FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING MARCH 3, 2009

Agenda <u>Item</u>		<u>Page</u>
I-A	Fort Lauderdale Fire and Safety Museum – Loan of Antique Police and Fire Apparatus and Historical Documents	1
I-B	Solid Waste Services – Interlocal Agreement with Broward County	1
I-C	Proposed Lien Settlements – Special Magistrate and Code Enforcement Board Cases	1
II-A	January 2009 Monthly Financial Report	1
III-B	Board and Committee Vacancies	2
IV	 Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Audit Advisory Board Aviation Advisory Board Beach Redevelopment Board Cemetery System Board of Trustees Code Enforcement Board Community Appearance Board Community Services Board Economic Development Advisory Board Education Advisory Board Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee Insurance Advisory Board Marine Advisory Board Nuisance Abatement Board Board of Trustees of the Police and Firefighters Retirement System Unsafe Structures & Housing Appeals Board Utility Advisory Committee City Commission Reports Legislative Session Naming Civic Peoples Park in memory of Betty Hayes Magdelene J. Lewis, Interim Commission Position, District III Signs, Victoria Park Art and Jazz Festival Waiver - Conflict of Interest - Hiring Committee Member as Consultant; March 3, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda Item CR-10 A-I-A Marathon Event Sasaki Master Plan Sistrunk Corridor Design Calypso Deepwater Port Project Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Pension Reform Parks and Recreation Department Broward County Animal Care Regulation; Rabies 	(Deferred) (Deferred) 2 (Deferred) 2 2 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 5 5
	 13. Bloward County Arithal Care Regulation, Rables 14. State of the City Event 15. March 17, 2009 City Commission Conference Meeting 	5 5
V	City Manager Reports	5

CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING 1:30 P.M. MARCH 3, 2009

Present: Mayor Naugle

Commissioners Hutchinson, Teel and Lewis, and Vice Mayor Rodstrom

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager – George Gretsas

City Auditor - John Herbst
City Clerk - Jonda K. Joseph
City Attorney - Harry A. Stewart
Sergeant At Arms - Sgt. Tim McCarthy

<u>I-A – Fort Lauderdale Fire and Safety Museum – Loan of Antique Police and Fire Apparatus and Historical Documents.</u>

Frank Adderley, Chief of Police, indicated the 1938 Police Chevy sedan and 1942 Fire Rescue truck have caused over budgeted expenses, therefore staff would like to donate them to the museum.

John Aurelius, representing the Fort Lauderdale Fire and Safety Museum, discussed the positive track of the museum and noted they hope to open in September of this year.

John Heiser, President, Fort Lauderdale Fire and Safety Museum, said he is also a Fort Lauderdale firefighter thanked everyone involved in this project.

Mayor Naugle offered some history about the fire station designed by Francis Abreau now being occupied by the museum. He expressed support in the aspect focused on children and fire safety.

I-B - Solid Waste Services - Interlocal Agreement With Broward County

Ed Udvardy, Assistant Public Works Director, reviewed information in the Commission Agenda Report for this item. The agreement will terminate in 2013. An RFP is ready to be released this week.

Mayor Naugle indicated that he has been the City's representative on the Resource Recovery Board. Fort Lauderdale has paid tens of millions of dollars more than cities who did not join the Interlocal agreement. He expected the City to be able to come in half price. Resource recovery saves some space, but it never eliminates the landfill. It results in an ash landfill which is more toxic. He was happy to see the RFP going out and anticipated rates going down in the future.

<u>I-C - Proposed Lien Settlements - Special Magistrate and Code Enforcement Board Cases</u>

No discussion.

II-A – January 2009 Monthly Financial Report

No discussion.

III-B – Board and Committee Vacancies

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee - no appointments at this meeting

Audit Advisory Board – no appointments at this meeting

Aviation Advisory Board - no appointments at this meeting

Beach Redevelopment Board

Mayor Naugle recommended Daniel S. Matchette to the Beach Redevelopment Board.

Cemetery System Board of Trustees – no appointments at this meeting

Code Enforcement Board – no appointments at this meeting

Community Appearance Board – no appointments at this meeting

Community Services Board – no appointments at this meeting

Economic Development Advisory Board – no appointments at this meeting

Education Advisory Board - no appointments at this meeting

<u>Fire Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee</u> – no appointments at this meeting

Insurance Advisory Board – no appointments at this meeting

Marine Advisory Board – no appointments at this meeting

Nuisance Abatement Board - no appointments at this meeting

<u>Board of Trustees of the Police and Firefighters Retirement System</u> – no appointments at this meeting

<u>Unsafe Structure and Housing Appeals Board</u> – no appointments at this meeting

<u>Utility Advisory Committee</u> – no appointments at this meeting

IV – City Commission Reports

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Legislative Session

Commissioner Hutchinson reported on her trip to the state capitol. She mentioned House Bill 673 and an accompanying Senate bill that will provide some relief with pensions by allowing a two-tiered plan in public safety with existing employees retaining 175 and 185 money. New employees could join FRS. There is an amendment that provides for the cities to bear any cost to place existing employees in FRS, for example. However, there is no reason to do so, if a two-tier plan can be created. The League is

onboard. Concerning Fire Station 13, the City has agreed to the demands regarding Birch State Park and moving of the station. She discussed their meeting with the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, including the stimulus bill and public/private partnerships with respect to bridges. It may be possible to arrange for the Secretary to come to Fort Lauderdale for more discussion on bridges. They also met with the Governor's office on various matters of interest, including pension reform.

In response to Commissioner Teel, Commissioner Hutchinson indicated that she would not anticipate any funding.

Commissioner Teel asked about the Sadowski funds. Commissioner Hutchinson indicated there was no mention. Mayor Naugle commented about the fall in revenue of Sadowski funds.

Naming Civic Peoples Park in memory of Betty Hayes

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if Civic Peoples Park could be named in honor of Betty Hayes, who just passed away. There was no objection and as such she suggested this be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Board. She asked it be processed as quickly as possible.

Magdalene J. Lewis, Interim Commission Position, District III

Commissioner Lewis thanked everyone for their cooperation while serving as a commissioner.

Signs, Victoria Park Art and Jazz Festival

Vice Mayor Rodstrom asked about making a one-time signage exception for the Victoria Park Art and Jazz Festival.

The City Attorney explained it is a question of enforcement, but it is a violation. By making an exception, a precedent would be set and the exception then becomes the rule and there is no longer an ordinance because it cannot be enforced with so many exceptions.

Commissioner Hutchinson suggested the signs could be placed in yards. The City Attorney indicated that it would be subject to a code violation. Mayor Naugle explained if placed on private property, there would be a notice to remove it within a number of days whereas if it is placed on public property, the signs are picked up. The City Attorney indicated it would be a thirty-day notice for a hearing and there usually are no fines imposed.

In response to Vice Mayor Rodstrom, Mayor Naugle explained that permitting such signs could be addressed as a sign ordinance amendment, but each time it opens the door for a range of signs. The City Attorney further explained that certain exceptions will make the ordinance suspect and with too many exceptions, the ordinance could be held unconstitutional. The City may limit the time, place and manner, but not the type of signage.

Mayor Naugle remarked upon the strictness of the City's sign ordinance. The City has been able to control billboards and not have sign pollution.

In response to Vice Mayor Rodstrom, the City Attorney indicated this would be off-site advertisement. Billboards are also off-site advertisement. If such an exception is made, billboards could also have an exception.

Vice Mayor Rodstrom indicated she would work with the City Attorney on this matter.

<u>Waiver – Conflict of Interest – Hiring Committee Member as Consultant; March 3, 2009</u> Regular meeting Agenda Item CR-10

Vice Mayor Rodstrom referred to Agenda Item CR-10 and indicated that Jan Idelman has submitted her resignation from the Centennial Celebration Committee. Therefore, she asked this item be removed from the agenda.

A-1-A Marathon Event

Vice Mayor Rodstrom commented on the success of the A-1-A Marathon event.

Sasaki Master Plan

In response to Vice Mayor Rodstrom, Wayne Jessup, Planning and Zoning Department, provided a verbal status report on the Sasaki Master Plan.

Sistrunk Corridor Design

In response to Vice Mayor Rodstrom, Alfred Battle, Community Redevelopment Director, provided a verbal status report on the Sistrunk corridor design.

Vice Mayor Rodstrom also asked about funding sources. Mr. Battle indicated that there are a variety of funding sources. Staff is keeping pertinent funding agencies informed to keep the funding solid. In response to Commissioner Teel, Mr. Battle advised that a final construction number is not yet known, but he believed the quotes will be less than assumed.

Calypso Deepwater Port Project

Commissioner Teel reported the Calypso Deepwater Port Project appears to be dead and the Galt Ocean Mile residents are very happy.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Commissioner Teel reported on the MPO emergency meeting regarding the stimulus package. Municipalities received got a token in the form of bus stops. She attempted to get funding for bridges, but it fell on deaf ears as it is unique for the City.

Pension Reform

Commissioner Teel was happy to hear Commissioner Hutchinson's report on the prospect of a two-tiered system for police and fire rescue employees. This concern is

throughout the United States. Some discussion ensued including comments about a new plan being applied to new employees and not existing ones and perhaps increasing new employee salaries to take a two-tiered system into consideration. She emphasized the importance of fiscal prudence.

Parks and Recreation Department

Commissioner Teel complimented the Parks and Recreation staff particularly with maintenance. She mentioned a District I resident that works alongside staff in manicuring the medians and so forth.

Broward County Animal Care Regulation; Rabies

Mayor Naugle referred to a letter from Broward County Animal Care Regulation and noted their efforts concerning inoculating raccoons against rabies.

State of the City Event

Mayor Naugle announced the upcoming State of the City event and explained why he has selected Lauderdale Marine Center, a private facility.

March 17, 2009 City Commission Conference Meeting

Mayor Naugle announced the incoming mayor's request for the March 17, 2009 City Commission conference meeting to be held at 4 p.m. There was no objection. He also announced the Commission outgoing farewell and swearing times.

V – City Manager Reports

The City Manager congratulated the Police Department for their work in reducing crime 14%.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION WAS HELD AT 2:08 P.M.

The City Commission shall meet privately pursuant to Florida Statute 768.28(16) regarding evaluation of the following case:

Cara Jennings et al vs. City of Fort Lauderdale – Police Professional Liability Case PP L 04-864

MEETING RECONVENED AT 2:16 P.M.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:17 p. m.