



From the desk of the Vice Mayor
DEAN TRANTALIS
Fort Lauderdale City Commission • District II

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NE 13th Street, Dixie road work begins

U.S. Justice Department helps fund body cameras; city moves to expand Las Olas Marina

Long-promised improvements to Northeast 13th Street and Dixie Highway in the Middle River Terrace neighborhood are getting underway.

City leaders, residents and business owners recently celebrated the ground-breaking of construction work to upgrade 13th. We will host a similar ceremony for the Dixie Highway project in December.

With 13th Street, the city is repurposing two traffic lanes to add bike lanes and on-street parking between Northeast 4th Avenue and Northeast 9th Avenue. Pedestrian street-lighting will be installed along with crosswalks, landscaping and wider sidewalks. There also will be intersection and stormwater improvements.

The ground-breaking culminated years of effort to enhance the business district along 13th and spur its redevelopment. The area is well-situated between downtown and Wilton Manors, but needs help to reach its full potential since it has long been plagued by blight and crime.

Join me in thanking Broward County Commissioner Tim Ryan for championing the county's investment of \$1.5 million to bring the project to reality. The Broward Community Foundation provided an additional \$75,000 grant to install public art.

Nearby, on Dixie, we will be taking the "highway" out of this neighborhood street.

Travel lanes will be narrowed from the South Middle River bridge past the intersection with 13th. Bike paths, wide swales and more sidewalks will be added. New street lighting, modified intersections and crosswalks will improve pedestrian safety. A roundabout is planned at Dixie's intersection with 13th Street.

Fort Lauderdale's Dixie project will link up with improvements to the Wilton Manors' portion of the street now being completed.

The city expects the 13th Street work to take eight to 10 months to complete. The Dixie work will be completed about a year



from its start.

Progresso improvements

While street projects are beginning in Middle River Terrace, Fort Lauderdale is wrapping up a major project to improve the streetscape in Progresso Village.

Earlier this year, the city started work to build new sidewalks and swales, install new pedestrian lighting and landscaping, and relocate existing catch basins and storm drains in Progresso. The project encompassed the area from Sistrunk Boulevard to Sunrise Boulevard and from Northwest 5th Avenue and North Andrews Avenue.

This is a significant improvement to the neighborhood. Most of the streets in Progresso did not have sidewalks or adequate lighting, and flooding was frequent after major storms.

Police body cameras

I'm pleased to announce that the city recently received two grants from the U.S.

Department of Justice to help our Police

Department: \$600,000 for police body cameras and \$1 million to expand community



policing efforts.

The community policing aid will add eight officers to focus directly on community-based law enforcement.

The city manager is preparing to hire a private contractor to set up a pilot project that equips some of our officers with body cameras. With this additional money, there is no excuse not to move forward.

In light of the numerous police shootings we've witnessed, I'm a strong believer that cameras should be standard issue for our police force. Body cameras create transparency in law enforcement by documenting the interactions between officers and civilians. They can assist with the collection of evidence and witness statements as well as help address any concerns about misconduct, use of force or bias.

Las Olas Marina

The City Commission has selected a developer to help expand the Las Olas Marina so it can handle more yachts as well as larger yachts. Suintex Marinas is the lead partner in the group that will increase the dockage from 3,430 linear feet to 6,745 linear feet.

Under the deal, Suintex will receive a 50-year lease in exchange for expanding and operating the marina. It has experience running such marinas as Liberty Landing in New Jersey, Port de Plaisance in Saint Maarten and the Snook Bight Yacht Club in Fort Myers Beach.

Suintex will invest at least \$19.4 million to pay for the expansion and will work with the city to obtain state permission for the project since the state has deed restrictions on the property. Suintex guarantees at least \$1.25 million a year in revenue to the city as part of the deal.

They want to open the enlarged marina in the time for the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show in October 2019.

Sincerely,





Vice Mayor Trantalis, businessman Terry Stiles and Mayor Jack Seiler assist with the grand opening of the new Amaray Las Olas high-rise off Las Olas Boulevard.



Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Jack Seiler welcome firefighters from Argentina to the recent International Fire Expo during a ceremony at City Hall.



Vice Mayor Trantalis met with representatives of the Lake Ridge Civic Association and the Villa Medici townhome association to discuss traffic and access.



Vice Mayor Trantalis and Mayor Jack Seiler help cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the new Elements spa in Flagler Village on Federal Highway.



Vice Mayor Trantalis met Turkey's foreign minister, H.E. Mevlut Cavusoglu, at the recent inauguration for that nation's new consul general for the Miami area.



Vice Mayor Trantalis joined Fire Chief Bob Hoecherl and AutoNation CEO Mike Jackson to launch the annual Pink Shirt partnership to raise money to fight breast cancer.