



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-039

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: February 11, 2026
SUBJECT: Key Personnel Updates – City Manager’s Office

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to announce the upcoming retirements of two (2) valued members of the City of Fort Lauderdale leadership team, Susan Grant and Susan Leon. We extend our sincere gratitude for their dedicated service and the lasting impact they have made in our organization and community.

Susan Grant, Special Advisor to the City Manager

Susan Grant has served the City of Fort Lauderdale with distinction since December 2019. Susan initially joined the City of Fort Lauderdale as Finance Director, was later promoted to Assistant City Manager, and from May 2024 to March 2025, she served in the role of Acting City Manager. During this period, Susan was instrumental in guiding the City through a significant transition with professionalism, stability, and thoughtful leadership. Following this service, Susan continued her service in the City Manager’s Office (CMO) as Special Advisor to the City Manager, where her experience and institutional knowledge have remained invaluable.

Her leadership roles in Fort Lauderdale build upon over three (3) decades of public sector experience, including twenty-seven (27) years on the senior management team for the City of Coral Springs, where Susan served as Deputy City Manager, Director of Financial Services, Director of Human Resources, and City Controller. During her tenure in Coral Springs, she helped guide the organization in earning numerous prestigious recognitions, including the 2007 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and the Florida Governor’s Sterling Awards in 1997 and 2003, making the City of Coral Springs the first municipality to receive the Sterling Award twice.

Throughout her career, Susan has overseen a wide range of municipal functions, including financial services, budget, human resources, information technology, marketing and communications. Her leadership has strengthened operational excellence, fiscal stewardship, and organizational performance. Prior to her public service career, she held senior financial roles in the private sector.

Susan's steady guidance, institutional knowledge, and commitment to public service have been invaluable to the City. Susan will remain engaged with the City of Fort Lauderdale through her service on the Police and Fire Fighters' Retirement System Board of Trustees and continue to be active with the Broward City and County Managers' Association. We are deeply appreciative of her leadership and wish her continued success and fulfillment in retirement. Susan's last day in the office is February 18, 2026.

Susan Leon, Chief Education Officer

Susan Leon has served as the City's Chief Education Officer since joining the City of Fort Lauderdale in 2024, bringing a passion for advancing educational opportunities and workforce development for Fort Lauderdale residents. A South Florida native and long-standing member of the Broward community, Susan has dedicated her career to promoting student success and educational excellence.

Drawing on over thirty (30) years of experience as a former public-school teacher, high school principal, and administrator, Susan has been instrumental in strengthening partnerships between the City, local schools, and community stakeholders. Under her leadership, the Education & Workforce Development Office (now part of the Intergovernmental Affairs Division), has supported the City's vision of being recognized for world-class schools and as a hub for developing top talent. Additionally, the Office has expanded its focus on career readiness, workforce training, and business development, creating pathways to economic opportunity for residents and helping to cultivate a strong local talent pipeline.

Susan's enthusiasm for collaboration and her commitment to improving educational and training opportunities have helped strengthen Fort Lauderdale's reputation as a community where families and businesses can thrive. We are grateful for her leadership and the positive legacy she leaves behind. Susan's last day in the office is March 3, 2026.

On behalf of the CMO and the entire organization, we thank Susan Grant and Susan Leon for their many contributions to the City of Fort Lauderdale. Their service has made a meaningful and lasting difference in our community. We congratulate them on their retirements and extend our very best wishes for the next chapter of their lives.

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors