



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

DECEMBER 2016

City must consider development questions

Resident pleas deserve to be heard regarding public lands and construction moratorium

As we approach the holiday season, let's take a moment to enjoy the many feel-good moments and to appreciate all the expressions of good will. In many ways, it is a sweet ending for all the hard work we've put in throughout the year.

Folks that live and work in Fort Lauderdale appreciate the many efforts devoted to improving our community. Quality of life issues dominate most discussions. We are blessed year after year with improvements to our neighborhoods, our downtown and the growing interest of both young and old in the community we are building.

It's that very growth that becomes the subject of debate because visions are not always a shared thing.

This year, neighborhood leaders organized in response to what they perceived as overdevelopment. It culminated in two citizen petitions that sought to compel the City Commission to discuss and ultimately agree on legislation to 1) insist that only development that serves a public purpose can be built on public land and 2) that we institute a one-year moratorium on major new development east of Federal Highway so we could assess our infrastructure capacity.

Sounds reasonable, right? Many came to the area because of the warmth, greenery and the ease of getting from place to place. Why would we spoil it?

But with the robust interest in our city from investors and developers, do we really stand a chance at preserving the open

spaces and clean environment, which is the very postcard image that developers use to sell their product? The City Commission itself has given a strong green light to the development community. Project after project gets approved despite community protests to the contrary.

This is the time to fight back.

Although the petitions failed to comply with the legal standard to be brought before the commission, I have called for the matters to be brought before the commission anyway. I want the issues contained in the petitions to be heard and addressed.

I encourage you to participate in the debate. Let change benefit all of us, not just a few.

Here's some news on other matters of interest in District 2.

Shippey House

I'm proud to announce that the city and Riverwalk Trust recently celebrated the re-opening of the historic Shippey House.

Once the home of early Broward judge Fred Shippey, the property is one of the few remaining from the early days of our community.

Several years ago, the home was in poor condition and about to be demolished when preservationists stepped in to save it.

The home was relocated to city property in the Himmarshee Village area and has now been restored to house Riverwalk Activities, which is a firm that offers various tours and classes along the Riverwalk. When I pledged \$30,000 in District 2 park bond money to help the preservation effort, we



were able to revive public interest. Today, the home is a proud example of our past.

Holiday Park dog park

At the beginning of December, residents from throughout the downtown area gathered in Holiday Park for the long-awaited groundbreaking of a new dog park. The park should be ready to open early next year and will feature separate fenced-in areas for small and large dogs.

The community really came together to make this park a reality.

So many people live near downtown and have dogs that they needed a more convenient option than the city's only existing dog park in Snyder Park near the international airport. Residents raised money, County Commissioner Tim Ryan secured \$50,000 in assistance from Broward, and I contributed \$50,000 from my park bond account.

Our work, though, is not over. I'd still like to see more fund-raising so we can turn this into a truly top-of-the-line dog park with gazebos for people to relax and agility equipment for the dogs to have some extra fun.

In closing, let me again wish everyone happy holidays and a great new year.

Sincerely,





3:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Dec. 31
SW 2nd St
from SW 2nd to 5th Ave.

Touted as the largest New Year's Eve event in Florida, this year's free street festival is full of fun for children and adults. There will be family activities until 8:30 p.m. including a kids' countdown at 7. Live music begins at 8 p.m. in the lead-up to the midnight anchor drop.



Vice Mayor Trantalis joins other elected officials and leaders of the Middle River Terrace neighborhood to break ground on the Dixie Highway improvement plan.



Vice Mayor Trantalis speaks to residents of the central beach's Jackson Tower condo association about city issues during the group's annual meeting.



Vice Mayor Trantalis joins Mayor Jack Seiler and other commissioners in turning on the holiday lights in Esplanade Park as part of Light up Lauderdale.



Vice Mayor Trantalis joins other celebrity waiters at the annual Breakfast for Champions that raises money for programs at the Broward Partnership for the Homeless.