



GALT MILE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA
JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2019

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EDITOR'S COMMENTARY:

Heather Moraitis' NOVEMBER 2019 Newsletter

**In her November 2019 Newsletter, District 1 City Commissioner Heather Moraitis addresses the concerns of her Telephone Town Hall Meeting participants, outlining City plans to mitigate the adverse impacts of sea level rise by implementing long-delayed infrastructure improvements and citing detailed Master Plan objectives to contain stormwater threats and strengthen seawalls. Moraitis also invites constituents to attend the annual Light up the Galt, visit Santa on the Beach, snatch a free tree from the City, and serve on a municipal board.*

Public Works Band-Aids or Resiliency?

In aspiring to resiliency, Fort Lauderdale had to change the primary beneficiaries of its municipal maintenance protocols. No longer solely placating the developers, speculators and other deep-pocketed transient property owners (mostly major campaign contributors), the City Commission suddenly shunned a decades-long predisposition for inexpensive firehouse-style repairs in favor of sustainable development – finally addressing the needs of current and future long-term residents.

For decades, City Administrations neglected sewer systems, water treatment & distribution venues, storm drains and seawalls for fear of how increasing the millage might undermine their prospects for re-election. Also left to rot were roads, sidewalks, traffic control systems, parks, municipal structures (i.e. FLPD Headquarters, City Hall, etc.), canals, bridges, and other municipal infrastructure.

Instead of adapting inadequate infrastructure to meet the exigencies of advanced deterioration, commercial expansion and population growth, Commissioners restricted allocations to repairing catastrophic failures in aging sewers, storm drains and water lines that were originally built to service the city's population when it was a fraction of its current size.

Despite repeated City assurances of infrastructure sufficiency, the increasing frequency of exploding water mains, sewer failures and backflowing storm drains often immersed entire neighborhoods knee-deep in seawater. Minimizing the specter of infrastructure collapse, water and sewer funds were annually hijacked and used to balance the budget.

A cyclone of public blowback pressured the City to empanel an infrastructure task force, and quantify the structural and financial impact of ongoing chronic maintenance failures. Official findings confirmed that the City's future functionality would minimally cost \$1.4 billion to salvage heavily eroded infrastructure, \$1 billion for stormwater improvements, and roughly another half \$billion to upgrade roads, seawalls, sidewalks, bridges, etc. Whether financed through bond issues or direct levy, taxpayers and ratepayers will have to cough up roughly \$3 billion to help secure the City's future.

Stantec vs. the Galt Mile

Eleven years ago, Galt Mile officials uncovered a shell game in a Water & Sewer rate schedule created by City consultant Burton & Associates. While publicly applauding the plan's standardized rate tiers for all residential customers, City officials never mentioned how an accompanying block rate schedule forced multi-family homeowners to subsidize their counterparts in Single Family homes.

After a decade of fighting to mitigate this abuse, Galt Mile officials finally achieved rate parity for association homeowners in September 2019, when the City Commission approved the proposed 2020 Water & Sewer rates. Since city consultant Stantec acquired Burton & Associates in 2016, the same "expert" who created the billing disparity in 2009 was integrally involved with the new rate schedule, and had attempted to once again skew multi-family Water & Sewer rates.

With the support of City Commissioners Heather Moraitis, Steve Glassman and Ben Sorensen, Stantec's poison pill was excised, and an equitable new rate schedule was enacted. However, while Galt Mile water & sewer customers finally won a level playing field, Stantec was planning to create a new billing disparity - in a proposed formula for Stormwater rates.

Burton – An Old Dog with Old Tricks

The City's projected \$1 billion stormwater plan will allocate the proceeds of an initial \$200 million bond issue to control the watersheds in the 7 City neighborhoods most vulnerable to flooding - including Dorsey Riverbend; Durrs, Edgewood, Progresso, River Oaks, Southeast Isles and Victoria Park. Funding these projects will require a 54 percent increase in stormwater rates. Instead of assessing ratepayers a citywide 54 percent price hike, the Wonder Boys in Stantec decided to impose a 34% premium on Single Family homes while burdening association homeowners with a crushing 84% cost increase.

Not surprisingly, the basis for this new disparity has no relationship to a property's exposure to stormwater impacts nor the actual cost of mitigating those impacts. As such, Galt Mile officials will have to educate Commissioners about the inherent inequity in Stantec's formula, while illuminating a predilection of Stantec Guru Michael Burton to manufacture baseless billing criteria that prejudicially abuses association homeowners

*Otherwise, association homeowners will once again be forced to subsidize their neighbors in Single-Family homes, an outcome that has long tickled Mr. Burton. For District 1 Commissioner Heather Moraitis' November 2019 message to constituents, see elsewhere in this edition. – [editor]**

By Eric Berkowitz

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

From the Desk of Commissioner HEATHER MORAITIS



Managing Stormwater

I had the pleasure of hosting a citywide Telephone Town Hall meeting in late October. It didn't take long for a caller to raise the topic of King Tides. It's a familiar subject that elicits frustration and concern from neighbors at my District Meetings and when I'm out in the community.

One of the reasons many of us choose to live in Fort Lauderdale is its proximity to the water. Our exquisite seven miles of shoreline and 300 miles of canal coastline are as unique as they are spectacular. While the waterways provide countless blessings, they increase our vulnerability to climate change. As sea levels rise, residents are faced with more intense and more frequent impacts.

The good news is that the leaders of your community share your concerns and we are taking steps to address them. As we celebrated how far we had come at our centennial in 2011, we began to look ahead to the next hundred years. A citywide visioning initiative revealed overwhelming public support to implement adaptation strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The City Commission unanimously adopted a Vision Plan, Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale, and a five-year Strategic Plan, Press Play Fort Lauderdale, both of which emphasize climate resilience as a top priority. Determined to turn these plans into action, Fort Lauderdale adopted a resiliency lens and embraced a holistic perspective to develop sustainable strategies to foster our long-term well-being.

Today, we are building community resilience through numerous initiatives. To minimize King Tide flooding, we monitor pump stations and inspect and clean tidal valves, storm drains, and catch basins. We investigate reported flooding and send information to neighbors to raise awareness about potential impacts and encourage safety precautions.

We are also utilizing long-term adaptation strategies to minimize the threat to neighbors. We updated our floodplain ordinance with higher development standards to minimize stormwater runoff and flooding. Adaptation Action Areas were incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan to prioritize funding for infrastructure projects to improve drainage in low-lying and flood-prone areas of the City.

A comprehensive Stormwater Master Plan is driving infrastructure improvements to proactively address the impacts of climate change. The plan includes specific infrastructure investments in seawalls, drainage, pump stations, bio swales, and retention parks. We've installed 165 tidal valves to prevent water from backing up into the streets and keep roads dry. They've proven so successful that we plan to continue installing them in vulnerable areas throughout our community. We're also lining stormwater pipes and replacing stormwater catch basins to reduce tidal effects.

As we expand the capacity of our drainage system, we are also working to prevent water from coming over seawalls. We updated our Seawall ordinance to increase the minimum elevation for new construction and require residents to contain tidal waters on their property. A new Seawall Master Plan identifies and prioritizes repairs needed on City-owned seawalls. Design work and construction are already underway for seawalls along Cordova Road and Isle of Palms.

These are just a few of the steps we are taking to create a climate-resilient Fort Lauderdale. We are committed to investing the resources we need to protect our community for generations to come. To learn more about our efforts to strengthen our resilience, visit fortlauderdale.gov/kingtide

Apply Today to Serve on an Advisory Board

The following boards are available:

- Community Appearance Board

The following boards are available to serve on through consensus appointment:

- Community Services Board (Applicants must be advocates for the HOPWA community).
- Complete Count Advisory Committee (Applicants must be from government background)
- Insurance Advisory Board (Applicants must be from education background)
- Nuisance Abatement Board

If you are interested, please apply online. Feel free to contact our office or Erica Franceschi at EFranceschi@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-5288 for any questions.

District 1 Facebook Page

Check out the link below and go like us on Facebook. This is a great way to keep up with what I am doing in the community!

<https://www.facebook.com/CommissionerHeatherMoraitis/>

Reporting FPL Street Light Outages

Customers can report street light outages via different methods

Reporting Street Light outages

- Report online at FPL.com
- Call customer service at 1-800-4-OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243)
- Local City Government offices

Information Needed When Reporting Street Light Outages

Location details of the light

- Front, side or rear of the address
- One light or multiple lights in a row
- Number on the pole (if available)

Type Problem with the light

- Turns on and off (flickering)
- Light is on during the day



Follow Commissioner Moraitis on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn

[@heathermoraitis](https://www.facebook.com/CommissionerHeatherMoraitis/)

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020

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WED

<p>26 5th Annual Susan G. Komen Run for the Pink 6K 401 SW 2nd Street at NW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 6:30 AM - 12 Noon Call Rebecca Torriani at 954-909-0452</p>	<p>27 International Day of Commemoration to honor the victims of the Holocaust</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Vasanta Panchami / Saraswati Puja (Hindu)</p>
<p>2 SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-396-3622 15th Annual Run Through Central Park 5K Run 9151 NW 2nd Street, Plantation, FL 6:00 AM Raceday Registration; 7:00 AM Start Info: Call Renee at (954) 474-4074 Groundhog Day</p>	<p>3 GMCA Presidents Council Meeting Place: TBA 7:30 - 9:00 PM Commissioner Heather Moraitis: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 3351 NE 33rd Ave, Fort Lauderdale, FL 6:00 PM Info: Melissa Coningsby (954) 828-5033 mconingsby@fortlauderdale.gov</p>	<p>4 Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 1:30 PM: Conference Agenda 6:00 PM: Regular Agenda World Cancer Day (International) Rosa Parks' Birthday</p>	<p>5 Community Appearance Board Meeting City Hall, 8th Floor Conference Room, 100 N. Andrews Avenue 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Info: Call Laura Gambino at 954-828-6321 Día de la Constitución (Constitution Day) (Mexico)</p>
<p>9 Camaro Club 4th Annual OPEN Car & Truck Show Commons Park Sporting Center 11600 Poinciana Boulevard Royal Palm Beach, FL 11:00 to 4:30 pm Info: Call Jim Miglionico at 404-392-5923</p>	<p>10 Community Services Board City Commission Chambers, City Hall, 100 N. Andrews Avenue 7:00 PM Info: Call Jeri Pryor at 954-828-5911</p>	<p>11 Our Lady of Lourdes (Catholic)</p>	<p>12 Lincoln's Birthday Darwin Day (International)</p>
<p>16 4th Annual Tour de Coast Esplanade Park 400 SW 2nd Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 6:00 am</p>	<p>17 President's Day Commissioner Heather Moraitis: Pre-Agenda Meeting Broward Health Imperial Point, AUD A&B 6401 N Federal Highway Fort Lauderdale, FL 6:00 PM Info: Call Melissa Coningsby (954) 828-5033 mconingsby@fortlauderdale.gov</p>	<p>18 Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall 1:30 PM - Conference Agenda, 6:00 PM - Regular Agenda</p>	<p>19 19th Annual South Beach Wine & Food Festival South Beach, Miami Beach, FL 10 AM - 10 PM Weds-Sun Info: 866-271-8530</p>
<p>23 11th Annual Boy Scout Troop 132 Car Show Palm Beach Gardens Towne Square 4242 North Lake Blvd Palm Beach Gardens, FL 11 AM - 4 PM Info: Steve P. Hockman (561) 856-2626</p>	<p>24 2020 Winter Business Expo Le Meridien Hotel 1825 Griffin Road Dania Beach, FL 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM Info: Call 954-838-9644 Día de la Bandera (Flag Day) (Mexico)</p>	<p>25 Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday)</p>	<p>26 Ash Wednesday</p>

FEBRUARY 7-9: CanadaFest, ArtsPark, 1 North Young Circle, Hollywood, Fri: 7:00 PM, Sat: 10:30 AM to 8:30 PM, Sun: 10:30 AM to 9 PM, Info: Call (954) 922-1800
 FEBRUARY 7-9: Boca Raton Seafood & Music Festival, Mizner Park, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton, FL, Fri: 4 pm - 10 pm, Sat: 11 am - 10 pm, Sun: 11 am - 6 pm, 941-487-8061
 FEBRUARY 8: Hillsboro Lighthouse Tour, Sands Harbor Resort and Marina - 125 N. Riverside Drive, Pompano Beach, FL, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, Info: Call 954-942-2102
 FEBRUARY 8-9: 21st Annual South Florida Garlic Fest, John Prince Park (4759 South Congress Avenue), Lake Worth, FL, Sat: 11 AM - 11 PM, Sun: 11 AM - 6 PM, (561) 274-4663
 FEBRUARY 8-9: 25th Annual South Florida Folk Festival, Begeron Rodeo Grounds - 4271 Davie Road, Davie, FL, Sat: 11:30 AM - 9:00 PM, Sun: 12:00 Noon - 8:00 PM p.m.
 FEBRUARY 13-16: 43rd Annual Fort Lauderdale Ruggerfest, Mills Pond Park, 2201 NW 9th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311, Sat: 9 AM - 6 PM, Sun: 9 AM - 5 PM
 FEBRUARY 15: 5th Annual Renaissance Fun Fair Benefit Car & Motorcycle Show (1889 Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard), West Palm Beach, FL, 10 AM - 3 PM, 561-225-
 FEBRUARY 22: Riverwalk Chili Cook Off, Esplanade Park (400 SW 2nd Street), Fort Lauderdale, FL, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Info: (954) 468-1541
 FEBRUARY 22: Sistrunk Historical Festival, Sistrunk Boulevard from NW 9th Avenue and NW 12th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Info: Call (754) 779-4376

ONE SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

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SAT

THE FUN CONTINUES!

30

Winterfest
Captain's Cup
Broward County
Convention Center
1950 Eisenhower Blvd
Fort Lauderdale, FL
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Info: Call Dawn Reed at
(954) 767-0686,

31

Friday Night
SoundWaves
Las Olas
Oceanside Park
(Fort Lauderdale
Beach Hub
at Las Olas & A1A),
Fort Lauderdale
Performer:
Private Stock
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

1

North Beach Art Walk
Broward Art Guild -
ATA, 32nd AND 33rd
Streets,
Fort Lauderdale
7 PM to 11 PM

Gala in the Garden
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road,
Coral Gables, FL
9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Call Susannah Shubin at (305)
667-1651 Ext 3375

6

Fort Lauderdale Special
Magistrate Hearing
City Commission
Meeting Room - City Hall
9:00 AM

7

Soul Fest
Jaco Pastorius Park
(4000 N Dixie Highway),
Oakland Park, FL
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Info: Call Cristina Curry at
954-630-4507

Friday Night SoundWaves
Olas Oceanside Park
Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub at Las
Olas & A1A), Fort Lauderdale
Performer: Sabor Latino
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

8

Run For Beer
Orchestrated Minds
Brewing 803 Northwest 1st
Street,
Fort Lauderdale, FL
11 AM - 2 PM
Info: Call Kacy at (971)
319-0277

13

Bonnet House
Concerts Under the Stars
900 N Birch Road
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33422
Performer(s): University of Miami
Frost Opera Theater
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Info: Call Monica Estevez at
(954) 703-2614

14

Palm Beach
Fine Craft Show
Palm Beach County
Convention Center
650 Okeechobee Blvd
West Palm Beach, FL
Fri, Sat: 11 AM - 7 PM; Sun: 11
AM - 6 PM,
Info: Call 561.822.5440
Info@palmbeachshow.com

15

Florida Gun & Knife Show
South Florida Fairgrounds 9067
Southern Blvd
West Palm Beach, FL
Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM;
Sun: 10 AM - 4 PM
Info: Call 321-777-7455;
321-837-9955
email@flgunshows.com

Valentine's Day

20

G.M.C.A.
Advisory Board Meeting
Bokamper's
Sports Bar & Grill
3115 NE 32nd Avenue
Fort Lauderdale
11:00 AM

Fort Lauderdale Special
Magistrate Hearing
City Commission
Meeting Room
City Hall
9:00 AM

21

LiLUNCH!
Mary N. Porter
Riverview Ballroom
201 SW 5th Ave
Fort Lauderdale, FL
11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
Info: Call Sarah McKenney
954-357-7382

Friday Night SoundWaves
Las Olas Oceanside Park
Fort Lauderdale
Performer: Mr. Nice Guy
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

22

17th Annual Polynesian
Cultural Festival
Jaco Pastorius Park
4000 N. Dixie Highway
Oakland Park, FL
12:00 Noon - 7:00 PM
Info: Call Cristina Curry
954-630-4507

27

28

Taste of Oakland Park
Jaco Pastorius Park
4000 N Dixie Highway
Oakland Park, FL
Time 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Info: Call Cristina Curry
54-630-4507

29

10th Annual Yogafest
Huizenga Plaza
One East Last Olas Blvd
Fort Lauderdale, FL
9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Info: Call (704) 756-9245

FEBRUARY 6-9

Fort Lauderdale Greek Festival
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
820 N.E. 14th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Thurs: 5 PM to 10 PM,
Fri & Sat: 12 Noon to 11 PM,
Sun: 12 Noon to 7 PM
Info: Call (954) 761-3378

FEBRUARY 8-9, 15-17, 23-24

28th Annual Florida Renaissance Festival
Quiet Waters Park
401 S Powerline Road
Deerfield Beach, Florida
10:00 AM - Sundown
Info: (954) 776-1642
Toll Free: 1-800-3-REN-FES
Fax: (954) 771-7045

FEBRUARY 13-18

Palm Beach Jewelry, Art & Antique Show
Palm Beach County Convention Center
650 Okeechobee Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL
Thurs: 7 PM - 10 PM
Fri - Mon: 11 AM - 7 PM
Tues: 11 AM - 6 PM
Call 561.822.5440
Info@palmbeachshow.com

FEBRUARY 14-16

Palm Beach Fine Craft Show
Palm Beach County Convention Center
650 Okeechobee Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL
Fri, Sat: 11 AM - 7 PM
Sun: 11 AM - 6 PM,
Call 561.822.5440
Info@palmbeachshow.com

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS, GO TO THE CALENDAR AT WWW.GALTMILE.COM

Daily: Bicycle Tours, Riverwalk, Las Olas, Himmarshee, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Info.: 954-562-5159

First Saturday of Every Month: Photography Classes on Riverwalk, Info.: 817-266-2946

Second Saturday of Every Month: Beach Sweep, Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub, 300 S. Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd., 7 to 11 a.m., Info.: 954-709-3197

Second Saturday of Every Month: Burlock Coast Farmer's Market, Burlock Coast at the The Ritz-Carlton, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Info.: myfortlauderdalebeach.com

Second Tuesday of Every Month: Orchid Greenhouse Tours, Bonnet House, 11 a.m. to Noon, Info.: 954-703-2606

Mondays: Food Trucks at ArtsPark, 5:30 to 10 p.m., Youngs Circle in Hollywood

Fridays (through May): Friday Night Music, El Mar Drive between Village Grille/Pump and 101 Ocean, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., Info.: www.lbtsevents.com

Sundays: Tour-the River Ghost Tour, Stranahan House & Water Taxi, 7:30 p.m., Tx.: 954-524-4736

Sundays: Las Olas Sunday Market, 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 954-426-8436

Sundays (through May): Farmer's Market at El Prado Park, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 561-714-2745

Saturdays: Saturday Night Under the South Florida Stars, Fox Astronomical Observatory at Markham Park, Sunset to Midnight, Info.: 954-384-0442

Thursdays: Master Dog Obedience Classes, Esplanade Park, 8:15 p.m., Info.: www.adogsbestfriend.com

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FACTSS Files Challenge to ELSS Sprinkler Requirement

ELSS Scam:

Bolstering Legislative Plan with Regulatory Bear Trap

By Eric Berkowitz

High-rise associations across Florida (including those on the Galt Mile) threatened with an onerous assessment to fund an Engineered Life Safety System (ELSS) coalesced to form the “Florida Association of Condominiums to Support Self-Determination” or FACTSS. A statewide advocacy organization, FACTSS adopted a central legislative objective with the help of former State Senator Elyn Bogdanoff – to provide association homeowners with a legal right to forego retrofitting a gratuitous, budget-busting ELSS (i.e. enacting an ELSS Opt-Out). Having authored the 2010 Statutory amendment that empowered high-rise association homeowners to opt-out of a fire sprinkler retrofit, Bogdanoff’s converseance with this issue is unparalleled.

On June 28, 2019, Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 7103. Despite the efforts of Fire Sprinkler Associations finger-puppet Senator Ed Hooper and an army of well-funded lobbyists, Representatives Michael Grieco and Chip LaMarca, Senators Jason Pizzo, Jeff Brandes – and Tallahassee pundit Elyn Bogdanoff – shifted a December 31, 2019 ELSS retrofit deadline to January 1, 2024, providing several million at risk Florida residents with a variety of regulatory and legislative opportunities to thwart this \$multi-billion scam.

However, when convened during election years (such as 2020), Florida legislative sessions typically degenerate into hotbeds of campaign fund-raising – as contributions are bartered for political patronage. In this mercenary slop sink, legislative outcomes typically succumb to the dictates of deep pocketed special interests - like the corporate juggernauts that anchor Fire Sprinkler Associations. In response to this prospective pitfall, FACTSS complemented its ongoing legislative struggle with a collateral legal strategy.

Florida CFO Jimmy Patronis serves as the state’s Chief Financial Officer, the State Fire Marshal, and as a member of the Florida Cabinet. Among the state agencies that comprise his fiefdom are the Department of Financial Services and the Division of State Fire Marshal.

FACTSS has filed a petition for Declaratory Statement with Patronis’ Department of Financial Services. In short, it questions whether local Fire Marshals have the right to require that an ELSS include fire sprinklers in associations that legally voted to opt-out of a fire sprinkler retrofit. To help edify millions of Florida condo residents subject to this regulatory extortion, the following update was posted on the FACTSS website:

FACTSS, the Florida Association of Condominiums To Support Self-Determination, Inc., filed a request for a declaratory statement from the Florida Fire Marshal to validate requiring sprinklers as part of the Engineered Life Safety System (ELSS) requirement.

The main question posed to the State Fire Marshal is this: “Under what authority can the State and/or local Fire Marshal require a fire sprinkler system, whether in the units or in common areas, as part of an ELSS if the association followed the proper procedures outlined in statute and opted out of retrofitting sprinklers anywhere on its association property?”

This challenge is in response to FACTSS member associations throughout the state being told by their local fire marshals that pursuant to the fire code adopted by the State of Florida, they may be obligated to install fire sprinklers as part of an ELSS. Many associations are being told by the local fire marshal that their ELSS plans would not be approved if it did not include a sprinkler system.

Associations affected by ELSS are those whose owners voted to opt-out of retrofitting their entire building under state law passed in 2010. Owners had until 2016 to conduct the opt-out vote. FACTSS’ argument is basically that if associations voted to opt-out of sprinkler under state law, then an administrative decision by the State Fire Marshal cannot overrule state law by mandating fire sprinklers.

How Does this Help?

As questionably interpreted in a May 4, 2016 Declaratory Statement, the office of State Fire Marshal contends that although demanding fire sprinklers in associations that opted out violates State law, mandating sprinklers under the guise of an ELSS complies with the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

Although the Florida CFO (State Fire Marshal) and his Department of Financial Services have broad discretion in crafting Declaratory Statements, Patronis can neither ignore nor revise the Florida Statutes. As such, his agency’s response to this tactical inquiry should clarify that the current policy is based on the mistaken premise that an Administrative Code interpretation trumps a Statute enacted by the Florida Legislature. Needless to say, it doesn’t.

The impact of this strategy could resonate in the Legislature and the courthouse, where several Florida associations have filed legal actions against their respective local fire marshals for allegedly exceeding their authority. Stay tuned!!!



EDITOR'S COMMENTARY:

By Eric Berkowitz

Lamar Fisher's NOV/DEC 2019 Newsletter

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

In his November - December 2019 Newsletter, District 4 Broward Commissioner Lamar Fisher opens by summarizing the County's 2019 achievements and noting that Broward Vice Mayor Dale V.C. Holness replaced Mark Bogen as Broward Mayor (Commissioner Steve Geller was named Vice Mayor). Fisher also explains how a Federal grant and Broward Capital Improvement revenues were earmarked for storm-hardening Homeless Assistance Centers in Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach, while funding renovations in the entrance and intake areas at the Pompano facility. After listing the new shops and services in Fort Lauderdale / Hollywood International Airport (FLL), the Commissioner warns boaters about the seasonal increase of manatees in County waterways, and how to report those that are either sick, injured, or dead. Also in this edition, read Commissioner Lamar Fisher's November - December 2019 Newsletter in its entirety. -[editor]



BROWARD COMMISSIONER

LAMAR FISHER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 UPDATE

Dear Residents,
I'm thrilled to have completed my first year as your County Commissioner. I look forward to continuing to improve our resident's quality of life by focusing on several key issues in our community. Here are some recent headlines from around the County.
Broward County's State of the County and New County Mayor & Vice Mayor
Recently, Broward County's outgoing Mayor Mark Bogen delivered the 2019 State of the

County Address. Several accomplishments were made during the past year, including; passing a \$5.8 billion budget without raising taxes, raising the living wage for County employees, setting aside an additional \$22 million to build affordable housing, launching Text to 911, expanding the Paratransit Rider's Choice Pilot Program, implementing the ePermitsOneStop in the City of Pompano Beach, funding from the Transportation Surtax has resulted in a \$146 million approved by the Oversight Board for transportation projects and expenditures, and so much more. After the State of the County, the Board selected the new Broward County Mayor and

new Vice Mayor. Commissioners selected former Vice Mayor Dale V.C. Holness to serve as Mayor and Commissioner Steve Geller to serve as Vice Mayor. Mayor Holness' theme for 2020 is Broward 2050: One community moving forward together with prosperity for all. I look forward to assisting my colleagues in building on this theme as we work collaboratively with the community in order to ensure our residents needs are met.



Broward County Receives over \$5 Million Grant for Homeless Shelters

Recently, Broward County was awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) over \$6.8 million under a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to assist in hardening the North Homeless Assistance Center (North HAC), located in Pompano Beach, and the Central Homeless Assistance Center (Central HAC), located in Fort Lauderdale. The HMGP funding will provide improved wind resistance to the existing building. The work includes new or improved roofs, exterior walls, doors and windows that will meet hurricane requirements per Florida Building Code building. Funding also provides for the installation of new generators for both facilities that will allow both facilities to operate during certain emergencies.

In addition to obtaining FEMA funding, the Construction Management Division, working with our Community Partnerships Division, was able to secure an additional \$1.8 million, to the already available \$1.2 million County funding, as approved by the Board of County Commissioners under the County's Capital Improvement Program. The additional \$3 million County funding will allow for the construction of a new covered, secured entrance and lobby for the North HAC facility and will allow for upgrades to the intake areas, including new processing and examination rooms and improved ADA restrooms. These improvements are just another exciting step in the effort to continue to assist individuals experiencing homelessness. I'm proud of the work our Human Services Department does out in our community and proud of our Commission as we see the importance of helping our most vulnerable residents.

For more information on all the services provide by the Broward County Human Services Department please visit www.Broward.org/HumanServices.

Fort Lauderdale International Airport (FLL) Update

Next time you fly through our wonderful FLL make sure to check out all the exciting updates and changes happening which are helping to improve your flying experience.

FLL's Rental Car Center (RCC) offerings will expand from 11 to 14 companies by the end of 2019. The new providers coming are Sixt, Fox, and Ace. They will join FLL's existing RCC lineup of Advantage, Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, E-Z, Hertz, National, Payless, and Thrifty, all under one roof.

The restrooms in Terminal 3, Concourses E and F, will be getting a makeover in the coming weeks as part of the Aviation Department's ongoing efforts to enhance the airport's guest experience. The restroom remodeling project is expected to be completed by December 2020.

New shops and dining:

- Terminal 1, Concourse C opened a NewsLink store on November 8.
- Shake Shack and Flash Fire Pizza are slated to open in Terminal 2, Concourse D before the end of the year.
- Rocco's Tacos and Tequila Bar is also set to open before the end of the year in Terminal 1, Concourse C.

For more information about all the exciting news happening at FLL please visit www.Broward.org/airport.



Manatee Season Has Begun!

Manatee season runs from November 15th through March 31st. Due to the cold weather up north, manatees begin moving south toward warm-water refuges while seasonal and manatee protection speed limit zones go into effect throughout the state. Boaters are cautioned to be on the lookout for greater numbers of manatee presence throughout the County's waterways. If a manatee is spotted, the sighting can be reported by using the County's "I Spy a Manatee" mobile app (available for free download on the Apple App Store and Google Play). The app also provides maps of the County's state-regulated manatee protection and boating safety zones allowing boaters to immediately see what zone(s) they are traveling through if using the location services of the mobile device.

If you see a sick, injured, or dead manatee, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Wildlife Alert Number at (888) 404-FWCC (3922), *FWC or # FWC on a cell phone or with a text to tip@myfwc.com.

Once again, I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your County Commissioner. Please sign up at Broward.org/Commission/District4 to receive email updates from our office. You can also follow me on Twitter and like my Facebook page. If there is anything that we can do to assist you with your vision for a better Broward, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 954-357-7004 or by email at LFisher@broward.org.

I wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

Best regards,

Lamar P. Fisher
County Commissioner
District 4



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