



# LauderBriefs

## Updates from City Commission Meetings

*The City of Fort Lauderdale will be hosting virtual Commission meetings using audio/video conferencing software until further notice. The public will be able to listen to and view the virtual meetings at [www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv), as well as on Comcast Channel 78 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99.*

*To sign up to speak on an agenda item at a future meeting, visit [bit.ly/virtualccmeetings](http://bit.ly/virtualccmeetings).*

In case you missed it, following are highlights from the virtual Fort Lauderdale City Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 19. The video and vote summary will be available this week at [bit.ly/ftlccagendas](http://bit.ly/ftlccagendas).

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### **COVID-19 Update**

The City of Fort Lauderdale continues to monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and maintain close contact with state and local officials. During the meeting, the City Commission received an update from Dr. Eduardo Locatelli from Holy Cross Hospital who discussed Phase 1 of the City's reopening and relayed information about the downward trends being seen in the percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19, as well as the number of hospital visits. To read the City's Phase 1 guidelines, visit [bit.ly/ftloopening](http://bit.ly/ftloopening). For updates regarding City operations, community resources, and business assistance please visit the City website at [bit.ly/ftlcovid19](http://bit.ly/ftlcovid19).

#### **City to Expand Dining and Walking Areas on Las Olas and the Galt**

The City Commission expressed support to expand outdoor dining availability and allow more social distancing for pedestrians in key areas of the City. Tentative plans call for parking lanes on Las Olas Boulevard between SE 6 Avenue and SE 11 Avenue to be temporarily closed to allow restaurants to add more outdoor seating and allow more social distancing for others using the street. Similarly, plans call for NE 33 Street, located on the Galt in the North Beach Restaurants and Shoppes, to temporarily close between A1A and NE 33 Avenue. More information will be available as plans are finalized.

#### **Grant Application Approved for Removal of Derelict Vessel on Intracoastal**

The City Commission authorized staff to submit a grant application to the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Small Scale Derelict Vessel Removal program to cover costs expended to salvage and dispose of an abandoned 40-foot sailboat that was discovered earlier this year in the Intracoastal Waterway north of Las Olas Boulevard. The FIND program provides grant funding of up to 75 percent (or in this case \$11,869) of the costs needed to salvage and dispose of derelict vessels. The total cost of the removal and disposal of the abandoned 40-foot sailboat was \$15,825 and the remaining \$3,956 will be acquired from the Broward Boating Improvement Grant, which was awarded to the City in 2019. For details, visit [bit.ly/2WJiTMm](http://bit.ly/2WJiTMm).

### **City Commission Accepts \$157,000 CARES Act Airport Grant**

The City Commission authorized the acceptance of a \$157,000 CARES Act Airport Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration for Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport to help offset a decline in revenues due to diminished airport operations and activities as a result of COVID-19. The grant is intended to support the maintenance of safe and efficient airport operations and can be used to reimburse the airport for operational and maintenance expenses incurred after January 20, 2020 or to reimburse debt service payments after April 14, 2020. For details, visit [bit.ly/36dZNkx](https://bit.ly/36dZNkx).

### **Commission Approves Affordable Workforce Housing**

The City Commission unanimously approved an agreement with the Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc., for eight residential affordable housing units to be set aside in perpetuity as part of the “Seven on Seventh” project, a mixed-use development project that consists of 1,848 square feet of commercial space and 72 affordable residential units. “Seven on Seventh” will be located between NW 7 Avenue and NW 6 Avenue, north of NW 9 Street, and south of 920 NW 7 Avenue. Rents for the eight affordable housing units would be restricted to medium-income households earning no more than 100 percent of the Broward County medium family income. The remaining 64 affordable housing units would be required to be rented to low-income households earning less than or equal to 60 percent of the area median income. For details, visit [bit.ly/2yeFU02](https://bit.ly/2yeFU02).

### **City Commission Accepts Two FDOT Grants for Sun Trolley Community Bus Service**

The City Commission accepted two grants from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). A \$200,000 FDOT grant will be administered by the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (TMA) for the operation of the Sun Trolley’s Northwest Community Link and Neighborhood Link Community Bus routes. For details, visit [bit.ly/3gbALHx](https://bit.ly/3gbALHx). A second grant in the amount of \$182,680 will be administered by the Downtown Fort Lauderdale TMA for the operation of the Sun Trolley’s Downtown Link Community Bus route. For details, visit [bit.ly/2zcUANN](https://bit.ly/2zcUANN).

### **Commission Approves Compromise Agreement for Lincoln Park Lawsuit**

Following 13 years of litigation, the City Commission unanimously approved a Compromise Agreement in the amount of \$18 million between the City of Fort Lauderdale and all named Plaintiffs and putative and potential class members in the matters of Walter Hinton, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale, and Ray Adderley, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale. The claims in both cases centered on alleged exposure to certain environmental contaminants that the Plaintiffs assert were released in conjunction with the operation of the Lincoln Park municipal waste incinerator between the 1920s and 1950s. For details, visit [bit.ly/2zbzX4s](https://bit.ly/2zbzX4s).

### **City Commission Seeks Proposals to Reimagine Riverwalk Center**

The City Commission approved a resolution allowing the City to move forward with the leasing and redevelopment of the Riverwalk Center (formerly City Park Garage), located at 100 SE 1st Street and 155 SE 2nd Street in the heart of downtown. Proposers will be encouraged to strive to create plans that bring new life and activity to the property by improving its physical appearance, updating amenities, and activating the Riverwalk Center with new design and programming concepts. Proposers are also encouraged to incorporate affordable housing in their submittals that may also include plans to redevelop the entire first floor of the structure, update the parking efficiencies of the garage to increase revenue to the City, and improve the façade and streetscape of the structure to create a world-class destination. For details, visit [bit.ly/2yhPi33](http://bit.ly/2yhPi33).

### **City Commission Approves Ordinance to Modify Parking Fines and Rates**

The City Commission passed on first reading an amendment to the Code of Ordinances that was first introduced in November 2019 that increases the fines for parking citations from \$32.00 to \$40.00 in alignment with other municipalities in Florida. The amendment also seeks to establish three parking zones: Zone 1 – east of the Intracoastal Waterway and south of Oakland Park Boulevard; Zone 2 – east of I-95, west of the Intracoastal Waterway, south of Northeast 11th Street and north of Southwest 7th Street; and Zone 3 – any land outside of Zones 1 and 2. New hourly parking rates will correspond with each zone, leading to rate increases or decreases in some areas. Staff recommended the creation of a resident discount rate with a maximum cost of \$1.50 per hour, while the non-resident rate could reach up to \$4.00 in some areas. These changes were proposed to fund structural repairs, capital improvements, new service features, and to replenish the parking reserve. Due to COVID-19, the parking fund has experienced significant revenue losses. The amendments are expected to go into effect on July 1, 2020. For details, visit [bit.ly/3bQaV8m](http://bit.ly/3bQaV8m).

### **City Commission Workshop on May 27**

The City Commission will continue to meet on a weekly basis to monitor the latest data and updates on COVID-19 and discuss plans for a phased reopening of the City. The Commission will host a virtual workshop on COVID-19 on Wednesday, May 27 at 3 p.m. Look for the agenda to be posted prior to the workshop at [bit.ly/ftlccagendas](http://bit.ly/ftlccagendas).

### **Next Virtual City Commission Meeting on June 2**

The next virtual meeting of the City Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2 at 6 p.m. The public will be able to listen to and view the virtual meeting at [www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv), as well as on Comcast Channel 78 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. The agenda will be posted prior to the meeting at [bit.ly/ftlccagendas](http://bit.ly/ftlccagendas). Individuals who would like to speak on an agenda item may do so by completing a virtual speaker card form at [bit.ly/virtualspeakercard](http://bit.ly/virtualspeakercard). For more information, visit [bit.ly/virtualccmeetings](http://bit.ly/virtualccmeetings).