

**FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 15, 2008**

Agenda

Item Page

R-01	2008 Citizen of the Year – Courtney Crush	1
R-02	2008 Honored Founder – Robert “Bob” E. Cox	2
R-03	2008 Exemplary Former City Employee – Ron Cochran	2
R-04	2008 Distinguished Citizen – John E. Aurelius	2

COMMISSION SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING

11:30 A.M.

APRIL 15, 2008

Present: Mayor Naugle
Commissioners Teel, Vice Mayor Rodstrom, Commissioners Moore and Hutchinson

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager - George Gretsas
City Auditor - John Herbst
City Attorney - Harry Stewart
City Clerk - Jonda Joseph
Sergeant At Arms – None

Mayor Naugle said it was a pleasure to welcome everyone to the 34th Annual Citizens Recognition Awards. He said this event provides the Commission the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments and achievements of some special individuals in the community.

Mayor Naugle said the Commission wanted to recognize the members of the Citizens Board of Recognition, including Bob Cox, Rob Dressler, Congressman E. Clay Shaw, Genia Ellis and Birch Willey. Years ago the Board of Recognition was comprised of past mayors of the City.

Mayor Naugle asked former Award recipients to stand and be recognized. He welcomed former Commissioner Tim Smith. He further said that recently the City lost a leading citizen, Dick Nells, and everyone misses him.

The City established the Citizen Recognition Program in 1972, and the purpose of the program is to give recognition to citizens who contribute in significant ways to the development and redevelopment of the community. Honorees are selected by the Citizens Board of Recognition and ratified by the City Commission. In 1984 the Citizens Recognition Program was expanded to include the Citizen of the Year and a Distinguished Citizen Honoree, and the category of Honored Founder was added to the program in 1990. He further said that the category of Exemplary City Employee was added in 1997, and in 2003 the category was amended to include an Exemplary Former City Employee because there was already an established program in place to recognize the accomplishments of current City employees.

2008 Citizen of the Year – Courtney Crush

(R-01)

Vice Mayor Rodstrom presented a proclamation to Courtney Crush as 2008 Citizen of the Year.

Courtney Crush said that there were many people in this City who as a matter of social responsibility participate and give back to the City through civic associations, the business community, and not-for-profits. She said that she was blessed to be able to participate with such groups of individuals and to have mentors within the City who helped her to give back and contribute. She thanked many people who were present today, along with the City Commission who volunteer more than anyone else on a daily basis.

Mayor Naugle welcomed former City Manager George Hanbury.

2008 Honored Founder – Robert “Bob” E. Cox

(R-02)

Commissioner Teel presented the 2008 Honored Founder Award to Former Mayor Robert Cox.

Commissioner Moore arrived at approximately 11:44 a.m.

Robert Cox thanked the City for this honor and said that his son-in-law, Ted Drum, also served on a City Board for 16 years. He said that he was born ten years after the City was formed, and thanked the Commission. He said this City was a wonderful place and he was proud of the fact that the City continued after he left, and they were the only Commission in Broward County who did not fight with each other. He said there have been wonderful City Commissions who had disagreements, as there should be, but they acted like gentlemen. He said he was proud to have served this City.

2008 Exemplary Former City Employee – Ron Cochran

(R-03)

Commissioner Moore honored Ron Cochran as the 2008 Exemplary Former City Employee serving in the City’s Police Department.

Mrs. Cochran accepted the honor for her husband who had passed away 10 years ago. She said that Commissioner Moore always supported her husband’s endeavors. She said that she wished her husband could have been present this evening because he always asked her if she thought anyone would ever remember him. She said that she told him people would remember all his hard work. He loved this City and he would clean the beach, help paint bridges, and even help neighbors. She said that he was one of the best police officers that ever existed, and she wished his contemporaries would follow his teachings. She proceeded to introduce some family members and friends that were present this evening. She said that no one could live without Linda and Tom Tapp in their lives. She thanked the Citizens Committee of Recognition, Mayor Naugle, and the City Commission for remembering her husband.

2008 Distinguished Citizen – John E. Aurelius

(R-04)

Commissioner Hutchinson honored John E. Aurelius as the 2008 Distinguished Citizen.

John Aurelius said he was profoundly thankful and humble to receive this award, and thanked Citizens Committee who made the recommendation. He said he was thankful for the City Commission who ratified the suggestion.

Mr. Aurelius proceeded to have his wife and sons join him at the podium to share his honor, along with his daughter-in-law. He said that he has been in this City for 50 years and married for 42 years. He said that his wife was his best critic and best friend who provided inspiration for him to accomplish many things. He said what is great about this City is the challengers they meet and what they have to offer. He said that two weeks ago he went with his granddaughter to the Orlando Children’s Museum who had a beautiful display of the Titanic. He reminded everyone that on this day in 1912 the Titanic sank and 1,527 lives were lost. He went to the beach on Thursday and watched

the QEII to go its final docking. He said there is a lot happening in this City making it a living thing. It is a great City with great people.

Mr. Aurelius proceeded to thank some friends of his who were present this evening, along with his sister. He also thanked the two girls who worked in his office, along with Rose Gutman who was a very good friend. He said the Country is in an economic crisis and has many national problems, but at the City level all the problems came together and they met all the challenges presented to them. He wished society could do something more to meet the worldwide challenges. He felt the active campaigns going on now were very interesting, and he was very involved in with the Fort Lauderdale Fire Museum.

Mr. Aurelius said he was grateful for this honor and thanked everyone for being present this evening. He said that the other honorees tonight were very deserving.

Mayor Naugle thanked everyone for attending this special event.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:07 p.m.