



# From The Desk Of **DEAN TRANTALIS**

Fort Lauderdale City Commission • District II

SEPTEMBER 2015

## Plans for Holiday Park dog park finalized

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a great summer. While you may have been away, our city initiatives continued to progress.

To start, a new dog park in the center of Fort Lauderdale is set to become reality.

The city has completed the design for the one-acre site located to the northeast of War Memorial Auditorium in Holiday Park. Our city staff expects to finalize the plans and bid out the construction work by the end of the year.

Separate fenced-in play areas for small and big dogs would be built. Amenities could include a pavilion, benches, water fountains for people and dogs, sand paths, agility equipment and decorative entryways.

I was able to direct \$50,000 as seed money from an account dedicated to park improvements in District 2. As a result, the dog park has turned into a true community effort with significant donations made to cover the rest of the cost.

More than \$31,000 was raised through a crowdsourcing internet site called Citizeninvestor and hand-delivered donations. Victoria Park resident Martyna Kilsheimer contributed \$10,000 of the \$31,000. In addition, District 2 resident Larry Danielle has committed to match the city's contribution.

All the donors deserve our deepest thanks in helping make the park a reality.

We continue to look for other donors. Depending on the final money raised, we hope to include all the amenities in the park from the day it opens.



We expect the dog park will be a major draw for the growing neighborhoods around downtown, particularly Victoria Park, Lake Ridge and Flagler Village. City staff worked closely with the Victoria Park Civic Association to select a location and design the park, and the final plans were well-received at the neighborhood's September meeting.

### **NE 13th St. renaissance**

The city is also moving forward with plans to improve the business corridor along Northeast 13th Street. The Transportation and Mobility Department will host a public meeting on Sept. 16 to present the preliminary design concepts and gather more input from residents.

The proposed improvements span 13th Street from NE 4th Avenue to NE 9th Avenue and integrate on-street parking, bike lanes, pedestrian lighting and improved crosswalks. Construction is expected to begin next summer.

Broward County committed \$1.5 million in 2013 to undertake this project, the first in the city's newest community redevelopment area called the Central City CRA. City staff and community leaders worked together to come up with a plan that should spur economic development as well as create a safe and appealing environment.

The open house will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Warsaw Coffee Company, 815 NE 13th St.

### **Crescent House concerns**

Over the past several months, we've been working closely with residents of the South Middle River neighborhood to end a major blight on the area – the Crescent House youth group home run by the state Department of Children and Families.

Nearby residents are persistently harassed by youths from the facility, and there has been an unbelievable level of criminal activity from home break-ins to drugs. Our Police Department has arrested Crescent House residents a total of 138 times between January 2014 and the end of June. Since last December, officers responded to almost 100



missing person reports from the home as a result youths staying out after curfew or leaving after hours.

We brought together the city manager, city attorney, Police Department and Code Enforcement Division and asked them to find a way to shut down this place for good. The state needs to find a better way to help juveniles but not in a way that negatively affects neighborhoods surrounding these facilities.

Code Enforcement has started the legal process against Crescent House, issuing a series of citations. Among the charges is that the Crescent House represents a public nuisance as it has endangered the safety and welfare of the community. Another charge is that the home is operating as a social service facility in violation of the neighborhood's residential zoning.

Let's hope that the long nightmare for surrounding residents is coming to an end.

### **North Beach streetscape**

The National Endowment for the Humanities recently awarded the city \$25,000 to improve the appearance of the North Beach Village area. The grant will help pay for the design of a more livable, walkable and ecological friendly streetscape. This is a critically needed improvement given the ongoing redevelopment of this neighborhood.

Sincerely,



# NEW SHORT-TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE

Hosted by Commissioners Dean J. Trantalis and Bruce G. Roberts

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 • 6:00 P.M.**

**CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

**100 North Andrews Ave., 1st Floor • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301**

Please join Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis and Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts for a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the City of Fort Lauderdale's new short-term rental ordinance. The meeting is open to the public and will include opportunities for input on the regulations and requirements contained in the ordinance. For more information, visit [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov).



Commissioner Trantalis meets with the mayor of Fort Lauderdale's sister city, Mugla, and his staff during a good-will trip this summer to Turkey.



Broward Mayor Tim Ryan recognizes Commissioner Trantalis' longtime civil rights work with one of Broward County's first Community Champions awards.



Commissioner Trantalis reads a proclamation welcoming the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's International Business & Leadership Conference to town.



Commissioner Trantalis joins Police Chief Frank Adderley and Lake Ridge president Michael Albetta for a recent neighborhood event at Cafe Vico.

