



# LauderBriefs

## Updates from City Commission Meetings

*The City of Fort Lauderdale hosts City Commission meetings in person at various temporary locations. If any person wishes to address the City Commission, the person shall sign up 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](http://fortlauderdale.gov/citycommissionmeetings).*

In case you missed them, the following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The video is available at [youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale](https://youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale), and the vote summary will be available later this week at [fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar](http://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar).

### **CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING**

#### **Commission Updated About the New River Crossing Initiative**

Discussions continued regarding the New River Crossing initiative with an update from BDO, the City's consultant. This latest update examined how the commuter rail station could be configured and located, resiliency issues, how property may be impacted, costs for the project, and potential funding solutions, among others. The current DRAFT cost estimate indicates that the 1.1-mile tunnel would cost approximately \$888 million. BDO will issue a full report later in March. The Commission also heard from a representative from a private entity that is responsible for the design, construction, financing, operations, and maintenance of the Port Miami Tunnel regarding the details of that project. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3v4XuB1](http://ftlcity.info/3v4XuB1).

#### **Commission Given a Presentation About the Himmarshee Revitalization Plan**

With the Himmarshee Historic District identified as an area in need of enhancement and revitalization, the City Commission was provided with a presentation about recent public outreach and feedback. Discussions with the community began in late 2023, including interviews with key stakeholders and an open house with the public. These discussions outlined several themes, including a need to restore the identity of the area, improve safety, address infrastructure concerns, and balance economic goals and community needs, among others. The Commission encouraged staff to address all of the challenges and work toward revitalizing the district while keeping the historic elements intact, and to consider other areas around the city for similar improvement efforts in the future. City staff will now begin working on an action plan with short- and long-term goals to begin the revitalization work. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3T24IOd](http://ftlcity.info/3T24IOd).

#### **Commission Hears a Presentation About Potential Speed Cameras in School Zones**

The City Commission was provided with an overview of the possible placement of speed cameras or detection systems in school zones, which is now allowed under new state legislation. If established in the City, the cameras could be used during a period that ranges

from 30 minutes before the start of the classes, while school is in session, and 30 minutes after the school ends for the day. A potential pilot program during the 2024-25 school year would include four schools – Sunrise Middle, Northside Elementary, Rock Island Elementary, and New River Middle. The Commission expressed a desire to move forward with the program to keep children and other pedestrians safe. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3UZC4A1](https://ftlcity.info/3UZC4A1).

### **Commission Provided an Overview of a New Customer Request Management System**

The City Commission engaged with a presentation about FixIt FTL, a new system that will replace Lauderserv and allow residents to easily report non-emergency issues such as potholes, streetlight outages, clogged storm drains, code complaints, and more. The new platform, which is available online and through a free app, will allow the use of GPS to identify the exact locations of requests, upload photos, and track the status of requests. FixIt FTL tickets will automatically route to the appropriate department and staff point of contact, and updates will be provided until the issue is resolved. This effort is part of the customer service center consolidation project to provide fast, accurate, and complete responses to neighbor concerns and inquiries. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3uXbAEC](https://ftlcity.info/3uXbAEC).

## **CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

### **Commission Approves BBID Funding for Park Ranger Program in the LOOP**

The City Commission approved \$15,000 in Beach Business Improvement District (BBID) funding for the Park Ranger Program until March 31, 2024. The program is designed to enhance the experience of neighbors and visitors at the Las Olas Oceanside Park, increase the visibility of park rangers on the site, and mitigate disruptive behavior from park patrons who may be blocking entrances to bathrooms, not using the park space for its intended use, and public indecency situations. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3lInIm2](https://ftlcity.info/3lInIm2).

### **Commission Approves Agreement for FLPD to Participate in the COPS Television Show**

The City Commission approved an agreement with Langley Productions, Inc. to produce episodes of COPS with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. The television documentary series follows law enforcement activities and is one of the longest-running programs in the nation. This exposure could assist with FLPD recruiting efforts and overall awareness. The production company agreed to respect officers' work obligations and department operations. Production will take place primarily on the beach for approximately eight weeks and will be part of a Spring Break special. No impacts to traffic of regular business activities are expected. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3SWpuik](https://ftlcity.info/3SWpuik).

### **Commission Approves Agreement for the School Resource Officer Program**

The City Commission approved a three-year agreement with the School Board of Broward County for the School Resource Officer Program. The program, which runs through June 2026, assigns 10 Fort Lauderdale Police Department officers to serve full-time at nine schools. Those schools are William Dandy Middle, New River Middle, Sunrise Middle, Fort Lauderdale High, Sheridan Technical, Stranahan High, Seagull Alternative, Whiddon-Rogers Education Center, and Dillard Middle/High, where two officers will be assigned. The School Board of Broward County contributes funds per officer each month over 10 months for a total amount of \$3.4

million over a three-year period. The School Resource Officer Program was established under the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/48N6TLj](http://ftlcity.info/48N6TLj).

### **Commission Reduces the Number of Required Meetings for the Community Services Board**

The City Commission gave final approval to an amendment that reduces the minimum number of required meetings for the Community Service board from 10 meetings per year to eight. The board indicated that a streamlined process has resulted in the majority of its workload being completed in a shorter amount of time. The eight meetings per year are established as a minimum number, and more meetings may be necessary based on the volume of business at hand. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3V5WNSB](http://ftlcity.info/3V5WNSB).

### **Commission Amends the High-Impact Events of Beach Property Ordinance**

The City Commission amended an ordinance that implements additional mitigation measures related to high-impact events on the beach. The existing ordinance was amended to provide the City Manager with the authority to implement higher parking rates during declared high-impact event periods. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/4378avx](http://ftlcity.info/4378avx).

### **Commission Updates Language Related to Allowed Parameters for Temporary Signs**

The City Commission approved changes to a section of the City's Code of Ordinances regarding temporary signs. The new language helps clarify the definitions of temporary signs related to construction activities, election-related matters, and directional and real estate signs as well as the content-neutral limits of when, where, and how long certain signs can be displayed. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3V7z58Q](http://ftlcity.info/3V7z58Q).

### **Information**

For more information on the March 5, 2024, Commission meetings, visit [fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar](http://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar).

### **Upcoming City Commission Meetings**

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will occur on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at NSU Art Museum – Horvitz Auditorium, 1 E. Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.