manager and has been a resource during the transition. To maintain continuity as we prepare for Susan's major, near-term career transition, I have asked her to serve as my Special Advisor. Susan's primary duties will involve special projects and assignments including, but not limited to, financial analysis with emphasis on public-private partnerships or major projects such as the International Swimming Hall of Fame and Police Headquarters projects, collective bargaining/union negotiations, and a city-owned building recertification initiative, among others as assigned.

### **EXECUTIVE TEAM**

While a broader organizational restructuring has been outlined in the proposed budget for your consideration, it is important to note that I am seeking to maintain four (4) assistant city manager roles to memorialize the level of executive leadership the City has experienced for nearly a year. My vision includes focusing the Executive Team on five (5) core areas: Public Safety, Operations, External Services, Internal Services, and Project Management. I have shared with each member of the Executive Team my expectations

for improving operations and service delivery, accountability, and fiscal prudence and discussed opportunities to promote succession planning, internal communications, and inter-departmental collaboration. In recognition of current needs and with anticipation of future needs, the following personnel assignments will continue or take effect immediately (today, July 1, 2025):

- **Public Safety: Chief William Schultz** and **Chief Stephen Gollan** will continue to lead the Fort Lauderdale Police Department and Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue Department, respectively.
- **Operations: Benjamin Rogers** will assume the role of Assistant City Manager maintaining his existing portfolio of the Office of Real Estate, Parks and Recreation Department, and Transportation and Mobility Department. Ben will also have oversight of the Public Works Department.

It is anticipated that Ben will also have responsibility for the new Utility Services Department and initial oversight of the new Capital Projects Department in FY 2026, pending City Commission approval of the Proposed FY 2026 budget.

Milos Majstorovic is appointed as Transportation and Mobility Director, following his outstanding service in the acting capacity for the past year.

- **External Services: Christopher Cooper** will serve as an Assistant City Manager and continue to have oversight of the Community Redevelopment Agency, Development Services Department and Neighbor Support Division (including Homeless Services). In addition, Chris will now provide leadership to the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. Pending adoption of the FY 2026 Budget, Chris will also oversee the new Community Services Department.

To bolster the Development Services Department, Anthony Fajardo will serve as its director with primary responsibility for the Building Services, Urban Design & Planning, and Zoning and Landscaping divisions. Anthony will also continue to serve as the primary lead on the Police Headquarters project and will continue to report to me on all matters related to the project.

To promote long-term continuity, Porshia Garcia will return to her role as Development Services Department Deputy Director with principal oversight of the Business Tax, Community Enhancement, Cultural Affairs, Customer Support, and Housing and Community Services divisions/functions. With Commission support and adoption of the FY 2026 budget, it is anticipated that Porshia will serve as director of the new Community Services Department.

- **Internal Services: Yvette Matthews** will become an Acting Assistant City Manager until her permanent appointment as Assistant City Manager pending adoption of the Proposed FY 2026 Budget. Yvette has served with distinction as the Acting Director

of the Office of Management and Budget. In her new role, Yvette's portfolio will include Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology Services, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Professional Standards.

With Commission approval, the new Procurement Services Department will also fall within Yvette's portfolio beginning in FY 2026.

Laura Reece will resume the role of Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Laura has provided exceptional leadership in the capacity of Acting Assistant City Manager, particularly through the budget development and collective bargaining processes. I am immensely grateful for her insights and professionalism and look forward to continuing to work alongside her as she leads the OMB team.

- **Project Management (Future Appointment):** With the support of the City Commission regarding the personnel complement and new Capital Projects Department within the Proposed FY 2026 Budget, appointment of an Assistant City Manager with primary focus on capital project management is anticipated in fall/winter 2025. Major initiatives such as City Hall, various Fire Stations, and Parks Bond projects require senior-level technical expertise to facilitate efficient project delivery.

Tangentially, the Human Resources Department is concluding the recruitment process for the Public Works Director and the Information Technology (ITS) Director positions. The Public Works Director recruitment yielded 58 applicants with seven (7) applicants advanced for interviews. The ITS Director recruitment effort garnered 190 applicants, and the initial interviews are scheduled for early July 2025. My goal is to announce the Public Works Director and ITS Director appointments during the early portion of the summer recess.

Please join me in congratulating staff and supporting them in their new roles.

Attachment:

1. Organizational Chart – July 1, 2025

C: D'Wayne Spence, Interim City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
City Manager's Office  
Department Directors



# CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

