



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

APPROVED
Meeting Minutes
City of Fort Lauderdale
Community Services Board
700 NW 19th Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311
March 9, 2026 – 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS		PRESENT	ABSENT
Christi Rice, Chair	P	20	4
Sharon Hughes, Vice Chair	P	19	5
Mahalia Balfour	A	0	1
Tanya Cohn	A	7	1
Wismy Cius	P	18	1
Tony Docal	P	2	2
Shelly Goren	P	11	0
Latrinsha Greaves	P	20	4
Gary Hensley	P	15	3

Staff Present

Rachel Williams, Housing and Community Development Manager
Porshia Garcia, Community Services Department Director
Katrina Johnson, Community Services Department Assistant Director
Amanda Hatter, Housing and Community Development Planner
K. Maxwell, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

None.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- **Quorum Requirement – As of February 1st, 2026, there are 8 appointed members to the Board, which means 5 constitutes a quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. WELCOME / BOARD AND STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Williams introduced Community Services Department Director Porshia Garcia, Community Services Department Assistant Director Katrina Johnson, and Housing and Community Development Planner Amanda Hatter.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 9th, 2026

Motion made by Mr. Hensley, seconded by Mr. Cius, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

IV. HOPWA UPDATE

Ms. Williams reported that there are no new updates on the Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) at this time. Only two contracts have not yet been fully executed, and reimbursement for agencies has begun.

V. CDBG UPDATE

Ms. Williams stated that Stuart Tucker, present via Zoom, representing the company that hosts software platform Neighborly, will join today's meeting. This platform allows the reviewing, ranking, and scoring of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications. Mr. Tucker will provide an overview of the platform for the Board members.

Ms. Williams continued that the Board will only be asked to review CDBG applications in the current fiscal year. There are no HOPWA applications this year. She reminded the members that if they have a conflict of interest, they must complete the appropriate form and submit it to her office as well as the City Clerk's Office, preferably in advance of the CDBG presentation and review processes. If members are uncertain of whether a conflict exists, they may reach out to Ms. Williams' office to request clarification.

VI. REVIEW OF THE NEIGHBORLY PLATFORM

Stuart Tucker, representing Neighborly, reviewed how to use the portal through which the members will access and score the CDBG applications. Ms. Williams advised that when members review the applications in advance of the April 20, 2026 Board meeting, they will need to save rather than submit their scores, as there may be changes following the applicants' presentations.

Chair Rice noted that there is a comments or notes section included in the review document and requested how this is used. Ms. Williams replied that this section remains with the application and becomes part of the public record. The Board will review 10 applications this year. A list of applicants will be transmitted to the Board members by the following week. They will also be provided with the conflict of interest form.

The members are asked to transmit their advance reviews of the applications to Staff by Friday, April 17, 2026 so Staff can tabulate the scores ahead of time.

Ms. Greaves asked if the members will have access to the 2025 applicants' documents for purposes of review. Ms. Williams replied that members may make public records

requests for these documents if they wish. She noted that there are several first-time CDBG applicants in 2026.

Chair Rice recalled that while the Board had voted at the previous meeting to schedule CDBG presentations on April 13-14, 2026, these dates have been changed to April 20-21. Only CDBG Public Services applications will be reviewed this year. Applicants will be provided with 10 minutes each, including three minutes for presentation followed by seven minutes of questions from the Board.

Ms. Greaves advised that she would not be able to attend on April 21, 2026 if a second meeting is necessary.

Chair Rice emphasized the importance of following the scoring rubric when scoring the applications.

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER (Next Meeting Date April 20th)

Chair Rice recalled concerns raised by Mr. Cius at the February 2026 Board meeting, which included the lapse of state assistance with HOPWA clients' insurance premiums. Mr. Cius reported that changes went into effect on March 1, 2026, affecting clients' eligibility for Florida's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) as well as insurance premium assistance. Additional changes affected the ADAP formulary for uninsured clients and the availability of specific medications to some clients.

Mr. Cius continued that the Ryan White Program is working closely with funding providers to find a way to compensate for these losses of assistance. Many of those providers have agreed to use their program income to help clients who need assistance with premium payments. For clients who are currently uninsured, they are also working with the manufacturers of medications to determine if assistance is available to those clients. He emphasized the importance of maintaining access to medications in order to prevent drug resistance.

Mr. Cius explained that the Ryan White Program is a grant recipient and does not generate program income; however, some sub-recipients are eligible for rebates on medications, which means they can either purchase the medications at a discounted price or receive a rebate from the manufacturer.

Ms. Williams asked if any real numbers were available in relation to ADAP subsidies. Mr. Cius replied that cost analyses were conducted to determine the number of clients who would be impacted by the above changes. He estimated that over 2,300 clients are affected.

Mr. Cius estimated that assisting roughly 2,300 clients with their insurance premiums would cost over \$6 million. If assistance with medical visits and medications were included, this estimate would increase to over \$31 million. The HIV Planning Council

meets regularly to discuss ways to adjust its requirements in order to assist clients impacted by the changes.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

IX. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Chair Rice noted that the next Board meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2026. The primary item of business will be CDBG review. Ms. Williams advised that if the Board has no objection, that meeting will not include the regular HOPWA update, but will focus solely on CDBG applications. The Board members agreed by consensus.

Ms. Greaves asked if any information was available on the Food Forest program for which funding was requested in 2025. Ms. Williams replied that this program is being administered by the City's Sustainability group, which is now a division of Parks and Recreation rather than Public Works. That Department has initiated an agreement with the Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority and the project is expected to begin in the next few weeks. Chair Rice requested an update on its progress at a later meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]