



# LauderBriefs

## Updates from City Commission Meetings

In case you missed it, following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, December 3, 2019. To view the video of the Commission meetings, visit [bit.ly/2mgrQNI](http://bit.ly/2mgrQNI).

### CONFERENCE MEETING

#### Fort Lauderdale's ITS Department Under New Leadership

Andrew Parker was named Chief Information Officer and will become Director of the City's Information Technology Services (ITS) Department. Parker, who has been with the City for 19 years, brings a wealth of experience to the department where he will oversee a staff of approximately 85 IT professionals focused on delivering technical resources, implementing digital security, and supporting City staff to provide quality services to our neighbors. The ITS Department's mission is to improve operational efficiencies and employee productivity through innovative solutions, emerging technologies, and quality IT services. To learn more about the City's ITS Department, visit [bit.ly/2PkA6qp](http://bit.ly/2PkA6qp).

### CRA BOARD MEETING

#### Beach Area CRA Extended to Complete Funded Projects

The City Commission, acting as the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners, unanimously approved a resolution to enter into an interlocal agreement with Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale to extend the duration of the beach area of the CRA on a non-tax increment finance (TIF) basis for up to three years. This extension will allow for the completion of CRA-funded beach area projects that may still be under construction when the Fort Lauderdale Beach Community Redevelopment Plan expires on September 30, 2020, 30 years after the fiscal year in which it was originally adopted. The projects include the ongoing \$42 million renovation of the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center and the upcoming \$8.1 million streetscape improvement project along State Road A1A. For details, visit [bit.ly/2sHS66y](http://bit.ly/2sHS66y).

### REGULAR MEETING

#### Fort Lauderdale Fire Truck Bound for Marsh Harbour

Prior to the start of the Regular City Commission Meeting, Fort Lauderdale gave the Bahamas an early Christmas gift when our Fire Rescue Department coordinated the donation of a fire truck to Marsh Harbour. Since it was devastated in Hurricane Dorian, the town's volunteer fire department has been unable to provide services to its residents. Fort Lauderdale was happy to donate a fire truck that was on its way to auction, but instead was graciously accepted by Bahamas Consul General Linda Mackey and is on its way to help the people of the Bahamas. Special thanks to Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr and Alan Davies of Hydrodynamic Solutions who convinced SEACOR Island Lines to transport the 44,000-pound truck to the Bahamas free of charge. To view photos, visit [bit.ly/2P4raX8](http://bit.ly/2P4raX8).

### **Fort Lauderdale Awarded FDOT Grant to Increase Roadway Safety for All Users**

The City Commission accepted a \$45,360 grant from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the Fort Lauderdale Police Department to deliver public awareness and enforcement campaigns related to pedestrian, bicyclist, and motorist safety. Over the next few months, FLPD will implement high-visibility enforcement activities to remind and educate all roadway users about safe behaviors. These efforts will be concentrated in areas where traffic crashes resulting in serious and fatal injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists frequently occur, such as Broward Boulevard, Sunrise Boulevard, and US 1. For more details, visit [bit.ly/2qgLAMf](https://bit.ly/2qgLAMf).

### **Fort Lauderdale Police to Continue SRO Program at City Schools**

The City Commission unanimously approved an agreement with the School Board of Broward County (SBBC) for the School Resource Officer (SRO) program through June 3, 2020. Under the agreement, the SBBC will contribute \$54,600 per officer for a total amount of \$546,000 over the 2019-2020 school year. The funds will support the Fort Lauderdale Police Department's School Resource Officer Program, which assigns 10 law enforcement officers to serve as SROs at nine secondary schools operated by the SBBC, including: New River Middle School, Sunrise Middle School, William Dandy Middle School, Fort Lauderdale High, Stranahan High, Whiddon Rogers Education Center, Sheridan Technical High School, Seagull Alternative High School and two officers at Dillard Middle/High. For more details, visit [bit.ly/2DGJbof](https://bit.ly/2DGJbof).

### **City Commission Adopts Amended Budget**

The City Commission adopted a resolution amending the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. As part of the City's commitment to upgrading its infrastructure and establishing resiliency measures, the City is moving forward with \$14.5 million in wastewater infrastructure improvements including the SE 10th Avenue 48-inch force main replacement and 36-inch bypass project. Also in the amended budget, the City Commission appropriated \$70 million to begin stormwater improvements in Edgewood, River Oaks, and Southeast Isles areas of the City. For more details, visit [bit.ly/2qjpxeT](https://bit.ly/2qjpxeT).

### **Changes Coming to A1A Pedestrian Bridge**

The walk across A1A will soon look a lot more colorful! The City Commission approved the painting of a mural art project for the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort pedestrian bridge at 321 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd. The proposed mural concept, which consists of a graphic representation of betta fish and hibiscus flowers covering the iconic connection to the beach, marks yet another example of a project that enhances the City's identity through public art. For more details, visit [bit.ly/2DJeAX0](https://bit.ly/2DJeAX0).

### **City Commission Approves Contract for Four New Beach Lifeguard Towers**

The City Commission approved a \$183,730 contract to purchase and install four Ocean Rescue lifeguard towers to replace older models built in the mid-1980s and early 1990s. The new towers will feature modular aluminum construction and will be powder-coated white with a ceramic coating to protect them from the harsh marine environment. For more details, visit [bit.ly/388eI0n](https://bit.ly/388eI0n).

### **City Commission Approves \$991,945 Contract for Boat Ramp Renovations**

The City Commission approved a \$991,945 contract for boat ramp renovations at George English Park, located at 1101 Bayview Drive. The existing boat ramps were originally designed to serve smaller watercraft due to height restrictions of the Sunrise Boulevard Bridge over the Middle River, but the newly-constructed bridge provides increased access to larger vessels. This project includes the removal of the existing docks and the installation of new pilings and four new floating docks at two ADA-accessible boat ramps, as well as sidewalk replacement. For more details, visit [bit.ly/2P93mAh](https://bit.ly/2P93mAh).

### **City Commission Considers a Cost of Living Adjustment for Retired Employees**

The City Commission considered granting a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for retirees, at the request of the General Employees Retirement System (GERS) Board of Trustees. The Board provided various options for consideration. The City Commission directed staff to provide more detailed cost information for a future discussion on the item. For more details, visit [bit.ly/2Pk75eD](https://bit.ly/2Pk75eD).

### **Fort Lauderdale Receives Grant for NE 4th Avenue Complete Streets Project**

The City Commission approved an interlocal agreement among the City, the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), and Broward County for project funding for the NE 4th Avenue Complete Streets Project. The Broward Redevelopment Program, a competitive grant program in defined redevelopment areas, will provide up to \$1 million for the project. Located in the Central City CRA on NE 4th Avenue between Sunrise Boulevard and NE 13th Street, the project will feature transportation improvements and streetscape enhancements. An additional \$483,000 in funding for the project will be provided by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). For more details, visit [bit.ly/2DIUfkD](https://bit.ly/2DIUfkD).