



From the desk of  
**STEVEN GLASSMAN**  
Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner, District 2



## January 2020 Newsletter

### **No Pre-Agenda Meeting: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**

In observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, City Hall will be closed and we will not be hosting our regular Monday District 2 Pre-Agenda Meeting for the Tuesday, January 21 Commission Meetings. Your comments and suggestions are always welcomed, so please reach out to our office via phone or email.



Click below to view the upcoming Fort Lauderdale City Commission Agendas. Agendas are typically posted by Friday afternoon.

[Commission Agenda](#)

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## **Sewer Main Breaks and Infrastructure Planning**

Last month, our City's crumbling infrastructure reached a tipping point with consecutive breaks along our sewer force mains. I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to our neighbors for their patience and express our gratitude to the staff and contractors who went above and beyond, working around the clock over the holidays to tackle this complex undertaking and securing the breaks.

In our efforts to undo decades of neglect, as I mentioned in the Sun Sentinel, "This is a race and we started off way behind and we have a long way to go. But we will get there."

On Thursday, January 9, Mayor Trantalis hosted an Infrastructure Update Meeting that discussed the future of our underground utility systems. He unveiled a bold and aggressive plan to make the necessary investments and tackle our neglected infrastructure systems.

The warning signs have been apparent for years, and it is clear that the troubles with our network of pipes did not begin overnight. In 2017, Reiss Engineering reported that the City would need \$1.4 billion over the next 20 years to reverse the neglect that threatens to plague our water and wastewater system for another generation. The City's paralysis in taking any meaningful action to remedy the problems highlighted in the report had a profound impact in my decision to run for office. Infrastructure should always be a top priority if we are to achieve our status as a world-class city.

Since we took office in early 2018, our Commission has been working in accordance with the mandate from the election for a fresh new approach to our challenges. When the "return on investment" practice (raiding the sewer and water funds to balance the budget) wasn't working, we changed course and selected a new City Manager.

The new City Manager provided a 2020 budget to stop pick-pocketing the water and sewer fund. During this year, the shortfall has been cut in half from \$20 million to \$10 million working to eliminate our reliance on the short-sighted practice. Although we have been moving in the right direction, the decades of neglect from the past caught up with us quickly.

At our last meeting, the first after the December breaks, the Commission approved a long-term solution to replace the entire seven miles of the primary north-south collection line that begins at the Coral Ridge Country Club down to the sewer treatment plant at Port Everglades. We realize that time is of the essence, so two contractors will be tasked to minimize the impact on an accelerated 18-month construction schedule. Once the bulk of the work is completed, the City will assess and reinforce the older lines with an inter-sleeve, creating a back-up system to prevent disruption if another break occurs.



### **Next Steps and Smart Growth**

In order to make a meaningful investment in our future, this last September, the Commission took action for a substantial increase in developer impact fees for both water (40+% increase) and sewer (more than tripled) assessed on new development. Contributions to the fund from developers had not been increased since 2005!

I am fully committed to protecting our city. When development projects are presented, I read, re-read and scrutinize every page, number and figure, ask for back up documents to the background materials, ask neighborhood presidents and residents for their input, host meetings bringing both sides together, sometimes asking developers to bring back numerous updates to their plan to create smarter projects for our City. I wholeheartedly refuse to be a rubber stamp for these projects as due diligence is a responsibility I take with the utmost seriousness as a Commissioner.

During our recent series of breaks, at the December 17 Commission Meeting, I insisted that a developer replace the adjacent aging clay sewer pipe before they begin construction. At the same meeting, I asked our City Manager and City Attorney to investigate mechanisms that would have developers foot the bill for underground infrastructure near their projects as opposed to our past practice of simply banking the impact fees and using them later anywhere in the City. There is no reason that these companies should not pay their fair share to strengthen our infrastructure.

We expect an assessment of the entire sewer force main system to be completed by March. With that report, I will request a full summary of our sewer capacity be included to understand how proposed and future developments impact these utilities.

The City also recently appointed Raj Verma as our new Director of Public Works. As a Professional Engineer and a Certified General Contractor in the State of Florida, he has years of experience serving as the Director of Public Works, Utilities and Engineering for Cocoa Beach, Tamarac and Coconut Creek. Raj is no stranger to Fort Lauderdale, having served previously in our Engineering Division and as the Staff Liaison for the Infrastructure Task Force Committee. We welcome Raj back to the City of Fort Lauderdale family in his new role.

This thoughtful, planned approach to the future is smart growth. New leadership, requiring developers to help with their share, and carefully analyzing underground capacity are necessary to properly plan future development in Fort Lauderdale. When it comes to infrastructure, the strength of our city begins below ground.



## Solid Waste & Recycling Working Group

Last November, the Commission nominated me to represent the City through the Broward League of Cities' Solid Waste & Recycling Working Group to develop a regional solid waste management system. As the largest generator of solid waste and recycling in Broward County, Fort Lauderdale will play a critical role in discussions and planning for this waste management system that will service the whole county and will impact generations to come. We are currently working on creating a balanced governance structure to properly represent our various sizes of cities across the county and provide the authority to move forward with creating the best system for the region.

## Goal Setting Workshop

The City Commission is hosting its annual Commission Prioritization & Goal Setting Workshop on Friday, January 31 at 9 a.m. Below is the FY 2020 Commission Annual Action Plan. Please feel free to email me your suggestions for the upcoming fiscal year.

The following priorities were established by the City Commission at the January 17 and 18, 2019 workshops:

FY 2020 Commission Annual Action Plan
<b>Top Priority</b>
Homelessness Response and Action Plan *
Stormwater Management Master Plan: Implementation*
Affordable Housing: Incentives*
Critical City Infrastructure: Utilities
Sidewalk Policy: Review
Waterway Quality & Algae Bloom Improvements
<b>High Priority</b>
Breakers-Birch Streetscape Project*
LauderTrail Development*
Joint Government Complex*
Las Olas Corridor Mobility Working Group*
Streetscape & Tree Enhancements

\* These initiatives are related to initiatives in the FY 2019 Commission Annual Action Plan.

PLEASE CLICK ON ALL IMAGES BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING EACH EVENT

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION COMMITTEE, INC. AND  
THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT PRESENT

# 2020 KING HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

UNITED WE COMPLETE  
THE DREAM



**MONDAY, JANUARY 20**

## **KING HOLIDAY PARADE & UNITY MARCH**

8:00 - 8:45 AM | Parade line-up begins at Lincoln Park - 600 N.W. 19th Avenue

9:00 AM | Parade departs from Lincoln Park and heads east on Sistrunk Boulevard to N.W. 7th Avenue (Avenue of the Arts) then south to S.W. 2nd Street to Esplanade Park

## **KING HOLIDAY CELEBRATION OF UNITY & MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL**

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM | Esplanade Park, 400 S.W. 2nd Street

954-828-3542 | [www.fortlauderdale.gov/MLK](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/MLK) | [www.kingholidaycelebration.com](http://www.kingholidaycelebration.com)

# KING HOLIDAY CELEBRATION EVENT MAP



## 2020 KING HOLIDAY EVENT LINE-UP

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

4:00 - 7:00 PM - Day of Service Project  
 Dr. MLK Montessori Academy  
 591 N.W. 31st Avenue, Lauderdale, FL 33311

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

10:00 AM to Noon - MLK Birthday Party  
 African American Research Library and Cultural Center  
 2650 Sistrunk Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311  
 6:00 - 9:00 PM - "Destination Friday"  
 African American Research Library and Cultural Center  
 2650 Sistrunk Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Youth Leadership Summit  
 African American Research Library and Cultural Center  
 2650 Sistrunk Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

### MONDAY, JANUARY 20

King Holiday Parade & Unity March

8:00 - 8:45 AM - Parade line-up begins at Lincoln Park  
 600 N.W. 19th Avenue

9:00 AM - Parade departs from Lincoln Park and heads east on Sistrunk Boulevard to N.W. 7th Avenue (Avenue of the Arts) then south to S.W. 2nd Street to Esplanade Park

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM - King Celebration of Unity & Multicultural Festival Holiday

Esplanade Park, 400 S.W. 2nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

For parade applications, vendor applications and event information, please visit [www.kingholidaycelebration.com](http://www.kingholidaycelebration.com)



If you would like this publication in an alternative format or if you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please contact (954) 828-PARK (7275) or [perksinfo@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:perksinfo@fortlauderdale.gov).

JAN  
23-26  
2020



# JOIN US FOR ART FORT LAUDERDALE THE ART FAIR ON THE WATER

WWW.ARTFTLAUDERDALE.COM

JAN 24-JUN 26

@ LAS OLAS  
OCEANSIDE PARK  
*Fort Lauderdale Beach*



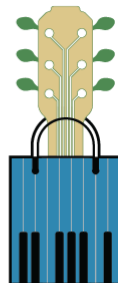
#SOUNDWAVESFLB



**FREE**  
**CONCERT**  
EVERY FRIDAY  
FROM 6:30-9:30 PM



JANUARY 24



*Come early!*

**NEW!**  
**CRAFT MARKET**  
**PICNIC @**  
**THE PARK**

MUSIC & MAKERS



JANUARY 24

**POCKET CHANGE**

JANUARY 31

**PRIVATE STOCK**

FEBRUARY 7

**SABOR LATINO**

FEBRUARY 14: VALENTINE'S DAY

**REACTION**

FEBRUARY 21

**MR NICE GUY**

FEBRUARY 28

**THE GOODNICKS**

MARCH 6

**TASTY VIBRATIONS**

MARCH 13

**FIRESIDE PROPHITS**

MARCH 20

**SPRED THE DUB**

MARCH 27

**SONLOKOS**

APRIL 3

**JOEL DA SILVA & FRIENDS**

APRIL 10

**BIG HARVEST**

APRIL 17: COUNTRY MUSIC WEEKEND

**SHANE DUNCAN**

APRIL 24: PRIDE OF THE AMERICAS

**TITO PUENTE JR.**

MAY 1: AIR SHOW WEEKEND

**THE LIVESAYS**

MAY 8: MOTHERS DAY CONCERT

**SCHOOL OF ROCK**

MAY 15

**KHEMISTRY**

MAY 22: MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT

**CLASSIC ROCK THERAPY**

MAY 29

**WILDFIRE BAND**

JUNE 5

**ALL STAR SOUL BAND**

JUNE 12

**GORO CASTILLO**

JUNE 19

**GYPSY LANE**

JUNE 26: SEASON FINALE

**VALERIE TYSON**

VIEW THE CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS @

**FridayNightSoundWaves.com**

Major funding  
provided by





*New!* VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES



LIVE MUSIC!  
FRIDAYS 6:30PM

# OCEANSIDE PARK MARKET



FARMERS | ANTIQUES | ARTISANS

☀ SATURDAYS | 9AM-4PM ☀

*Opening* JANUARY 25



MUSIC & MAKERS

*Friday night*  
VENDOR  
OPPORTUNITIES

★ FRIDAYS | 4PM-10PM ★

*Opening* JANUARY 24

*Contact us* FOR MORE INFO ABOUT  
FRIDAY OR SATURDAY MARKETS

OCEANSIDEMARKETS@GMAIL.COM

# LET'S TALK SUSTAINABILITY!



Bring your own reusable cup and get a prize!

## What are your priorities for Fort Lauderdale sustainability and resiliency in 2020?

Hear from experts | Share your thoughts

The City of Fort Lauderdale Sustainability Advisory Board invites you to attend a Public Forum

**Monday, January 27, 2020 | 6:15 – 8:15 PM**

City Hall, 8th Floor Conference Room  
100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

### Agenda

- 6:15 – 6:30 PM Doors open with light refreshments served
- 6:30 – 6:45 PM Welcome and Introduction to Climate Change issues specific to South Florida
- 6:45 – 7:30 PM Panel discussion by experts on sustainability challenges and initiatives in Fort Lauderdale
- 7:30 – 8:15 PM Public input regarding sustainability and resiliency
- 8:15 PM Adjournment



The purpose of the Sustainability Advisory Board is to identify and recommend affordable strategies to the City Commission associated with conservation, renewable energy, and energy efficiency to establish the City of Fort Lauderdale as a leader in environmental sustainability. Two or more Fort Lauderdale City Commissioners or members of a City of Fort Lauderdale Advisory Board may be in attendance at this meeting. If you desire auxiliary services to assist in viewing/hearing the meetings or reading agendas and minutes, please contact the City Clerk's office at 954-828-5002 two days prior to the meeting and arrangements will be made to provide you with these services.

A banner for a news release from Broward County, Florida. It features a background image of a person holding a tablet and a smartphone, with a globe and a person's face in the background. The text 'News Release' is in large blue letters, and 'A Service of the County Commission' is in white on an orange background. The Broward County logo is in the bottom left corner.

## County Flood Maps Are Changing - Attend a Public Flood Risk Open House

All Broward County residents and business owners are invited to attend an upcoming Public Flood Risk Open House in early February to learn about their flood risk, view

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) newly updated preliminary flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) and find out how the information may impact their property. At the Flood Risk Open Houses, a variety of specialists will be available to answer questions about flood insurance, engineering, and more. All Broward County residents (home and business owners, renters, realtors, mortgage lenders, surveyors, and insurance agents) are encouraged to attend one of three open houses:

Monday, February 3rd, 4PM - 7PM  
Charles F. Dodge City Center Mezzanine  
601 City Center Way  
Pembroke Pines 33025  
Thursday, February 6th, 9AM - 12PM

Emma Lou Olsen Center Auditorium  
1801 NE 6th Street  
Pompano Beach 33060

Thursday, February 6th, 4PM - 7PM

Anne Kolb Nature Center Mangrove Hall  
751 Sheridan Street  
Hollywood 33019

No appointments are necessary but if you're going be sure to bring elevation certificates for your property if possible.

The new preliminary FIRM was developed through a partnership between Broward County, local municipalities, and the FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The FIRM is based on updated modeling and data and shows more precise flood hazard information than older maps. The new maps aim to help protect property owners and communities from the risks associated with flooding. Over time, flood risks change due to construction and development, environmental changes, floodplains widening or shifting, and other factors. FIRMs are updated periodically to reflect these changes.

By law, federally regulated or insured mortgage lenders require flood insurance on buildings that are in areas at high risk of flooding. Standard homeowners', business owners', and renters' insurance policies typically don't cover flood damage, so flood insurance is an important consideration for everyone. Flood insurance policies can be purchased from any State-licensed property and casualty insurance agent.

Visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call 1-888-379-9531 for more information about flood insurance and to locate a local agent.

For more information contact your [Community Floodplain Manager](#).







Spent a terrific few hours at the "Miracle on 13th Street" event on December 13. Kudos and Bravo to so many involved over the years in the incredible resurgence of this corridor which runs through 4 neighborhoods. But this event and this ribbon cutting highlighting 5 new businesses in Middle River Terrace is the work of landlord Abby Laughlin; her vision brought this over the finish line. The City has done a fantastic job on the complete streets/streetscape design on 13th Street, Dixie Highway, and now on 4th Avenue. Private investment and public investment have come together to produce great results. Older buildings have been repurposed, not demolished, and arts and culture have been infused everywhere. It is an honor to serve District 2 and assist our neighborhoods in continuing to grow and prosper. If you have not checked out 13th Street recently, then go. Go and patronize these new businesses as well as the older, established ones.

I so enjoyed presenting a proclamation to the 1919 Club on its 100th Anniversary. This group, dedicated to advancing opportunities for women and encouraging community engagement, was founded by Fort Lauderdale pioneer Annie Beck. A park is named after her in Victoria Park and the Annie Beck House sits lovingly (after 2 moves to avoid demolition) in Middle River Terrace Park.



The last night of Hanukkah saw celebrations by the Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center and the Downtown Jewish Center Chabad. It was important to shed light during this Festival of Lights on what is good in our community and not be divided and consumed by the hate that seems to dominate the news during the holiday season.

Middle River Terrace Park had some crime issues over the years. One of my priorities was for the City to step in with park improvements including security and the rehabilitation of the historic Annie Beck House. Drove by the house and am pleased to report that the work is almost complete - excellent job under the

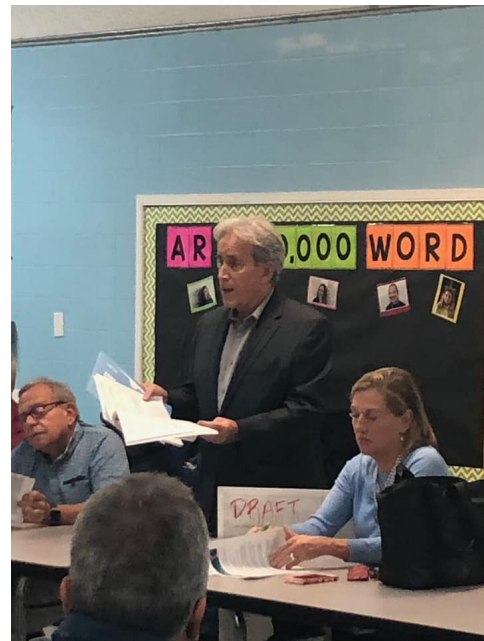
supervision of Parks and Recreation Department. The house looks terrific and soon a police officer will reside there. The park is so improved and the new adjacent townhomes, the Park at Middle River, are stunning. Add the Dixie Highway improvements, the incredible resurgence of 13th Street, and the Central City Rezoning plan soon to be finalized and you have a neighborhood putting it all together! Simply terrific.



County-wide Solid Waste and Recycling Working Group continues to meet. This is work of the utmost importance and I am honored to represent Fort Lauderdale. The day ended as I hosted my packed District 2 Pre-Agenda meeting where our City Manager, Chris Lagerbloom, walked us through sewer breaks, how the City responded and next steps. We are committed to doing what is necessary in the most efficient and expeditious manner.



It was an honor to be part of the program at Fort Lauderdale HS Magnet Program Open House on January 8. 8th Graders packed the auditorium, gym, and campus to learn about the programs and apply for a spot. I made it clear that education is a priority of our City Commission and to congratulate this



Many thanks to our City Manager, Chris Lagerbloom, for joining me at the Victoria Park Civic Association meeting. I presented the policy decisions and expenditures passed by the City Commission to deal with our sewer line issue and Chris explained the ongoing work in Victoria Park and



incredible A-rated school!

the overall plan going forward.  
Excellent questions and dialogue  
from an always engaged  
neighborhood.



Light breeze, clear skies, 75°, and the 48th Annual Winterfest Boat Parade - who could ask for anything more?! Economic impact of \$50 million, Florida's #1 attended one-day live spectator event, #7 parade in the U.S., and top 20 parade in the world! Congrats to Lisa Scott-Founds and Staff, thank you Lisa Duke for a terrific viewing party, thank you April Kirk for opening the spectacularly decorated historic Stranahan House, and thank you Kitty McGowan for the live interview. No other City puts on a water event like this!



It was such a joy to recognize a Fort Lauderdale icon with a proclamation in recognition of Ron O'Brien - United States Olympic Hall of Fame Class of 2019. Ron's achievements are extraordinary, his career as a diving coach is legendary, and his love for Fort Lauderdale is unmatched. Congratulations, Ron, and thank you!

The following Advisory Boards are available to serve on for District 2 and  
Consensus:

- Affordable Housing Advisory Committee**
- Central City Redevelopment Advisory Board**
- Complete Count Advisory Committee**
- Community Appearance Board**
- Community Services Board**
- Complete Count Advisory Committee**
- Fire Rescue Bond Committee**
- Nuisance Abatement Board**

If you are interested, please [apply online](#).

Feel free to contact District 2 Commission assistant, Pratima Raju at [praju@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:praju@fortlauderdale.gov) or 954-828-5923 if you have any questions.

Please visit the Fort Lauderdale Calendar for a complete list of events and details.



Fort Lauderdale City Calendar

City News Center

Steve Glassman  
Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner, District 2

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**The greatness of our community starts with passionate citizens like you.**

**Please do not hesitate to contact our District 2 Commission assistant, Pratima Raju, with any questions, comments or thoughtful suggestions at [praju@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:praju@fortlauderdale.gov) or 954-828-5923.**

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