



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 25-119

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

DATE: July 15, 2025

SUBJECT: Appointment of Information Technology Services Director

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ronald McKenzie as the City of Fort Lauderdale's new Director of Information Technology (IT) Services, effective July 18, 2025.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Angela Marinas, who has served as Acting Information Technology Services Director since April 2025. Angela's leadership, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment to the IT team have ensured a seamless transition and uninterrupted service during this interim period.

The recruitment process for the position was managed by the City's Human Resources Department. The position was advertised beginning on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, and closed on Friday, May 30, 2025. We received a strong response, with 190 applications submitted. From that pool, eight candidates were selected for interviews.

The interview panel included senior City staff—Yvette Matthews, Anthony Fajardo, Christopher Cooper, and Chantal Botting—as well as two distinguished external municipal IT professionals: Sandra Stevens, IT Director for the City of Boca Raton, and Clayton Jenkins, Chief Information Officer/IT Director for the City of Miramar. Following a comprehensive review process, Ronald McKenzie emerged as the top candidate and was selected for the role.

Mr. McKenzie is an Army veteran with almost four decades of experience in information technology. For the past seven years, he has served as Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the City of Deerfield Beach, where he led efforts to enhance the City's cybersecurity and developed and executed a strategic IT vision focused on integrating and enhancing business processes through technology. He also served as the Chief Information Officer for the City of Miami Gardens for eight years, where he led a transition to cloud-based services and established a business continuity and disaster recovery plan.

His extensive background includes serving as technical project manager for the design and implementation of the LEED Platinum-certified City Hall/Public Safety Complex in Miami Gardens, as well as significant contributions to the advancement of public safety IT services. These experiences position him well to support and elevate Fort Lauderdale's current and future technological infrastructure and service delivery.

Mr. McKenzie holds a bachelor's degree in Communications from the State University of New York at New Paltz and is a Certified Government Chief Information Officer (CGCIO). He is also a Project Management Professional (PMP) and currently serves as Southeast District Director for the Florida Local Government Information Systems Association (FLGISA). In 2024, he was recognized as one of the Top 100 Government Influencers by Emerging Local Government Leaders (ELGL).

Please join me in welcoming Ronald McKenzie to Fort Lauderdale and thanking Angela Marinas for her exemplary service during this transition.

Attachment:

1. Ron McKenzie Resume

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

City of Deerfield Beach, Deerfield Beach, Florida

May 2018 – Present

Municipal government executive focused on providing vision, strategy and support from a technical perspective to stakeholders at various levels. Entrusted to keep the city safe from cyber threats, ensure staff are properly trained, lead capital and technical projects and advance the vision of elected officials and City Management.

Major accomplishments include rolling out a new online bill payment system. Leading and creating a remote working environment and helping to establish policies for telework. Upgrading the ERP system. Continually successfully passing all audits. Mentoring and training staff. Designing procuring and implementing new technologies and systems throughout the city.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Ancher, Inc., Weston, Florida

January 2016 - Present

Technology Executive dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents, businesses and communities through technology. Provides services from CIO level strategic planning to help desk support for various government agencies and private sector businesses.

Major Accomplishments include serving as Technical Project Manager, managing all technology aspects for a new LEED Fire Station currently under construction in Broward County. Serving as Project Manager for an ERP implementation (Sungard One Solution) for a mid-size municipality. Serves as outsourced CIO/Advisor for small municipalities in Dade County. Served as Project Manager and facilitator for data integration, financial reporting and ERP upgrade (Tyler MUNIS) for medium size municipality. Provided analysis for all voice and data circuits and lines for a large municipality.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

City of Miami Gardens, Miami Gardens, Florida

March 2008 – February 2016

Responsibilities included serving as Strategic visionary for determining how to integrate and advance business processes through technology. Department Head responsible for policies, procedures and guidelines needed for compliance, performance and usage of technology and communications systems for the city, to include the city's Police Department. Supervise a staff of 12 technicians and managers in the planning, installation, implementation and maintenance of communications, telecommunications, Audio/Visual, Security and technological equipment and systems needed to support the city's mission. Maintain and manages IT budget of over \$2.5 million annually. Conferred with representatives of various departments and divisions to assess technology needs and identify areas that might benefit from the application of technology. Developed detailed project outlines for the implementation of proposed IT solutions including cost benefit analysis, return on investment (ROI) analysis, project timeline, and associated budget.

Major accomplishments include serving as Technical Project Manager (TPM) for the design and implementation of a new \$65 Million LEED Platinum City Hall Complex and an \$8 Million Community Center Complex. Planned, designed and wrote technical specs for all aspects of technology for the complexes and managed all coordination for integrations with all maintenance systems to include Mechanical, electrical and HVAC systems. Developed and established a Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery plan to ensure safe and effective data replication and storage. Moved email in the Cloud using Microsoft Office 365. Centralized all IT assets, ordering and maintenance contracts throughout the city resulting in over \$1 Million in savings.

MANAGER, INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

BearingPoint Inc. McLean, Virginia

September 2005 – February 2008

Served as Management Consultant for one of the BIG 5 consulting organizations. Lead various projects producing positive results organizations throughout the county. Lead projects for government agencies to include DOD agencies like PEO/EIS, the State of Minnesota and the City of Miami Gardens. Served as Technical Project Manager responsible for standing up technology systems for a newly incorporated Floridian city. Responsibilities included the design, implementation, and documentation of the city's newly installed

systems and software to include software for their Police Department. The finished product resulted in a totally redundant, highly available, robust and secure communications system.

Served as Project Manager for the deployment of a Voice over IP (VOIP) implementation for a State's Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Unemployment Insurance Department. Managed a team responsible for seamlessly migrating the State's Contact Center from a Centrex based Automated Call Distribution (ACD) system to the new VOIP solution, over three sites. The finished project resulted in the configuration and deployment of a VOIP system over 3 sites with 170 agents, phasing out of Centrex lines and integrating less costly T-1 circuits and increased flexibility and mobility throughout the Enterprise.

Senior Network and Telecommunications Engineer

Freddie Mac, Reston, Virginia

March 2000 – September 2005

Served as Lead Technical Engineer responsible for coordinating the planning, organization, implementation, testing, and maintenance of voice and data telecommunications networks and systems. Led project for converting the companies Northern Virginia offices (8 buildings) from traditional PBX TDM voice switching to VoIP telephony. Served as Voice Communications lead for corporate Business Continuity Planning (BCP) board. Served as project Lead for planning, organizing, implementing and testing Corporate trading room Hot Site at remote location to provide Active-Active Hot Sites for corporate trading. Coordinated the planning, organization, implementation, testing, and maintenance of voice telecommunications networks and systems.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Bureau of National Affairs, Washington, DC

April 1998 – March 2000

Served as consultant and advisor to call center managers for improvements and modifications to their call centers. Coordinated the planning, organization, implementation, testing, and maintenance of voice and data telecommunications systems. Coordinated the activities of contractors, equipment usage, and line vendors. Analyzed network traffic and recommended methods and equipment to achieve network optimization. Served as liaison with other BNA departments in problem resolution, day-to-day operations, and project management.

MANAGER, INTERNAL SERVICES

Edison Electric Institute, Washington, DC

September 1992 – March 1998

Managed all aspects of voice communications. Served as liaison with Information Services to negotiate activities and bidding of all telecommunication products and services. Set standards for communications architecture, equipment, policies and procedures. Managed all aspects of corporate postal, shipping and reproduction services. Researched, recommended, planned and implemented equipment, security and vendor changes for voice and data networks, postal and shipping tracking, office supplies and reproduction services. Managed and developed staff of 17 personnel. Maintained and helped reduce proposed budget.

STAFF SERGEANT, UNITED STATES ARMY

United States Army

January 1985 – September 1992

Prior to becoming a civilian, I also served proudly for almost 8 years in the U.S. Army Signal Corp. Served in various technical and leadership positions throughout my career. In my last assignment I served as Tandem Switch Supervisor in the initial deployment and usage of Mobile Subscriber Equipment for the 10th Mountain Division

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

Project Management Professional, Certification

Project Management Institute

January 2013 – Current

ITIL V3 Service Management, Certification

Information Technology Infrastructure Library

August 2011

Certified Government Chief Information Officer

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

July 2010 – Current

Media Communications, Bachelor of Arts

State University of New York, College at New Paltz, New Paltz, New York

August 1980 – May 1984