



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, January 20, 2026. 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 Receives Broward County Public Schools Academic Update

The City Commission received a presentation from Broward County Public Schools providing an update on districtwide academic performance and school trends affecting Fort Lauderdale. The presentation highlighted that BCPS earned an "A" rating for the second consecutive year, reduced the number of C-rated schools by more than half, and reported no D- or F-rated schools. Updates were also shared on academic progress at schools located within Fort Lauderdale, along with enrollment trends and ongoing efforts under the District's Redefining Our Schools initiative focused on long-term planning and student success. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4pQNCKs.

Commission Receives Las Olas Mobility Western Corridor Design Update

The City Commission received an update on the Las Olas Mobility Western Corridor design covering the Downtown, Retail Shops, and Colee Hammock segments of Las Olas Boulevard. City staff and the City's consultant presented preliminary design concepts and analysis for all three segments. During the discussion, the City Commission provided specific direction for the Retail Shops segment. The Commission supported wider sidewalks, retention of on-street parking on both sides, permanent bulb-outs, enhanced pedestrian safety features, and additional tree canopy. Furthermore, the Commission supported a no-median cross section to improve flexibility within the existing right-of-way for pedestrian space, trees, and emergency response access for the Retail Shops segment of the project. City staff will bring the item back to the City Commission at a future regular meeting. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/49RONul.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING

CRA Board Updates Central City Residential Enhancement Program

The Community Redevelopment Agency Board approved modifications to the Central City CRA

Residential Façade and Landscaping Program and authorized renaming it the Residential Enhancement Program to improve participation and expand eligibility. The updates increase the maximum award amount to up to \$10,000 for eligible homesteaded and owner-occupied properties and increase the maximum award for investor-owned properties to up to \$5,000. The changes also allow certain owner-occupied multi-family properties to participate, reduce the number of required cost estimates, and expand eligible improvements to include exterior painting, front-yard landscaping, superficial fencing, and exterior lighting affixed to the front of the building. The program supports neighborhood appearance and pride of ownership, with \$150,000 allocated in FY 2026 to fund the revised program. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3YNkiAP.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Approves Grant Application for Enhanced Marine Law Enforcement

The City Commission approved a motion authorizing submission of a grant application for up to \$155,088 under Broward County's Enhanced Marine Law Enforcement Grant Program to support additional waterway patrols by the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. If awarded, the grant would fund 2,944 hours of enhanced marine law enforcement patrols during evening shifts to improve boating safety across the City's waterways from October 2026 through September 2027. The grant does not require a cash match, though the City typically supplements the funding through its annual budget to cover remaining overtime costs. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4jRApHb.

Commission Approves Purchase of Property Insurance Coverage

The City Commission approved the purchase of one-year property insurance policies from Underwriters at Lloyd's of London and other carriers in an amount not to exceed \$4.44 million to insure more than 270 City-owned buildings and structures valued at approximately \$737 million. The insurance program renewal reflects increased insured values, primarily due to the anticipated completion of the new Police Headquarters, and includes updated coverage limits to maintain eligibility for FEMA public assistance. The coverage will be effective February 1, 2026, with funding provided through the City's self-insurance program. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/49JhqK3.

Commission Approves Construction Agreement for Holiday Park Improvements Phase II

The City Commission approved an agreement with Lunacon Engineering Group, Corp. in the amount of \$7.01 million for Phase II of the Holiday Park Improvements project. Phase II includes construction of a new playground area, park signage and wayfinding, dog park improvements, extensive landscaping, and loop trail enhancements as part of the City's Parks Bond Program. The project was competitively bid, with Lunacon Engineering Group, Corp. selected as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, and funding is provided through the FY 2026 Community Investment Plan. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3LTtH6S.

Commission Approves First Reading of Local Business Tax Ordinance Update

The City Commission approved the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 15 of the City Code to implement a five percent increase in local business tax fees and restore thirteen business tax categories that were inadvertently removed during a prior consolidation of

categories. The update reflects the City Commission's earlier direction to simplify the business tax structure while maintaining accurate classification of active business types and represents the City's first business tax rate adjustment since 2004. If adopted on second reading, the fee increase would take effect beginning July 1, 2026, with an average annual increase of approximately \$7.50 per business, and would support modernization and administration of the City's business tax program. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3NW0tEX.

Commission Approves First Reading of Ordinance Updating Alcohol Rules in Special Entertainment Districts

The City Commission considered a proposed ordinance on first reading to update regulations in Special Entertainment Districts, including changes related to alcohol open container allowances, outdoor alcohol sales, and permitted hours of alcohol service. During the discussion, the City Commission supported eliminating alcohol open container allowances and outdoor alcohol sales, while expressing a desire to maintain current alcohol service hours at this time and revisit the issue after an initial trial period. The ordinance would apply to all existing Special Entertainment Districts if adopted on second reading. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4sW9xtK.

Commission Approves First Reading of Ordinance Authorizing High Impact Safety Measures

The City Commission approved the first reading of an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale for high impact events. The amendment authorizes the City Manager to designate High Impact Zones throughout the City during declared High Impact Periods to impose additional temporary safety measures. The proposed changes would expand the City's ability to respond to large-scale events and periods of increased activity by allowing measures such as prohibiting off-premises alcohol consumption, suspending sidewalk café permits, modifying park and facility hours, and implementing juvenile curfews in designated areas. The update is intended to improve public safety, crowd management, and enforcement flexibility during High Impact Periods. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4b6rW0r.

Information

For more information on the January 20, 2026, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will occur on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. These meetings will be held at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in the Mary N. Porter Riverview Ballroom, 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312.