

FALL 2024

# FTL *Connect*



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE | YOUR KEY TO THE CITY

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[strategiccommunications@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:strategiccommunications@fortlauderdale.gov).

# Directory of IMPORTANT CONTACTS



## Customer Service Center

954-828-8000  
 cservice@fortlauderdale.gov  
 fortlauderdale.gov/FixItFTL



## Police Department

Non-Emergency: 954-828-5700  
 IN AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 9-1-1



## Fire Rescue Administrative Office

954-828-6800  
 IN AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 9-1-1



## Development Services Department (DSD)

700 NW 19th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311  
 954-828-6520, Option 2



## Parks & Recreation Department

954-828-PARK (7275)  
 parksinfo@fortlauderdale.gov



## Utility Billing Customer Service

954-828-5150  
 Sanitation Pick-Up, Sewer, Storm Drains:  
 954-828-8000



## Transportation and Mobility/Parking

Transportation Inquiries  
 954-828-4TAM (4826)  
 transportation@fortlauderdale.gov

Parking Inquiries  
 954-828-8000  
 parkingservices@fortlauderdale.gov



## City Manager's Office

954-828-8000  
 city.manager@fortlauderdale.gov



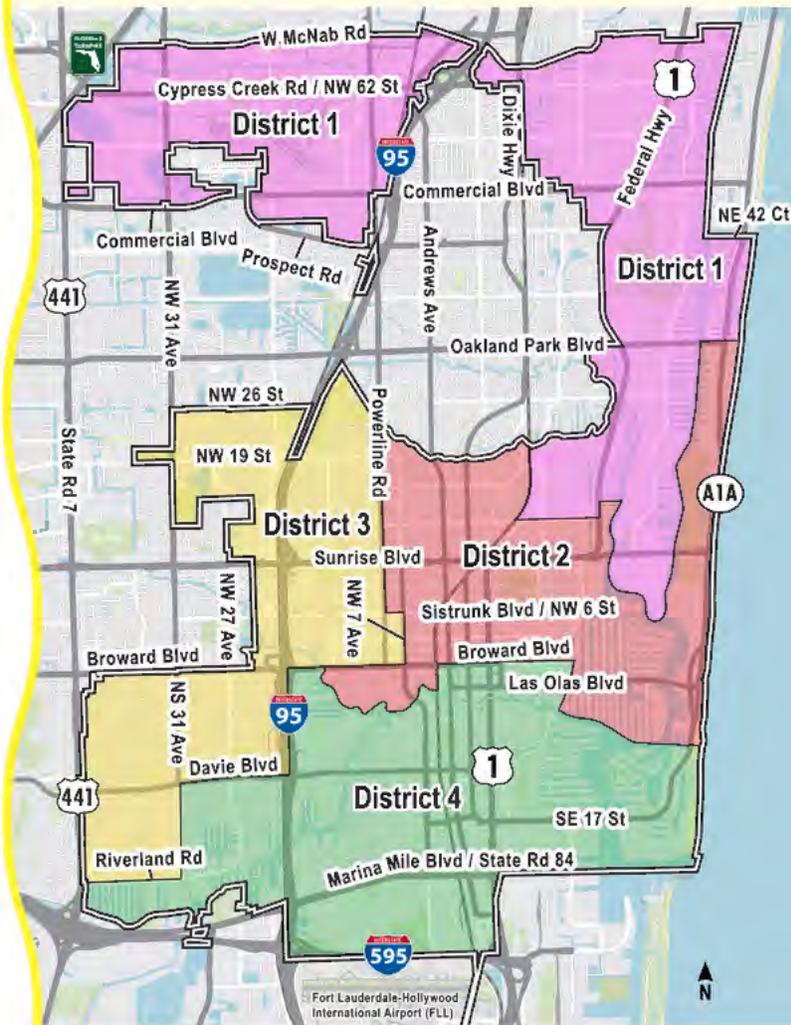
# Check Out Your COMMISSION DISTRICT

The City of Fort Lauderdale is divided into four City Commission districts with the Mayor serving the entire City as an at-large member.

See the map below and find your district.

MAP  
KEY

- City Limits
- District 1 – Commissioner John C. Herbst
- District 2 – Vice Mayor Steven Glassman
- District 3 – Commissioner Pam Beasley-Pittman
- District 4 – Commissioner Warren Sturman



SCAN CODE or visit  
[ftlcity.info/districts](http://ftlcity.info/districts) for a  
 more detailed map.





## A Message From the Mayor

# Fort Lauderdale's Budget

Enhancing Safety, Infrastructure, and Environmental Sustainability

### Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

The City Commission recently approved its budget for next year, and once again, for the 18th consecutive year, the City Commission will not raise property tax rates.

This is accomplished all while also meeting major community goals of improving public safety, upgrading our infrastructure, addressing homelessness, and enhancing our waterways and environment. The enhanced services are paid for through an 8% increase in our tax base, thanks to new construction.

### Public Safety and Community Services

Our commitment to public safety remains stronger than ever. In the last two years, we have added 40 police officers and 41 firefighters. This budget, along with an \$11.4 million dollar SAFER grant, allows us to also introduce an innovative police recruitment program and add 28 new firefighters to the department, expanding our ability to respond to emergencies with a new rescue unit. Additionally, \$800,000 will be used to upgrade critical fire department equipment, including new vehicles and a fire engine.

To enhance safety further, we are initiating a program that utilizes technology to monitor and curb speeding in school zones, ensuring the safety of our children.

### Infrastructure Improvements

Our \$700 million infrastructure strategy, Fortify Lauderdale, continues to focus on substantial stormwater upgrades. We're also investing more than \$12.8 million in repairing bridges, sidewalks, roads, and improving traffic flow. A significant new project includes replacing outdated water meters with advanced smart meters that provide real-time data to both the City and residents, improving billing accuracy and water usage monitoring.

### Environmental Stewardship

Our environmental initiatives are expanding. The budget plan includes the creation of a new Chief Waterway Officer position to oversee core elements of our community: our rivers, canals, and creeks. The budget also aims to double our efforts to remove debris from our waterways and more frequently target hotspot areas. Currently, we service the City's 165 miles of waterways each month, removing up to 159 tons of waste annually since 2020.

### Addressing Homelessness

Addressing homelessness is a critical aspect of our community strategy. This year's budget includes funding for a new shelter bed access program, providing temporary shelter and support for up to

60 days to help individuals transition to permanent solutions. This will complement ongoing efforts like our pioneering Community Court program and police department's homeless outreach.

### Community Engagement and Amenities

We celebrate our City's vibrancy and community spirit, recently highlighted by the Florida Panthers' Stanley Cup victory and the one-year anniversary of soccer legend Leo Messi with Inter Miami. These events underscore our City's growing reputation as a hub for sports and entertainment.

We are continuing to expand amenities for residents. We recently cemented a new initiative to improve our tennis offerings locally. We accepted an offer from the Orange Bowl to help upgrade the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center in Holiday Park. Expect to see better courts, new lighting, a new stadium court, shade structures and an electronic scoreboard.

Together, we are building a safer and more sustainable City. Together, we are FTL!

SCAN CODE or visit [ftlcity.info/mayornewsletter](http://ftlcity.info/mayornewsletter) to sign up for Mayor Trantalis' monthly newsletter.



# A Word From Your DISTRICT COMMISSIONER



**Commissioner  
John C. Herbst**

## Commissioner District 1

Homelessness has been a persistent issue, worsened by the pandemic, economic downturn, and rising housing costs. Despite various City initiatives, including successful programs like Community Court and veteran services, we've faced legal setbacks. Recent Tallahassee legislation aims to tackle this crisis, and we are committed to implementing it. Our short-term actions include stricter ordinances against camping in public areas, while mid-term efforts focus on enhancing Community Court and support services to aid unhoused individuals. Long-term plans involve enhancing shelters, promoting affordable housing, and providing job training. We're working with staff, legal experts, and officials to ensure a coordinated approach and make meaningful progress. Commissioner Herbst may be reached via email at [jherbst@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:jherbst@fortlauderdale.gov) or by phone at 954-828-5003.

▶ [ftlcity.info/district1](https://ftlcity.info/district1)



**Vice Mayor/Commissioner  
Steven Glassman**

## Vice Mayor/Commissioner District 2

Don't let your guard down. Hurricane Season isn't over yet! NOAA's outlook for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, which ends November 30, predicts an above-normal season, so it is essential we work together now and take the necessary steps to ensure safety and resilience for any weather events that may occur. To stay connected, please sign up for emergency alerts from the City of Fort Lauderdale at [fortlauderdale.gov/alertftl](https://fortlauderdale.gov/alertftl) to receive timely updates and crucial information. Working together, we will weather any storms that come our way. Vice Mayor Glassman may be reached via email at [sglassman@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:sglassman@fortlauderdale.gov) or by phone at 954-828-5003.

▶ [ftlcity.info/district2](https://ftlcity.info/district2)



**Commissioner  
Pam Beasley-Pittman**

## Commissioner District 3

Let's vote! Voting is a powerful way to make your voice heard, especially in local elections. It is your vote that empowers. Local leaders shape our communities and influence decisions about (our) schools, public safety, and infrastructure. By participating in these elections, you're not just casting a ballot; you're actively engaging in the future of your neighborhood. Local issues often have a direct impact on our daily lives, from the quality of roads to funding for parks. When we vote, we hold our representatives accountable and ensure that our values and needs are reflected in the policies that affect us most. So, don't sit on the sidelines—your vote matters! Commissioner Beasley-Pittman may be reached via email at [jawalker@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:jawalker@fortlauderdale.gov) and [jfray@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:jfray@fortlauderdale.gov) or by phone at 954-828-5680.

▶ [ftlcity.info/district3](https://ftlcity.info/district3)



**Commissioner  
Warren Sturman**

## Commissioner District 4

Even as hurricane season winds down, let's stay prepared! Unexpected storms can still happen. Have a plan, stay informed about the weather, and connect with the City for updates. Prioritize your safety and check on your neighbors, especially the elderly. We are delighted to announce the continuation of our District Town Halls, a valuable platform where City staff and residents have an opportunity to share ideas, address concerns, and collectively shape the future of District 4. Please stay tuned for announcements regarding future town hall events. Through sustained collaboration and partnership, we can achieve remarkable progress in District 4. Together, we're building a stronger community. Commissioner Sturman may be reached via email at [westurman@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:westurman@fortlauderdale.gov).

▶ [ftlcity.info/district4](https://ftlcity.info/district4)





**BROWARD OUTREACH CENTER**

# CITY LAUNCHES NEW *Emergency Shelter Program*

**Just before the summer break, the City Commission approved its first-ever emergency shelter bed program for homeless individuals in collaboration with The Caring Place at the Broward Outreach Centers.**

The Caring Place, a non-profit organization serving South Florida since 1922, provides a range of services including: emergency shelter, case management, job training, education, spiritual development, and health care. While the program generally allows for a 60-day limit, this timeframe can be extended based on documented progress towards a housing plan.

“Within the first month of launching the program, we have seen promising results. Twenty individuals were referred to The Caring Place, with 12 actively working on their housing plans and one successfully reunified with family in California,” said Neighbor Support Manager Luisa Agathon.

According to the Voices of the Street survey conducted by the TaskForce Fore Ending Homelessness in early 2024, 797 people identified as homeless in Fort Lauderdale.

“Through our combined efforts, we are serving our community’s most vulnerable members. By utilizing a compassionate approach, we are providing essential emergency shelter services and making a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.”

- Keith Cavanaugh, Director of Broward Outreach Centers

Through this program, the City has secured 20 dedicated beds available for males, females, and families. This new resource will enable Fort Lauderdale Police Homeless Outreach Officers to place individuals directly into shelter and allow Neighbor Support staff to collaborate closely with The Caring

Place team for comprehensive, hands-on support.

“From a City perspective, having dedicated beds for our community represents a valuable new tool. It empowers our homeless outreach officers to provide more tailored and accessible support while enhancing our ability to address immediate needs effectively,” said Agathon.

This effort is just one of many aimed at assisting our homeless population as the City navigates its response to new legislation regarding sleeping and/or camping in public spaces.



**SCAN CODE or visit**  
[ftlcity.info/homeless-housing](https://ftlcity.info/homeless-housing)  
**for more information.**

# Get to Know Our Newest HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM MEMBERS

The Homeless Outreach Team, comprised of dedicated police officers, engages with homeless individuals to connect them with essential services and support, helping them transition off the streets and into safer, more stable environments.



**Terrance Barmore**

My name is Terrance Barmore. I have been with Fort Lauderdale's Police Department since 2021, and I was recently selected to join the department's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT).

As a child, I grew up in Detroit, Michigan, raised by a single mother. Circumstances beyond our control once brought us to the brink of homelessness—my mother, my three younger brothers, and myself. This pivotal experience fueled my determination to succeed, not just for myself but to provide for my family. It set me on the path to a career in law enforcement.



**Laurie Arthur**

My name is Laurie Arthur and I have been in law enforcement for 34 years. Throughout my career, I have worked with our homeless community. I began my career as a Constable for the City of Cambridge in Massachusetts, and from there worked in the Fort Lauderdale Jail where my compassion for assisting members of our community who were experiencing homelessness was front and center. I spent three years in DeKalb County, Georgia as an officer where I participated in various community events and programs to get the transient members of our community the help and opportunities they needed.



**Rafael Rebello**

My name is Rafael Rebello and I am passionate about making a positive impact and supporting those in need. I have a background in teaching and have worked with both children and adults. Originally from Brazil, I have been living in this beautiful country for nearly 18 years. My experiences as a teacher have given me a deep appreciation for helping others and fostering growth within the community.

Being a member of the Homeless Outreach Team gives me the chance to make a positive difference in the lives of members of our community who are experiencing homelessness and allows me to work with them to help them get back on their feet.



SCAN CODE or visit [ftlcity.info/cc](https://ftlcity.info/cc) for more information about these initiatives.

Homeless Outreach Team from left to right: Carlos Guerra, Scott Hagemann, Brian Blount, Rafael Rebello, Monica Ferrer, Terrance Barmore, and Laurie Arthur





# Fort Lauderdale Nurturing a Green Haven

Fort Lauderdale is more than just sun-soaked beaches and waters. It's also a city committed to nurturing an urban forest, one that provides cool shade, cleaner air and vibrant green spaces for all. Through our robust Urban Forestry Program, the City is working toward a 33% tree canopy by 2040. We're focused not only on beautifying neighborhoods but also combating pests like termites and engaging the community in green initiatives.

## Why Trees Matter: More Than Just Beauty

Fort Lauderdale's Urban Forestry Program goes beyond aesthetics. The trees in our neighborhoods cool the air, reduce energy costs and absorb stormwater. Beyond that—trees also increase property values, create wildlife habitats and transform public spaces into community hubs.

## Choosing the Perfect Tree for Each Spot

One size doesn't fit all when it comes to trees. Every tree in Fort Lauderdale is carefully selected for its location. The Urban Forestry team factors in soil type, sun exposure and space and water availability, emphasizing Florida-friendly species that thrive in our semi-tropical climate. This ensures that each tree is well-suited to grow and flourish.

## Get Involved: Tree Giveaways

Fort Lauderdale residents can take an active role in expanding the city's tree canopy through various tree giveaway programs:

- **Adopt-a-Tree:** Provides and installs trees for homeowners in the swale area of their property
- **Energy Saving Trees:** In partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation, this program recently provided more than 450 trees through an online platform, allowing residents to choose species that maximize energy savings by shading their homes. Stay tuned for a second phase of the program later this year!
- **Mini-Tree Giveaways:** Tailored for neighborhood groups, HOAs, and civic associations

## Tree Ordinances: Protecting Our Urban Forest

The City's tree ordinances are designed to protect existing trees and guide new plantings, ensuring the sustainability of our urban forest. This fall, the City Commission will consider a proposed revision to the tree preservation ordinance aimed at increasing protections for existing trees and enhancing requirements for replacing removed trees.

## Fighting Back Against Termite Invaders

Invasive termites, like the Asian subterranean termite, threaten trees and buildings. Fort Lauderdale is addressing this issue by offering resources to help residents identify and prevent termite damage. This summer, City staff received training to spot infestation signs in City parks and facilities. If you suspect termite activity, contact a pest control professional immediately.



Example of subterranean termite damage in live tree.

## A Greener Future

Fort Lauderdale's Urban Forestry Program is about more than planting trees—it's about creating a greener, healthier environment. The City is committed to enhancing the tree canopy, protecting against pests and engaging the community in these efforts. Together, we can ensure a sustainable future for residents and wildlife alike.

Let's continue to grow greener, FTL!



**SCAN CODE** or visit [ftlcity.info/urbanforestry](https://ftlcity.info/urbanforestry) to learn more about the Urban Forestry Program.



# Fortify Lauderdale

## Stronger, Sustainable and Preparing for the Future

Installing a section of new 48-inch diameter water main on Prospect Road that will run from the Prospect Lake Clean Water Center to the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant

As a coastal community on the front lines of climate change, our City is committed to adapting our infrastructure to meet rising sea levels, more intense weather events, and increasing temperatures. Our City Commission is prioritizing infrastructure and resilience, channeling nearly \$1.6 billion into Capital Improvement Projects since 2018. These investments are transforming our infrastructure, from replacing aging water and wastewater pipes to paving roads, repairing sidewalks, raising seawalls, and building new stormwater systems.

**In the past year, we've made two landmark commitments to further enhance our infrastructure:**

### Prospect Lake Clean Water Center

In February 2023, we launched a groundbreaking public-private partnership (P3) to construct the Prospect Lake Clean Water Center, set to replace the outdated Fiveash Water Treatment Plant, which has been operating for 70 years.

Located at the Prospect Wellfields near the FXE airport, the new \$485 million facility will be built to withstand Category 5 hurricanes. Featuring cutting-edge nanofiltration and ion exchange technology, it will address water quality issues and remove PFAS, known as "forever chemicals." To integrate this state-of-the-art plant into our system, we will invest an

additional \$181 million to upgrade our distribution network, wellfields, and water storage. The Prospect Lake Clean Water Center will start operations in September 2026, producing up to 50 million gallons of clean water per day.

### Fortify Lauderdale

This ambitious \$500 million program aims to accelerate stormwater improvements and safeguard our most vulnerable neighborhoods from flooding and climate change impacts. Over the past two years, we've invested over \$100 million in stormwater infrastructure improvements in neighborhoods such as River Oaks, Edgewood, Durrs, and Dorsey Riverbend. Fortify Lauderdale will advance stormwater systems in 17 additional neighborhoods. We're designing these systems to handle up to 10 inches of rain in a single day. New infrastructure will feature

extensive collection systems, pump stations, reinforced seawalls, one-way tidal valves, and pollution control devices. With conceptual designs already underway, we'll be holding neighborhood meetings this fall to keep everyone informed. Additionally, the program includes efforts to help homeowners and businesses enhance their property resilience. This comprehensive initiative will be rolled out over the next decade.

Our commitment to resilience and infrastructure improvements is not just about responding to today's challenges but preparing for a sustainable future.



**SCAN CODE** or visit [fortlauderdale.gov/fortifylauderdale](https://fortlauderdale.gov/fortifylauderdale) to learn more about Fortify Lauderdale.

# REIMAGINING CITY HALL

## Next Steps



### Community Feedback



The City is embarking on a once-in-a-generation transformation to build a new City Hall. Through extensive community engagement led by the Infrastructure Task Force (ITF), neighbors have shared their vision for the new facility. Their top priorities include making it a community hub that is accessible, convenient, and resilient to weather extremes. There's also a strong interest in ensuring the building is energy-efficient, features dedicated spaces for City officials and staff, and incorporates affordable housing options.

### Finance and Development Insights



During discussions about financing and procurement, the community expressed interest in various approaches. Options included public-private partnerships (P3), hiring a development process manager to oversee the transition from procurement to execution, and employing local contractors and architects. There was also enthusiasm for exploring diverse financing sources such as federal grants, bonds, and other revenue-generating methods.

### Guiding Principles for a New City Hall



With this valuable feedback, the ITF has crafted guiding principles to steer the development of the new City Hall. These principles, along with insights from community and employee input, were presented to the City Commission on June 4, 2024. The new City Hall is envisioned to be:

- 1. Welcoming and Engaging:**  
A place that invites and connects with the community
- 2. Accessible and Secure:**  
Easily reachable and safe for everyone
- 3. Functional for Public and Staff:**  
Designed to meet the needs of both residents and City employees
- 4. A Showcase of History, Art, and Civic Engagement:**  
Reflecting our City's heritage and creative spirit
- 5. Cost-Effective:**  
Efficient in its use of resources and budget
- 6. Functional and Efficient:**  
Streamlined for optimal performance
- 7. Resilient and Innovative:**  
Built to endure and adapt to future challenges

### Urban Land Institute Recommendations



On July 2, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) provided its expert recommendations for the future City Hall. The report emphasized the importance of a technologically advanced and community-centered facility at its current location.

### Stay Involved



As the project progresses, the City Commission will soon decide on the site for the new City Hall and finalize procurement and financing strategies. Stay engaged by watching online, attending meetings in person, or visiting [ftlcity.info/rch](http://ftlcity.info/rch) for updates.

Your input is shaping the future of our City Hall, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.



**SCAN CODE** or visit [ftlcity.info/rch](http://ftlcity.info/rch) to stay informed and share your thoughts and ideas.



# Elevating Fort Lauderdale's PARKING EXPERIENCE

Fort Lauderdale is stepping up its game in parking and transportation, making it smoother and more convenient than ever. Over the past year, we've rolled out some exciting updates to our parking infrastructure, with more improvements on the horizon. Here's a glimpse at the recent changes that are making parking in our City easier and more enjoyable:

## Nautical Parking Lot: A Revitalized Hub

Located in the lively Las Olas area, the Nautical Parking Lot has undergone a major transformation. We've installed around 2,600 square yards of top-quality FDOT Superpave 9.5 asphalt and refreshed the pavement with vibrant thermoplastic markings. The old asphalt was leveled, and we've given the lot a greener look with new landscaping and irrigation. The revitalization was completed in July 2024, enhancing both functionality and aesthetics in one of Fort Lauderdale's most popular spots.

## North Beach/Temporary Fire Station 13: A Two-Phase Upgrade

**Phase 1:** We started with a brand-new parking lot featuring upgraded site lighting, improved drainage, new sidewalks, and fresh landscaping.

**Phase 2:** We then set up a temporary trailer for Fire Station No. 13, ensuring that our fire services remain fully operational while their main facility gets a much-needed renovation. This phase also

included installing essential infrastructure like water, sewer, and stormwater systems, along with a storage facility and a fire truck canopy. All of this was wrapped up by March 2024, ensuring our firefighters have what they need while their station is revamped.

## Commercial Parking Lot Enhancements: Accessibility Meets Aesthetics

Get ready for a smoother parking experience across all city-owned lots. We're introducing landscaping islands and upgrading to multi-space pay stations. The improvements include milling, resurfacing, and re-striping the lots, replacing outdated single-space meters with modern multi-space stations, and reconfiguring layouts to maximize parking spots. We're also addressing maintenance issues like water ponding and drainage problems while adding shade trees and lush vegetation to the new landscape islands. Expect this project to be completed by January 2025, bringing a fresh, functional look to our commercial parking areas.



## EV Charging Stations: Powering Up for the Future

Our commitment to sustainability is charging ahead with new EV charging stations across the city. Here's where you can currently plug in your electric vehicle:

- **North Beach Parking Lot:** 2 stations at 725 N. Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd.
- **Transportation and Mobility Lot:** 2 stations at 290 NE 3rd Ave.
- **Fort Lauderdale Beach Park:** 3 stations at 700 Seabreeze Blvd.
- **Riverwalk Center Parking Garage:** 4 stations at 150 SE 2nd St.
- **City Hall Parking Garage:** 5 stations at 100 N. Andrews Ave.
- **Las Olas Garage:** 6 stations at 200 E. Las Olas Cir.

Fort Lauderdale is dedicated to enhancing your parking experience with these innovative upgrades. Our goal is to create a more functional, beautiful and sustainable environment for all. Stay tuned for more improvements as we continue to transform our city's parking landscape!



▶ [ftlcity.info/EVcharge](https://ftlcity.info/EVcharge)

# Upcoming EVENTS

SCAN CODE or visit  
ftlcity.info/events for  
more upcoming events.



**Carter Park Jamz**  
Friday, October 18 | 7-10 PM  
Carter Park, 1450 W. Sunrise Blvd.



**Diwali Celebration**  
Saturday, October 26 | 6-9 PM  
Las Olas Oceanside Park  
3000 E. Las Olas Blvd.



**Downtown Countdown**  
Tuesday, December 31 | 4:30PM-1 AM  
SW 2nd St. from SW 2nd Ave. to  
SW 5th Ave.



**Sunday Jazz Brunch**  
First Sunday of the Month  
11 AM - 2 PM | Along the Riverwalk



**Light Up the Holidays**  
Light Up Lauderdale "Get Lit"  
Thursday, November 7 | 6-8:30 PM  
Esplanade Park, 400 SW 2nd St.



**King Holiday Celebration**  
Monday, January 20  
Parade 9:30 AM  
Departs from Sistrunk Blvd. & NW 5th  
Ave. Ends at Carter Park.



**Halloween & Fall Events**  
Celebrate at one of our many events  
suitable for the entire family! Enjoy  
games, costume contests, prizes, treats,  
arts and crafts, music and more!

**Light Up the Beach**  
Thursday, November 14  
5:30-8:30 PM  
Las Olas Oceanside Park  
3000 E. Las Olas Blvd.

**Multicultural Festival**  
Following Parade Until 5 PM  
Carter Park, 1450 W. Sunrise Blvd.

**LauderBOO**  
Saturday, October 19 | 1-4 PM  
Snyder Park, 3299 SW 4th Ave.

**Riverland Trick-or-Treat**  
Friday, October 25 | 6-8 PM  
Riverland Park, 950 SW 27th Ave.

**Nightmare in the Park**  
Friday, October 25 | 7:30-9:30 PM  
Snyder Park, 3299 SW 4th Ave.

**Fall Festival**  
Friday, November 8 | 6-8 PM  
Croissant Park, 245 W. Park Dr.

**Light Up the Galt**  
Thursday, November 21 | 6-8:30 PM  
Beach Community Center  
3351 NE 33rd Ave.

**Light Up Sistrunk**  
Friday, December 6 | 5-8 PM  
Sistrunk Blvd. from NW 9th  
to NW 11th Ave.

**Light Up Carter Park**  
Friday, December 13 | 5-8 PM  
Carter Park, 1450 W. Sunrise Blvd.

**Menorah Lighting Celebration**  
Thursday, December 26 | 6 PM  
Las Olas Oceanside Park  
3000 E. Las Olas Blvd.

**Santa on the Beach**  
Tuesday, December 17 | 12:30 PM  
Fort Lauderdale Beach  
1100 Seabreeze Blvd.

**Kwanzaa Ujamaa**  
Friday, December 27 | 2-6 PM  
Bass Park | 2750 NW 19th St.



**Noon Tunes**  
Wednesdays, February 5 - March 26  
12-1:30 PM | Laura Ward Plaza  
420 SE 6th Ave.



## Black History Month Events

**Kijiji Moja**  
Saturday, February 15 | 3-5 PM  
Lincoln Park, 600 NW 19th Ave.

**Sistrunk Parade and Festival**  
Saturday, February 22  
Parade begins at 8:30 AM  
Festival Following Parade  
Sistrunk Blvd.

# Snapshots of OUR PROGRESS



New partners made their debut at the LA Lee YMCA/ Mizell Community Center's Grand Plaza.



Baptist Health IcePlex at Holiday Park opened, marking a major step toward the revitalization of the FTL War Memorial complex.



Old City Hall demolition started to make way for a new and improved facility. A time capsule placed in the building's corner in 1968 was opened during the ceremony.



A new entertainment studio complex is on its way that will provide jobs to boost our local economy and industry-related education for locals.



The 2024 Walk of Fame Honorees were inducted and their stars were unveiled at the Great American Beach Party.



The City of Fort Lauderdale welcomed the Florida Panthers - the 2024 Stanley Cup Champions - home to celebrate their victory in the place they live, practice & play.



Marina Village at Bahia Mar, a stunning and scenic spot with something for everyone along Seabreeze Blvd, opened at the end of the summer.



# D.C. Alexander Park

## Fort Lauderdale's Resilient Urban Oasis

Adding to what's on the horizon in Fort Lauderdale Beach, D.C. Alexander Park underwent a remarkable transformation. Once a vegetated frontal sand dune, a visionary redesign is breathing new life into this space.

The revamped D.C. Alexander Park creatively reimagines the area's original dune landscape. The new design features a series of sculpted dunescapes that serve multiple functions. These aren't just for show as they collect stormwater, allow natural infiltration, and mitigate wind, while creating cooler microclimates to combat the urban heat island effect.

The designers imagined "regreening" of the asphalt parking lot, improving the resiliency of the space, reintegrating the tropical maritime hardwood hammock ecosystem, and providing shade for the multi-programmatic urban park. The upland coastal ecosystem includes both

vegetated root dunes to protect landward investments from storm surge and the boundless playscape. At the perimeter of the park, a re-established hammock plant palette serves as a sponge for rainfall and saltwater flooding and provides an opportunity for habitat redevelopment for native fauna.

A standout feature of the new park is a cantilevered overlook, inspired by the elegant rise of a tarpon from the sea. Standing 25 feet high, this overlook offers breathtaking views of Fort Lauderdale Beach and the Atlantic Ocean. Not only does it serve as a striking piece of public art, but it also integrates seamlessly into the park's resilient infrastructure. The metal canopy atop the overlook, crafted by Fort Lauderdale's EES Design Studio, adds a local touch to this stunning feature.

The design creates opportunities for all ages and accessibility levels to visit, interact with and feel welcome in the space. The family-oriented improvements

include a signature architectural overlook doubling as a restroom facility, shaded seating areas, a welcoming plaza and dunescape areas, turtle-friendly lighting, a playscape including side-by-side embankment slides, a grand stair to accommodate group seating, bicycle parking, a bicycle rental station, and public security technology.

The park's design cleverly enhances connectivity, allowing visitors to traverse from the Intracoastal Waterway to the ocean. This seamless connection links the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center, Swimming Hall of Fame, and nearby hotels, creating a vibrant pathway for residents and tourists alike.



SCAN CODE or visit [ftlcity.info/dc-alexander-park](https://ftlcity.info/dc-alexander-park) to see what's instore for D.C. Alexander Park.



# From Rescue to Regulation

## Fort Lauderdale Police Department's Marine Unit

**The Fort Lauderdale Police Department's Marine Unit has been a cornerstone of safety and service in Fort Lauderdale and Broward County for decades. With 165 miles of waterways weaving through the City, this is no small task. The unit is composed of seven highly trained marine officers, one supervisor and a fleet of nine boats.**

Florida, unfortunately, leads the country in boating fatalities. You read that right. In just one year, more than 50 boating accidents resulting in death occurred in the state of Florida.

To combat this troubling trend, the Marine Unit prioritizes education and enforcement, aiming to promote waterway safety and proper vessel operation. It is imperative that those enjoying a day on the water do so safely. This includes minding the speed zones and not creating excessive wakes for other boaters.

Boat operators should always ensure the boat is in good working condition and in compliance with the current safety regulations. Each vessel must be equipped with essential gear, including the proper number and type of personal flotation devices (PFD), fire extinguishers, sound-making devices, and visual distress signals. Additionally, if you were born on or after January 1, 1988, you'll need a Florida Safe Boater card to operate a vessel.

Beyond promoting general boating safety, the Marine Unit plays a vital role in search and rescue operations, assists with sinking vessels, conducts livery and private charter inspections, investigates derelict vessel investigations, and conducts private charter inspections. The unit often works with law enforcement partners in the area including the United States Coast Guard, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Broward Sheriff's Office.

### Need to contact the Marine Unit? Here's how:

- **In an emergency on the water? Call 911 immediately.**
- **Need assistance but it's not an emergency?** Reach out to the countywide non-emergency dispatch at 954-764-4357.
- **Have general questions or need waterway information?** Call the Marine Unit office at 954-828-5440 or connect via VHF Channel 16, which is monitored during patrols.

Let's work together to keep our waterways safe and enjoyable for everyone – boaters and marine life alike. If you spot anything concerning, don't hesitate to speak up. Remember, we're always here to help.



# Preventing House Fires

## Safety Tips for Fort Lauderdale Residents

As the summer's heat begins to lessen and the holiday season approaches, fire safety becomes a critical concern for residents in Fort Lauderdale. According to the National Fire Protection Association, thousands of house fires occur in the U.S. each year, many of which could be prevented by simple precautions.

Fire Prevention Week runs from October 6th through the 12th, so Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue wants to emphasize the importance of home fire prevention and offer residents key tips to keep their homes and families safe.

### Common Causes of Home Fires

Cooking-related incidents are the leading cause of home fires in Fort Lauderdale and across the country. Unattended cooking, particularly involving grease, can lead to devastating fires within minutes. Just as distracted driving is a danger, so too is distracted cooking. Residents are advised to stay in the kitchen while cooking and keep flammable items away from the stove, like dish towels and curtains.

While many fires can be caused by things other than people, most fires are the results of actions taken by residents themselves. "I usually say that there are three things that start fires: men, women, and children," said Capt. Jason Miller, the acting assistant fire marshal for Fort Lauderdale.

Another common culprit is heating equipment, especially during our rare cold

**“ I usually say that there are three things that start fires: men, women, and children. ”** - Capt. Jason Miller

snaps when space heaters are used. Fire officials recommend keeping heaters at least three feet from flammable objects, such as bedding or furniture. Additionally, it's essential to ensure all heating equipment is turned off when leaving a room. It's also essential to ensure the heaters are clean before plugging them in and turning them on.

### Fire Prevention Measures

Homeowners are encouraged to install and maintain smoke detectors on every floor of the home, especially in bedrooms and hallways. Statistics show that a working smoke alarm can lower the risk of dying in a fire by as much as 54%. Capt. Miller says that three out of every five deaths in a fire were in homes not equipped with working smoke detectors.

In addition to smoke detectors, firefighters advise keeping a fire extinguisher in high-risk areas like the kitchen and garage. Knowing how to use a fire extinguisher properly is also crucial.

Candles are another potential fire hazard, particularly during the holiday season. Residents are urged to keep candles away from flammable materials and never to leave them unattended.

### Escape Planning and Fireproofing

In the event of a fire, having a family escape plan is vital. The NFPA recommends creating multiple exit routes from every room and practicing fire drills at home. "The irony is that most kids have a baseline understanding of the fire drill process," said Miller. He added, "Sometimes, they're more reactive in nature than adults who try to rationalize their way through a situation, while kids tend to react based on rules they're given."

Designating a meeting point outside the house ensures that all family members can be accounted for in an emergency. Pick a landmark like a tree or stop sign and make sure everyone knows to meet there. Don't forget about your pets!

Another thing to keep in mind is that tidiness and cleanliness can often be a safety issue. "Keeping a tidy home helps," Miller said. Many of the fires we go into are in a home that's not kept well," he added. Avoid having too many things piled up in a home, especially near sources of heat or open flames.

By staying informed and taking proactive measures, Fort Lauderdale residents can protect their homes and families from the dangers of house fires.



► [ftlcity.info/fire-prevention](http://ftlcity.info/fire-prevention)



# Reimagining Public Safety

## How Innovation and Community Collaboration Are Shaping a Safer City

In the summer of 2023, the Mayor and City Manager took part in the Bloomberg-Harvard City Leadership Initiative, igniting a fresh focus on innovative solutions to enhance public safety and improve the quality of life for our community today. That program sparked a renewed focus on innovation, specifically in addressing growing community concerns with public safety. The City applied and was selected to participate in Bloomberg Philanthropies and Harvard University's competitive Leadership Innovation Track. This program, provided at no cost to the City, equips City leaders and staff with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle community challenges in groundbreaking ways.

With coaching and support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, a multidisciplinary team of City staff was assembled and embarked upon a nine-month journey to better understand concerns with public safety, identify new ideas and approaches to solving challenges, and test new solutions—with community involvement at every stage.

### Understand the Problem

The City team began by conducting extensive research into public safety concerns, including a review of data and surveys, current and best practices, and

community interviews. Through this, the team learned four main contributors are driving the declining perceptions of public safety:

1. Increased number of individuals experiencing homelessness
2. Neglected infrastructure
3. Lack of visible police presence
4. Longer-than-expected police response times

### Generate New Ideas

A public “co-creation” session was held with the community, where over 350 ideas to improve the perception of public safety were generated. From this exercise, two ideas emerged:

- **Co-Responder Model:** Use non-sworn police personnel to address non-life-threatening concerns
- **“Door Dash” Model:** Provide an option to send status updates about the expected response time and responding officer via text to callers

The City team hosted two additional co-creation sessions to develop prototypes for these ideas and gather feedback from residents on how they could be improved before implementation. Overwhelmingly, the community supported the Co-Responder Model, particularly for addressing homelessness.

### Next Steps and Delivery

The City has already made progress toward implementing these solutions. A grant was recently secured to pilot the Co-Responder Model, and work is underway to build out the program. In addition, smaller-scale steps have already been implemented, such as creating magnets listing the various ways to contact the City, depending on the type of issue (911 for emergencies, non-emergency numbers, City Customer Service Center, and online incident reporting). This magnet idea came directly from resident input during the co-creation sessions.

### Continued Community Engagement and Measuring Success

Our residents are critical to the success of this initiative. The City will continue collecting feedback through a targeted public safety survey, which is randomly administered to households. If selected, residents can provide input on public safety services, allowing the City to track overall satisfaction. However, all residents are encouraged to share feedback with the City at any time through [SpotlightFTL.com](https://spotlightftl.com). The City will use this feedback, along with results from the annual Neighbor Survey, to measure trends in public safety perceptions and assess the effectiveness of these innovations.



▶ [ftlcity.info/rps](https://ftlcity.info/rps)



# Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport

Driving Economic Growth and Aviation Excellence with \$3.9 Billion Impact

**SUPPORTS  
22,959  
JOBS**

**\$1.2  
BILLION  
IN PAYROLL**

**2 MILLION SQ. FEET  
OF OFFICE, WAREHOUSE, AND  
MANUFACTURING SPACE**

**FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE NO. 241  
GLOBAL ADVANTAGE  
FOR BUSINESSES**

Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE), nestled in the heart of the Uptown Business District, is far more than just a hub for private jets—it's a vital engine powering the economic development of the city. As a division of the City Manager's Office, FXE serves as a key driver in attracting businesses to Fort Lauderdale, fostering growth, and supporting the community with an extensive portfolio of operations that reach well beyond aviation.

Home to over 600 aircraft, including 235 jets, FXE ranks among the top five busiest General Aviation airports in the nation. With more than 190,000 aircraft operations annually, it's clear that FXE plays a pivotal role in facilitating regional and international business. But FXE's impact isn't just measured by flight traffic; it generates a staggering \$3.9 billion annual economic impact, supports nearly 23,000 jobs, and boasts a payroll exceeding \$1.2 billion, according to a 2022 Florida Department of Transportation study.

FXE manages a sprawling 200-acre Airport Industrial Airpark, where over 100 aeronautical and non-aeronautical businesses flourish within 2 million square feet of office, warehouse, and manufacturing space. This industrial hub is a magnet for business and innovation, fueling job creation and economic stability in the region.

FXE also plays a crucial role in supporting Fort Lauderdale's position as an international trade gateway. As the operator of the city's Foreign-Trade Zone No. 241, FXE facilitates global commerce. Moreover, the John Fuhrer Downtown Heliport, managed by FXE, provides helicopter access right in the heart of the downtown business district, offering unparalleled connectivity for executives and entrepreneurs.

The airport's world-class infrastructure is designed to cater to the needs of modern businesses and travelers alike. Its two intersecting runways—one stretching over 6,000 feet—along with 24-hour FAA Air Traffic Control, U.S. Customs, and Border

Protection services, and a robust security presence ensure safe, efficient operations. Furthermore, FXE is self-sustaining, covering its operational costs through revenues generated by fuel flowage fees and 37 land leases spread across its 1,200-acre campus.

Recent and ongoing projects, including the extension and rehabilitation of Runway 9-27 and improvements to the U.S. Customs facility, underscore FXE's commitment to maintaining cutting-edge infrastructure.

Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport is a cornerstone of the city's economic prosperity, contributing to the growth of local industries, creating jobs, and supporting Fort Lauderdale's evolution as a business and trade hub. For companies looking to land in a city on the rise, FXE offers the perfect runway to success.



SCAN CODE or visit  
[flyfxe.com](https://flyfxe.com) to more  
information about FXE.



## Unlocking Their True Potential... Shining Bright Like the FTL Sun!

Over the summer, the City of Fort Lauderdale's Education Enrichment Grant Program allowed 30 interns to learn more about academic achievement, workforce readiness and citizenship development. Through an immersive workshop series, the program offers supplemental career and college readiness training and civic education. The City also partnered with CareerSource Broward to provide real-life work experience within our various City departments.

**Let's take a dive into some of our interns' perspectives of the program:**

**How did you get involved with the internship? What inspired you?**

"My older brothers did it back when they were in high school. Also, my school put up a thousand posters advertising it. What also inspired me was that I am tasked with essentially sponsoring myself as I have to pay for all of my stuff this year. I am very glad I was put in FTL Fire Rescue. ... I have made connections with people I never expected to and enjoyed my time, and I am very grateful." - Keira Ford, Stranahan High School, Grade 11

**What challenges did you have to face that made you stronger?**

"This is my first job ever. I really wanted to gain work experience and although

I chose a clerical path through the program, I never expected Fleet Services because I had never heard of it. Now, I am well-informed and have learned so much. This being my first job was a challenge, but the real challenge for me is accepting failure. Over time, I have learned that it helps me push myself to work harder, especially when I have self-doubt and not feeling confident in myself. However, this internship has taught me to be a good problem solver and take on the initiative. I also learned how to propose my own ideas, which can help me develop skills for the future." - Ayannah Ciceron, Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School, Grade: 12

**What are your future career plans and what did the internship teach you to help take a step towards your goals?**

"Before the internship, I strived for pediatrics. However, I now would like to be a social worker. This position truly opened my eyes to the realization that I want to help kids by being directly involved with their behavior. Being the piece that can guide them to a better, more successful, path seems really fulfilling and I am glad this internship gave me the guidance to pivot my career goals." - Nehemiah Christian, Boyd H. Anderson High School Grade: 12

**What are your future career plans and what did the internship teach you to help take a step towards your goals?**

"I am still undecided, but if you can try the summer youth program, please join! Even though I am still unsure about my future career plans, the internship helped me attain knowledge of how the workforce functions and gave me lasting connections to possibly help me in the future." - Trinity Eberhardt, Bishop Mack Preparatory School, Grade: 10

**Susan Leon,**  
City of Fort Lauderdale  
Chief Education Officer



I'm a native Floridian having grown up in Miami. With a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and a master's and Education Specialist degree from Florida International University, I armed myself for a 40-year career in Florida in public education as a teacher, principal, and district administrator primarily in Broward County Public Schools.



**SCAN CODE** or visit [ftlcity.info/edu](http://ftlcity.info/edu) to learn more about our education and workforce programs.

# Housing and Community Development

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Housing and Community Development (HCD) Division is dedicated to making a meaningful impact in the lives of residents facing hardships, actively seeking out opportunities and securing grants and funding to provide assistance where it's needed most.

## Restoring Independence, Renewing Hope



Patty McCoy, left, and Russell Casteel, a Construction Review Specialist with HCD, share a moment in her renovated living space.

One such story is that of Patty McCoy, whose life has been transformed by the help she received through HCD's efforts. Patty McCoy, once independent, faced health challenges that left her wheelchair-bound, stripping away much of her autonomy. But thanks to the funding secured through the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP), her home underwent a \$58,000 transformation that restored a sense of independence.

The project reimagined her living space, converting two bedrooms into a spacious, ADA-compliant suite. It widened doorways to accommodate her wheelchair, installed accessible fixtures, and included a roll-in shower



Patty McCoy's new bathroom is spacious and ADA-compliant.

and a new stove designed for easy use. These upgrades have been life-changing for McCoy.

"I really needed a new bathroom to be able to do what I have to do without someone needing to help me so much," McCoy shared. "This gives me hope that one day I'll recover."

For residents like Patty, HCD's commitment is more than just home improvement—it's about restoring dignity and offering hope for a brighter future.

## Finding the Support for a Renewed Life



Matt Patterson found support and a new direction in life at Broward House.

Matt Patterson's life was once defined by hardship. Homeless, battling addiction, HIV positive, and frequently in and out of jail, he struggled just to survive. But his story took a remarkable turn, thanks to the support he found through HCD and their partnership with Broward House, a service provider focused on housing and support for those impacted by chronic health issues, including HIV.

HCD's collaboration with Broward House provided Matt with the stability and resources he needed to rebuild his life.

**“I feel like anyone in my situation could turn their life around if they had the same system of support I did,”** Matt shared.

With the unwavering compassion and consistent care, he received at Broward House, Matt was able to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Today, he holds two master's degrees, is pursuing a doctorate, and serves as a director at Broward House, helping others who face similar challenges.

Broward House, one of HCD's trusted partners, doesn't just provide a place to stay—it offers a pathway to self-worth and recovery. "At Broward House, you have your own key and can go back to your own room. There are goals and guidelines here but not rules and judgment," Matt said. "It doesn't feel like you're in a shelter. We want you to know you're worth it and that your life has value."

Matt's transformation is a testament to the power of community partnerships and HCD's mission to provide not just housing, but hope. The impact of their work is profound, giving individuals the opportunity to rewrite their own stories and thrive.

# A Team That Feels Like Family



The Housing and Community Development (HCD) team, led by Rachel Williams and Avis Wilkinson, brings meaningful change into the lives of residents who need it most.

Behind every success story, there's a team with heart, and in Fort Lauderdale's Housing and Community Development (HCD) Division, that heart beats like a family. The hundreds of lives they've touched aren't just numbers or transactions; they represent real people who found support when they needed it most. HCD isn't just about providing services—it's about being there, like family, for those facing tough times.

Led by Rachel Williams and Avis Wilkinson, HCD's small but mighty team of 11 full-time staff members works tirelessly to make a genuine difference in the lives of Fort Lauderdale residents. Whether it's through affordable housing, essential public services, or helping small businesses get off the ground, HCD's programs are designed to uplift low- and moderate-income residents, and anyone in need.

"We're not going to give up on people just because of their current circumstances," said Williams during another busy day at the office. "And if we can't find a solution, we maintain good working relationships with our partners—whether it's the county, a nonprofit, or the housing authority. We'll find a way."

## Building Bridges to a Brighter Future

At its core, HCD's mission is about helping people thrive, not just survive. As Williams says: "We don't dig ditches. We build bridges."

While their work may not always make headlines, the impact of the HCD team is profound. They are in the business of transforming lives, providing more than just temporary solutions—they're offering hope, stability, and a path forward.

The work of HCD reminds us all that when local government acts with compassion and purpose, real change takes root—and it's felt by every resident touched by their efforts. It's about building bridges to a brighter, more connected future for everyone.

## What We Do

The Housing and Community Development Division (HCD) has three main focuses: Housing, capital improvement and social services. Here's a look at just some of the programs that make our community stronger, safer, and better protected:

### Housing

- **Rehabilitation Program** Focused on home repairs and renovations for low-income households, both big and small projects, including emergency situations.
- **Rental Assistance** Geared to find housing for older adults, those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and people with special needs. For example, HCD partners with the City's Office of Neighbor Support to provide funds for first and last months' rent along with a security deposit for an individual or household in need.
- **Home Purchase Assistance** Developed in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide low- to moderate-income households up to \$75,000 for the down payment and closing costs for the purchase of a home.
- **Foreclosure Assistance** Created to support those who are struggling to make mortgage payments and at risk of losing their home.

### Capital Improvement

The Capital Improvement initiative is focused on securing and coordinating funding for projects that enhance both the city as a whole and those who work here. One notable example is HCD's role in securing funding for the repaving of 12 miles of roads in northwest Fort Lauderdale. These efforts are supported through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), ensuring that critical infrastructure improvements benefit the entire community.

### Social Services

Dedicated to funding 14 not-for-profit organizations in Fort Lauderdale and Broward County, these services support:

- Youths transitioning out of foster care
- Young people experiencing homelessness
- Women living in distress or domestic violence situations
- Legal services for landlord-tenant dispute issues
- Housing opportunities for those with HIV/AIDS

# A Message From the ACTING CITY MANAGER



I am honored to serve as your Acting City Manager. Fort Lauderdale is a vibrant community with many exciting developments ahead. In the coming weeks and months, we'll be celebrating the completion of the newly renovated War Memorial Auditorium, the Las Olas Marina, D.C. Alexander Park, and several other projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life in our beloved city.

As we approach the holiday season, I encourage you to participate in some of our free community events. Whether you attend a Light Up in your neighborhood, the menorah lighting at Las Olas Oceanside Park, or celebrations for Diwali or Kwanzaa, there are plenty of opportunities to come together, celebrate our diversity, and strengthen our sense of community.

Since stepping into this role, one of my top priorities has been enhancing our ability to serve you better. One of my first actions was expanding the number of Assistant City Managers from two to four. This strategic move allows us to provide more hands-on oversight of the critical operations that impact your daily lives. With this increased capacity, we are better equipped to address the diverse needs of our community.

I want to highlight one of our new Assistant City Managers, who will focus specifically on solutions and services for our homeless population. This pressing issue affects not just those experiencing homelessness but our entire community. By dedicating a leadership role to this challenge, we are committed to making meaningful progress and ensuring that everyone in Fort Lauderdale has the opportunity to thrive.

As we continue our search for a new City Manager, I encourage you to stay engaged and share your feedback. Your input is invaluable as we work together to shape the future of our city. Thank you for your trust and support as we navigate this transition.

Sincerely,  
Susan Grant  
Acting City Manager

SCAN CODE or visit [ftlcity.info/cm-search](http://ftlcity.info/cm-search) for more information on how you can be involved in the search for a new City Manager.



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# STARTUP FTL

## INNOVATE & ELEVATE

StartUp FTL is a FREE program brought to you by the City of Fort Lauderdale. StartUp FTL helps aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs innovate and elevate their business. In partnership with Kauffman FastTrac, Start Up FTL delivers relevant content and tools through a facilitator-led, 10-week program. Conversations with local industry experts will cover the business tools needed to develop and refine your business concept to create a strong business plan.

IDEATE

POSITION

COMMIT

REFINE

LAUNCH

**Be part of the next Cohort!**  
Program will be conducted  
in a hybrid format.

To be part of the program, you must either live or do business in the City of Fort Lauderdale. For more details on the selection criteria and course information, please visit our website.

**Applications open  
November 11, 2024!**

Space is very limited.



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to apply.



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