



LauderBriefs

Updates from City Commission Meetings

The City of Fort Lauderdale is hosting City Commission meetings in-person at City Hall located at 100 N Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301. If any person wishes to address the City Commission, the person shall sign up in the City Hall lobby using the City Clerk's iPad. The public can listen to and view City Commission meetings on [FLTV](#), [YouTube](#), Comcast Channel 78, and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. To learn more about City Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.gov/citycommissionmeetings.

In case you missed them, the following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Thursday, September 22, 2022. The video is available at youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale and the vote summary will be available later this week at fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING

City Commission Receives Update Regarding Federal Funding Opportunities

Transportation and Mobility staff, along with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, provided an update on federal funding opportunities. City staff noted that many of these federal funding opportunities would be routed through the Broward MPO. Broward MPO and Broward County submitted the joint application for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant on September 14, 2022, and award announcements are expected as soon as February 2023. The Broward MPO is working with local municipalities on submitting an application for the Rail Crossing Elimination Grant Program, a \$24 million funding opportunity that would create safety improvements such as quadrant gates that prevent motorists from driving around closed gates at rail crossings. Separate from the federal funding discussion, the City Commission noted concerns about the County's Transportation Surtax program and that the City contributes more than 30% to the associated surtax program and has not been approved for funding on an equitable scale. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3qWTlcO.

Fort Lauderdale Police Headquarters Project Update

City Staff provided a status update for the proposed Fort Lauderdale Police Headquarters project and discussed additional funding options to make up for an anticipated shortfall. The initial \$100 million bond was approved by voters almost 4 years ago, but the current total cost to build the new police headquarters is now an estimated \$142 million. The \$42 million in excess is due to the escalating costs of tangible and intangible goods associated with construction expenses i.e., material, equipment, furniture, and design. Assistant City Manager Susan Grant presented options to acquire additional funding. Options include a 30-year or 27-year (preferred) special obligation bond that aligns with the timeline of the initial bonds' maturity date or general obligation bonds that require a referendum and associated costs. A third option would be to develop land adjacent to the police station to help pay off the loan.

Additionally, the police headquarters could potentially qualify for Transit Oriented Development Federal grants. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3LAZpRK.

City Commission Makes Decision on City Auditor Recruitment

On August 8, 2022, the City of Fort Lauderdale launched an external recruitment for the City Auditor position with the outside vendor, Strategic Government Resources (SGR). The recruitment closed on Sunday, September 11, 2022, and resulted in 16 candidates, eight of whom were selected to advance based on qualifications. The City Manager requested guidance from the City Commission on the next steps in the appointment process. The full City Commission recommended for the current acting City Auditor to be appointed. The City Attorney's office will work with the Commission to appoint the City Auditor via resolution at a future meeting. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3DLZhgp.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA) BOARD MEETING

CRA Board Approves Loan for the American Legion Robert Bethel Post 220

The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners waived the maximum funding amount and percentage of funding eligible for project costs under the Property and Business Improvement Program and approved an additional loan in the amount of \$416,900 to assist with the renovation and expansion of the American Legion Robert Bethel Post 220. The existing 960 square foot building that resides at 1455 Sistrunk Boulevard on a 3,114 square foot lot will increase in size to 2,544 square feet. The American Legion Robert Bethel Post 220, established in 1947, has been an integral part of our community and continues to give back through volunteer efforts, gifting scholarships, sponsorships, providing fellowship among veterans and more. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3LCxcKf.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

City Commission Approves Agreement for Noise Consultant

The City Commission approved an agreement with Siebein Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$128,013 to conduct a soundscape study. The consultant will analyze the noise in two entertainment districts and four regional activity centers and will propose strategies toward adopting standards for measuring sound and how to detect and enforce violations of permissible sound limits. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3S8hoS8.

City Commission Approves Agreement for Himmarshee Canal Dredging

The City Commission approved an agreement with Arbor Tree and Land, Inc., for the Himmarshee Canal Dredging Project in the amount of \$710,250. The project includes maintenance dredging of approximately 875 linear feet of the Himmarshee Canal. The dredging is scheduled to take place along the canal between SE 8th Avenue and SE 10th Terrace. There will be a current fiscal year impact to the City in the amount of \$710,250 for this agreement, and \$100,000 for estimated disposal fees for a total amount of \$810,250. Funds for this

agreement, in the amount of \$810,250, have been requested to be reserved in the FY 2022 Operating Budget. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3UuJZ5D.

City Commission Approves Agreement for a Full-Service Movie Studio Complex

The City Commission unanimously approved a comprehensive agreement with Fort Lauderdale Studio Initiative, LLC, for the development, construction, operation, and maintenance of a full-service movie studio complex at 1400 NW 31st Avenue. The City Commission determined that the proposed project would serve a public purpose as an educational and cultural facility. The project will include full-service movie, television, and streaming production studios including, but not limited to, multiple large sound stages and outdoor film sets. In addition to the production facility, the project will include an educational component to train participants in trades that are involved in motion picture production. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3R6dfww.

City Commission Approves Ordinance to Ban Smoking and Vaping in Public Parks, Public Beaches

The City Commission approved, upon first reading, an ordinance that prohibits smoking or vaping in public parks and on public beaches, in conjunction with the Florida Clean Air Act. The ordinance does not include the smoking of unfiltered cigars. The ordinance addresses the pollution issue associated with discarded cigarette butts and toxic chemicals that adversely affect the environment. The City Commission asked that City staff launch an educational campaign that would bring awareness to the City ordinance. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3Sp076L.

City Commission Adopts Resolution for 530 North Birch Road

The City Commission agreed to adopt a resolution amending a development project that adds residential units and amends certain developmental requirements (e.g., height and minimum building tower setback) to 530 North Birch Road. The proposed development includes a 14-story, multi-family residential building. This amendment allows for an additional 24 feet in height to the building, which creates 11 additional units. The new plan meets but does not exceed the maximum allowed structure height of 144 feet. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3LCQjnN.

The City Commission Adopts Ordinance Amending Workforce Housing Initiative

The City Commission adopted a city-wide incentive-based workforce housing policy, amending and adopting new regulations focused on providing housing opportunities to households with incomes less than or equal to 50% to 120% of the Broward County metropolitan statistical area median family income. The policy focused on strategic locations with access to transportation services and areas of high walkability, which included the Downtown Regional Activity Center (D-RAC), Northwest Regional Activity Center (NW-RAC), South Regional Activity Center (S-RAC), Uptown Urban Village (Uptown), the primary transit corridors of Broward Blvd, Sunrise Blvd, Federal Hwy, State Road 84, Andrews Avenue, NE 4th Avenue, Davie Blvd, State Road 7, SE 17th Street, NE 13th Avenue, East Oakland Park Blvd, East Commercial Blvd and NW 62nd Street. Incentives include expedited review, height bonuses, density bonuses, and an optional payment in lieu of affordable housing set-aside requirements. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3S5kNB2.

More Information

For more information on the September 22, 2022, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will take place on Monday, October 3, 2022.