

**FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING  
JULY 21, 2009**

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**CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING 1:08 P.M. JULY 21, 2009**

Present: Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler  
Vice Mayor Bruce G. Roberts, Commissioners Bobby B. DuBose,  
Romney Rogers, and Charlotte E. 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 – Sergeant Harvey Jacques

**I-A – TRANSIT RELATED PROJECTS:**

Greg Brewton, Director of Planning and Zoning, introduced all of the individuals who would be making presentations this afternoon. He reviewed slides on the City's transit vision. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes. Traditionally transportation has been thought about in terms of roadways, now transit planning has become a focal point throughout the nation. The City's vision is important to achieve this. Efficient and effective transit services should be provided to the many area connections to allow destination toward larger regions throughout the county. Other municipalities and county agencies will be participating in the overall concept. The planning and implementation of the various transit initiatives are important to the success of the overall vision.

Greg Stuart, Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization Executive Director, reviewed those slides pertaining to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. He noted this plan is the foundation for all transportation planning in the county. Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization is responsible for transportation planning and funding in the county. He offered an overview of the membership and district composition and funding of the plan. In his review of the slides, he touched on the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> connector project with a projected \$90 million cost.

James Cromar, Broward County Planning, reviewed those slides pertaining to Transit/Housing Oriented Redevelopment (THOR) – Turning Mobility Hubs into Livable Centers.

Sharon Cino, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), reviewed those slides pertaining to the South Florida East Coast Corridor (SFECC). FDOT is looking to master plan eighty-five miles of the FECC corridor to reinstitute and add passenger service on an existing freight corridor. This corridor traverses through Miami, Broward and Palm Beach counties. She corrected the Funding and Phasing slide as to when ridership may happen to 2017 instead of 2014. FDOT intends to go to the public in October to seek their input. FDOT has met with all of the twenty-eight municipalities along the corridor as to their desired station locations. There are sixty-one locations, which may decrease a little. Stakeholder meetings that include Fort Lauderdale are planned to address the New River crossing where there is a fixed bridge that will not allow for passenger service. In conclusion, the FDOT goal by the Spring of 2010 is to have an approved local preferred alternative by the three MPOs.

Zafar Alikhan, Jacobs Engineering Group, reviewed those slides pertaining to the Central Broward Transit Study. FDOT has recommended looking at a high capacity transit facility in addition to reconstruction of Interstate 595. After analysis, light rail in the center of the county was recommended. About 50% federal funding will be pursued. As the project will compete nationally, it needs full support and to technically and financially work well. The technical advisory groups are considering which alignment options and the technology. There will be a preferred action recommendation for one option for Broward County by 2011 to present to the federal government.

Mayor Seiler asked about the environmental impact analysis process. Mr. Alihan indicated there will be a financial plan which will show needs and revenue sources which include local match. In the federal analysis, financial elements are high. Cost effectiveness will be compared with other projects across the country.

In response to Mayor Seiler and Commissioner Rodstrom, Mr. Alikhan indicated there was no representative at the first Technical Advisory Group meeting. Representation would be from the staff. There will be nine more meetings. He noted what this group will be doing. The City Manager advised the City would be represented by someone from the Planning staff. In response to Mayor Seiler, Mr. Alikhan indicated the next meeting will be the end of August. Mayor Seiler requested a City representative be assigned and attend.

Mr. Alikhan offered to return to the Commission during this process of narrowing to two and then one option as they will to the Broward County Commission and the MPO.

Mr. Brewton reviewed those slides pertaining to the Sunport People Mover. He noted its general route. It is new so there is no schedule or identified funding. Once funding has been identified, it will be in the MPO and FDOT work programs.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Natacha Yacinthe, Broward County Port Everglades, indicated the technology mode has not yet been determined. It is a new initiative.

### **THE WAVE – DOWNTOWN TRANSIT CIRCULATOR**

Charlie Ladd, Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Chair, noted the DDA has been working on this for eight years. He noted the progress that this project has already accomplished. The Wave has a local funding plan, State and County support and a master plan. They are very close to starting construction. It will be Broward County's regional transit system. He noted the community outreach they have done.

Chris Wren, Downtown Development Authority Executive Director, remarked on the coordination concerning transit that has taken place through the years. He reviewed the slides on The Wave and indicated it is on track to open in 2012. He noted the Wave will move people north and south in the downtown with streetcar technology. He discussed particulars of how it would operate. As the DDA will tax commercial properties, this is actually a public/private partnership. When consulting other communities, they see it as a five to one return on the investment. There have been some 70-80 meetings focusing on this project. There are some forty meetings remaining. There is about 80-85% support factor.

Commissioner Rogers referred to a statistic of a 22% increase in vehicles and a 64% increase in congestion. Mr. Stuart indicated even with the same amount of vehicles congestion will get worse because there are issues with the timing of traffic signals and additional development. Commissioner Rogers referred to the assumption there is only 2% transit ridership now and if nothing is done it would decrease. Mr. Stuart explained the rationale is that people will have no other alternative but to use a vehicle. People like to be in their vehicles and that is something to consider.

Vice Mayor Roberts requested City staff report to the Commission on each step of the way. Five of the seven regional options in this presentation include downtown Fort Lauderdale, Broward Boulevard and northwest area along Sunrise Boulevard. It is important for the City to maintain its stake in that process. Fort Lauderdale is a key player. He wanted more input from the Commission as Fort Lauderdale participates in the planning stages. Commissioner Rodstrom emphasized the need to stay current and there sometimes there is a gap in time between a City Commission meeting and a MPO meeting. She commented on how the thinking in terms of transit has changed. Fort Lauderdale needs to join in that forward thinking.

Commissioner DuBose mentioned the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Connector has been discussed by the Commission. Also, he was concerned about funding for The Wave in the current budget climate as well as the routing. Overall transportation is something that should be watched.

Mayor Seiler questioned the locations of the mobility hubs. Mr. Stuart noted there are many more mobility hubs which are reflected in the 2035 plan slide. He offered to provide more detail on how the mobility hubs work in Fort Lauderdale. Mayor Seiler indicated that would be appreciated. Mr. Stuart explained that there are different levels of mobility hubs. He did not see them as fixed, but rather fluid on how the hubs develop over time.

Mayor Seiler asked about coordinating the type of vehicle used for the various systems. Mr. Alikhan agreed compatibility in terms use and maintenance are key. On the Central Broward Transit project, there is great potential for overlap of physical facilities with The Wave project. He elaborated upon this topic and indicated that discussions are occurring. When the Central Broward Transit options are narrowed to two and if one of the options is light rail, that will mean separate technical committee meetings and coordination with The Wave. He felt that decision will affect some of the other corridors also, in terms of types of vehicles. Mayor Seiler felt if The Wave moves forward, it should be the uniform standard countywide for light rail. Mr. Alikhan agreed, and noted it would not be affordable to mix vehicle types. Funding is assigned by the MPO and the MPO will be guiding body. Additionally, it is staff's responsibility as well. Mayor Seiler felt if the South Florida East Coast Corridor is not completed, The Wave will be what brings people from the airport to the downtown. It makes perfect sense to then run it to the port. He was concerned about integration.

Commissioner Rodstrom agreed with Mayor Seiler concerning integration and the advantage of being a consolidated group versus individual cities.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Mr. Wren advised that The Wave project was brought about prior to discussion about the South Florida East Coast Corridor (SFEC), but six years ago the DDA went to the MPO and coordinated it with the SFEC, the

east/west and the airport/seaport. With respect to Mayor Seiler's point, he noted that there will be a tri-party agreement where some of these concerns can be included. Commissioner Rodstrom noted the closeness of the routes for The Wave and the SFEC and reiterated her question about integration. Mr. Wren explained that The Wave will be the distributor. In Portland, there were several tracks several blocks away. Once people get to the downtown via SFEC or east/west, there is a need for a way to move people around. Mr. Ladd explained there will be twenty Wave stations in the downtown or every three or four blocks which people will use once they get to the downtown from the other systems. Mayor Seiler pointed out that The Wave stops will only overlap with Sistrunk and Broward and hopefully the SFEC will be used to connect to the airport.

Kamel Mokhtech, Lea+Elliott, Inc., referred to the comment of coordinating the vehicle type among the various systems, and mentioned what is being considered for the SunPort. He noted that technology is applicable to a certain application.

Commissioner Rogers asked about future commitment of Broward County. Mr. Wren indicated there has been brief dialogue. He felt the mindset is to start a regional system that they can kick the tires so to speak. There is no commitment to run anything further.

Vice Mayor Roberts indicated that the entire 2035 plan starts with The Wave. He felt this first step needs to be taken.

Mayor Seiler hoped that bicycle compatibility is being considered. Mr. Stuart advised that about 28% of the \$12 million will be devoted to pedestrian improvements. Money will be focused first in the mobility hubs and then radiate out.

Mayor Seiler asked about whether The Wave would function better with Andrews Avenue and Third Avenue being one-way. Alan Hooper, DDA board member, commented that north of Broward Boulevard, there is a real opportunity for this. Some of the right of way could be used for parallel parking, wider sidewalks and trees. There may be more opportunities south of the river. Mr. Ladd explained the reason The Wave is not a loop on Andrews and Third is because of the cost of crossing the bridge at the New River. There could be wider sidewalks and better streetscapes and encroachments would not have to be torn-down. There would need to be a traffic study. Mayor Seiler wanted the flexibility for one-way with whatever is being done today. Mr. Ladd indicated there is flexibility in the technical review stage. The system would cover more area by having a full loop on Andrews and Third onto Broward. Commissioner DuBose wanted public input on the one-way idea.

In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Manager indicated there has not been any commitment on a funding source. The previous Commission wanted to explore several options and one option was land. The first installment of \$3 million needs to be decided in this year's budget process. The City Attorney indicated it is possible to use CRA funding, but it may require an amendment to the CRA plan. Mayor Seiler asked the City Attorney to look into it. The City Auditor added that land could be used as a contribution. In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Mr. Wren indicated there the special benefit assessment tax district would generate \$20.5 million; the City's portion of \$10.5 million; the combined amount is what is needed locally. Mr. Ladd pointed out that the assessment district is not citywide, but rather those properties that will benefit.

Mayor Seiler wanted the City's contribution of \$10.5 million to be contingent upon the other partners all being in the mix and that no money is transferred until all partners are in the mix. It should be very clear in the tri-party agreement.

In response to Commissioner Rogers, Mr. Wren expanded on why there is a need for the City's share this year, indicating it allows more time before the assessment to the downtown stakeholders is imposed, which shows sensitivity to the economic climate. He went on to comment about the timing of receiving state funding and that federal dollars are anticipated by November. No local money will be obligated until the federal dollars start to come in. Mayor Seiler noted his conversations with legislators who have indicated they are working to make this happen this year. Commissioner Rogers was concerned with finding a funding source and remarked about the need for a five-year capital plan in place. Mayor Seiler commented about all of the other sources that are coming together and that this window will not remain open for a long period of time.

Commissioner DuBose was concerned with using CRA funding and that there has not been any positive decision to extend The Wave into District III where the majority of the CRA is located. Also, funding for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Connector is also being taken. He did not want a continued pattern of neglecting the northwest.

Commissioner DuBose asked if the entire \$2.9 million is needed from the City this year. Mr. Wren commented if there is a few month delay, the amount could be less. They did not want to see any project delay. He offered to review a month to month cash flow with City staff. There are five streetcar projects nationwide and The Wave is one. He did not want to miss this opportunity.

Mayor Seiler did not think that The Wave interferes with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Connector. He expanded on the cost of \$90 million and Broward County's decision not to pursue it. The City does not have a partner on 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner DuBose clarified his concern is about the route extending into District III. Mr. Wren indicated this concern was expressed when The Wave was presented to the previous Commission. The cost was examined. It moved the project over the federal threshold of \$75 million. He believed four members of the previous Commission thought extensions could be considered after the initial installation. With the project cost having dropped, Commissioner DuBose asked if that has opened the potential for such an extension. Mr. Wren indicated the savings is being shared by the assessed property owners at an acceptable level in this economy. The DDA attempted a higher assessment unsuccessfully. Perhaps this extension could be phase two. The DDA will continue to be a partner. Mr. Stuart mentioned that 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> funding could be re-programmed into an extension into District III. Mr. Ladd commented about the success and expansions of the Portland system. He felt there are many expansion possibilities for The Wave. It was focused in the downtown because the resources are available to pay the freight. A big employer in the Flagler area will provide what is needed for the CRA to grow and become more powerful in terms of revenue generation, and that will enable many more things.

Commissioner Rodstrom commented that if the SFEC north of Sunrise Boulevard, there is no need for The Wave to overlap. This portion could be devoted for wherever the SFEC does not go, which is Sistrunk.

Commissioner DuBose emphasized the need for this kind of boost to District III and the need there.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Art Seitz, Fort Lauderdale resident, commented that this will be a catalyst for eastern Broward County and Fort Lauderdale. Dedicated bus lanes are effective. He appreciated Mayor Seiler's remarks about bicycle/pedestrian amenities. He was opposed to bike lanes. Commissioner Rodstrom hoped that Mr. Seitz would remain focused and passionate when it comes to the hubs; that there is linkage.

George Platt, Chair of Broward Workshop Transportation Committee, supported The Wave project. The Portland system extends into neighborhoods. It is clearly possible to accomplish. The SFEECC Task Force was launched by Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties is working to expand support in all of the necessary aspects. He hoped that Fort Lauderdale plugs into that process.

There was consensus approval (\$2,932,500; Mayor Seiler wanted the City's contribution of \$10.5 million to be contingent upon the other partners all being in the mix and that no money is transferred until all partners are in the mix. It should be very clear in the tri-party agreement.) The City Manager will recommend a funding source. The City Attorney indicated he would provide information on use of CRA funding before the Commission has to make a decision.

**I-C – PROPERTY PURCHASE – RIVER OAKS AND EDGEWOOD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS – 1950 SW 23 COURT AND 2323 SW 19 AVENUE**

Stephen Scott, Director of Economic Development, outlined Commission direction from June. Paul Allen has reduced his asking price to one million dollars. The City has grant funds in the amount of \$2.75 million for purchase of property in the River Oaks Edgewater neighborhood to improve drainage; \$2.25 million is earmarked for the River Oaks Landings' property. Two appraisals on the River Oaks Landings' property were secured and the average is \$5,077,500. The charter requires a four-fifths vote for any purchase price above \$5,077,000 because it is above the average of the two appraisals. The Public Works Director has indicated a need for as much property as can be acquired. On a per square foot basis, the City could acquire more property with the River Oaks Landings' property. Another option would be for the City to purchase 5.81 acres of the River Oaks Landings' 9 acre property for \$3,999,928. The seller has agreed to this and it is within the average of the two appraisals. The last option has to do with a possible no-match requirement grant in the fall or the coming year.

Vice Mayor Roberts asked about the last Option c. Assistant City Attorney Dunckel explained if the \$800,000 grant is not available at closing, the City would close at \$5.5 million, with a credit for the other \$500,000. Whether the City pays that \$500,000 depends on whether the grant comes in within eighteen months of the closing or twenty-four months of the effective date whichever occurs first. Otherwise, the City has no further obligation.

Commissioner Rogers pointed out the lack of comps (comparable).

With respect to Option c, Vice Mayor Roberts asked about the funding source. Albert Carbon, Director of Public Works, advised funding would be from the Stormwater Enterprise Fund. Vice Mayor Roberts agreed with Mayor Seiler that Option c is the best.

There was consensus approval on Option c.

In response to Paul Allen, members of the Commission noted the logic behind deciding upon Option c. Mr. Allen indicated if there is a problem with the other property, the price may be different. George Platt, representing the River Oaks Landings property owner, indicated he has a level of comfort in closing this transaction and has had discussions with the bank.

**I-F – OUTDOOR CAFÉ TABLES ON WEST SIDE OF STATE ROAD A-1-A – LEASE RENEWAL AND EXTENSION OF BOUNDARIES – FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Stephen Scott, Director of Economic Development, noted the City has a lease with the Florida Department of Transportation that allows outdoor café tables on State Road A-1-A which expires in April. He requested authorization to request in the new lease an extension north to Sunrise Boulevard. There was no objection.

Commissioner Rogers asked staff to ensure there are no hazards with respect to canopies and their height. He mentioned Bubba Gump.

**I-G – CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE TRUST FUND**

Mayor Seiler announced that this item has been removed from the agenda.

**I-D – REHEARSAL PERFORMANCES – STUNT DIVE TRAINING AT FORT LAUDERDALE AQUATIC COMPLEX – REQUEST OF ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL**

Cate McCaffrey, Director of Business Enterprises, outlined the request. In response to Mayor Seiler, Ms. McCaffrey indicated it will not interfere with other scheduled activities. There was consensus approval.

NOTE: The Commission recessed and convened as the Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors from 4:13 p.m. to 4:41 p.m.

**I-I – PROPOSED LIEN SETTLEMENTS – SPECIAL MAGISTRATE AND CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD CASES**

Commissioner Rogers asked if property owner attended any of the special magistrate meetings. Valerie Bohlander, Director of Building Services, indicated the City negotiated with the property owner who just purchased the property in May, 2009. Michael Maloney, Code Enforcement Manager, advised that the previous property owners had a representative attend on their behalf. He was not 100% certain.

There was consensus approval.



**II-A – BUSINESS EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR SERIES – ENTERPRISE ZONE FORT LAUDERDALE AND CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Stephen Scott, Director of Economic Development, indicated this is a report item for the Commission's information which he highlighted.

In response to Commissioner Rogers, Mr. Scott offered to furnish more detail on the presenter for the first seminar and agreed to pursue securing sponsorship funding.

**I-E – 2009-2010 HUD ANNUAL ACTION PLAN – GRANT FUNDING:**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**  
**HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP**  
**EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT**  
**HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS**

Jonathan Brown, Community Development Manager, provided an overview on the various activities funded in the Community Development Block Grant Program with the exception of the public service activities which were addressed at a previous meeting.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Mr. Brown indicated that unused funding is examined along with program income and try to target a strategy that is moving by making a recommendation to the Commission. It could also be a capital improvement project. Such recommended changes come before the Commission in the form of an amendment to the action plan, which is then ultimately submitted back to HUD.

Commissioner DuBose was concerned about the Emergency Shelter Grant Program, that it came back to the City from Broward County in May and the City did what needed to be done yesterday, yet the deadline to expend the funds is September. This has to do with people who really need assistance immediately. He did not want this to happen again.

Commissioner Rogers thought it would be helpful to have a schedule calendar. Mayor Seiler requested such a calendar be posted online and that it be provided to the Council of Civic Associations.

Mr. Brown noted that the Community Services Board would like to establish a subcommittee to review the public service activities process of the Community Development Block Grant program slated to come before the Commission in November. In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Attorney noted the Commission's policy that provides that boards and committees cannot create subcommittees without the Commission's approval because they require additional staff, minutes. There was no consensus with respect to creating a subcommittee. In response to Commissioner Rogers, the City Attorney explained if fewer members than a quorum wish to continue to stay to discuss this, it would be permissible if the meeting has been noticed. It would not be a subcommittee.

**I-B – FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 BUDGET MESSAGE**

Tamara Tennant, President of Riviera Isles Homeowner Association, provided photographs of the Riviera Isles area and a letter, dated July 17, 2009, outlining the

issue. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes. In 1978, the City installed piping from the streets to the canals to address rain water. When there is a high tide, water comes back through the drains and floods the streets. There is standing water for months. She also provided thirty letters from homeowners for the record. People are very frustrated. A study by the Director of Public Works indicated that the streets need to be six to twelve inches.

The City Manager indicated after the Capital Improvement Plan was released and staff met with the association representatives, an idea was formed. Funding priorities could be rearranged for \$75,000 for design work. With this accomplished, staff will know how much the project will cost. It will also then be possible to look for grant opportunities.

Mayor Seiler asked about undergrounding of the utility lines at the same time. The City Manager anticipated the association would have proposal on the undergrounding to the City by late August which could be considered when the Commission discusses the topic. In this way, with Commission concurrence, both could be accomplished at one time. Ms. Tennant appreciated the support, and indicated residents simply want to work through this as one project.

**This item was then deferred to approximately 11:03 p.m. and took place in the Commission chambers.**

Shonda Singleton-Taylor, Acting Director of Management and Budget, reviewed slides on this matter. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes.

In response to Mayor Seiler, Ms. Singleton-Taylor indicated the COLA and merit were part of a contract reached by the prior Commission. The workers compensation increase is primarily due to increased claim cost. The pension is also obligated contractually by the prior Commission. In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Ms. Singleton-Taylor confirmed that for those employees (Teamsters and Federation of Employees) , five percent COLA and five percent merit was budgeted.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Ms. Singleton-Taylor did not believe the City has outsourced the CAFR in the past. Michael Kinneer, Director of Finance, indicated the CAFR preparation is a manual process; staff is exploring automating it.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Ms. Singleton-Taylor advised there is a cost of \$480,636 to administer the Housing and community development grant programs. Greg Brewton, Director of Planning and Zoning, indicated that amount is salaries and other administrative costs. Vice Mayor Roberts suggested all grants include an amount taken from the grant itself. There would be temporary positions funded by the particular grant. Mr. Brewton indicated there is a percentage of the grant allocated toward administration, but it does not cover the full cost. Vice Mayor Roberts asked about increasing the percentage in order to cover the cost. Mr. Brewton explained the problem is that often funding fluctuates but the requirement to manage a grant does not change. Vice Mayor Roberts emphasized that administrative personnel cost be included as much as possible in all grants. In response to Commissioner DuBose, Mr. Brewton indicated there are maximum percentages in grants for this purpose which fluctuates from grant to grant. Jonathan Broward, Housing and Community Development Manager, provided more specific information on such guidelines for SHIP and CDBG programs. A percentage of program income is allowed. The neighborhood stabilization program is anticipated to

provide a large amount of program income provided the houses can be turned around. This would provide an offset. Mr. Brewton indicated staff tries to recapture some administrative costs even for those grants outsourced for administration. A decision on whether to outsource depends on each case. It is questionable because staff has to make sure that the work gets done regardless. In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Mr. Brewton advised that in order to operate the division, the funding commitment (\$480,636) would be needed.

Commissioner Rodstrom wanted to see specifics on the reduced operating expenditures of \$3.6 million. Ms. Singleton-Taylor referred to the expenditure report for each department; individual line item detail is not available at this time.

In response to Commissioner Rogers, the City Auditor indicated he recommended the Cemetery Fund be included in the budget so that the Commission could see the activity in that trust. He speculated it is included as reflected in order show the entire fund balance as a source of funds that could be utilized for their operations. Ms. Singleton-Taylor indicated this year the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund and the Arts and Sciences District Garage funds have been included. Last year, Housing and Urban Development was added. Last year it resulted in an addition of \$13 million; and this year, \$18 million. The City Manager explained these funds always existed but now they are recorded in the all funds budget. Vice Mayor Roberts felt it is important to keep in mind the \$18 million differential.

Norm Mason, Assistant Director of Management and Budget, reviewed those slides relating to the Enterprise Funds and All Funds budgets, funding reductions, Fund Balance, Fleet Plan.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Mr. Mason indicated the staffing reductions are positions that were included in the budget, are vacant, and will not be filled. Commissioner Rogers asked if the sixty-eight position reduction includes people who plan to retire next year. The City Manager advised that there are some vacancies, for which funding was not eliminated. The department directors decided which vacant positions would not impact operations. There were sixty positions not filled last year. The sixty-eight positions are in addition to the sixty positions. Mr. Mason indicated that attrition was factored in at a dollar level.

At Mayor Seiler's request, Albert Carbon, Director of Public Works, provided more detail concerning the Central Region Enterprise Fund and how the rates are set.

Mayor Seiler was pleased to see the vehicle savings in the Fleet Plan.

In response to Commissioner Rogers, Diana Alarcon, Director of Parking and Fleet, advised there are roughly 1,500 vehicles in the fleet, but it is being reduced. Commissioner Rodstrom asked how many vehicles have been replaced in the past three years. Ms. Alarcon offered to furnish that number to Commissioner Rodstrom. Mayor Seiler commented about some misconceptions concerning the fleet, for example, parking meter vehicles. He wanted the public to have a clear understanding in such items. Commissioner Rodstrom thought the parking enforcement vehicles should be simply identified as enforcement vehicles.

Albert Carbon, Director of Public Works, reviewed those slides pertaining to the Capital Improvement Plan, those projects to be funded this fiscal year.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom's question about the South Middle River Neighborhood Improvement Master Plan, Mr. Carbon indicated there is \$400,000 in CDBG funding. Once the Commission decides upon the projects to do, staff will decide which funding sources should be used for the selected projects taking into consideration restrictions on use of the funds.

In response to Mayor Seiler's question, Clara Bennett, Executive Airport Manager, indicated there was State funding for the customs building at the airport had been taken away, but will now be given back. There is about \$244,000 for design promised from the State. There is programming for construction in future years.

The City Auditor indicated there are a number of items in the capital improvement plan that are inappropriate. From a generally accepted accounting principles perspective, repairs are not capital projects. Capital improvements projects are real estate or something affixed thereto. Information technology wiring, cables are capital, but servers, computers or software are not.

In response to Commissioner Rogers' question that the total capital increased from \$15 million to \$16,159,893, Mr. Carbon explained in June when the Commission stopped certain projects, they were not removed out of the budget, but simply stopped and placed in the CIP holding account. Also, during the year there were requests, for example Osswald Park. He provided more detail concerning Osswald Park. There is \$7,374,772 in projects that the Commission directed not to move forward (page 87). This amount allows staff to move forward with this funding without requesting anything in this year's budget. The capital improvement program is being cut almost in half for this fiscal year. Ms. Singleton-Taylor elaborated upon the CIP accounting details. Commissioner Rogers requested the amount expended to date from the \$15 million CIP.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked how much is being taken from the Fund Balance next year. Ms. Singleton-Taylor advised \$10 million is proposed. No monies are being transferred from the General Fund for next year's CIP. Commissioner Rodstrom wanted to know how the \$10 million will be used. The City Manager explained it is an overall spending plan; budget stabilization in order to avoid layoffs. Commissioner Rodstrom was concerned that a budget stabilization fund was not established by the previous Commission. Mayor Seiler felt it is actually an accounting matter because it could have been called a budget stabilization fund or simply left unspent. Commissioner Rodstrom asked about departmental savings. Ms. Singleton-Taylor advised there is an operational reduction of \$3.6 million. Mayor Seiler requested the Commission be provided with department reductions.

Commissioner Rogers asked about Other General Government (page 29). Ms. Singleton-Taylor indicated this has to do with union negotiations. Mayor Seiler indicated this covers many things. In further response, Ms. Singleton-Taylor indicated the Parks and Recreation departmental decrease is a combination of vacant positions and expenditure reductions. About a million or so dollars is attributed to positions. He asked about the Fire-Rescue departmental budget. Mr. Carbon indicated funding for stations would be shown in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mayor Seiler recognized members of the Budget Advisory Board in the audience: Fred Nesbitt and Alan Silva. They wanted to defer commenting at this meeting and indicated they had requested analyses. Mayor Seiler asked that the Commission be copied on whatever analyses the board requests.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Robert Walsh, 401 East Las Olas Boulevard, asked about the procedure for going forward with various amounts earmarked in the budget. Mayor Seiler advised that the Commission would specifically approve the items. In further response to Mr. Walsh, Mayor Seiler elaborated upon the City's efforts in pursuing grant funding.

Mr. Walsh went on to express his opposition to expending funds to preserve the house at 215 SW 7 Avenue, agenda item R-02 (Case 9-H-05).

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Mr. Silva did not wish to comment until requested analyses have been received. The board has requested information on the Reserve Fund. He also mentioned recurring obligations. Commissioner Rodstrom indicated there should be concern about what decisions made today will impact the future.

#### **I-H – FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES – CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE REPRESENTATION ON LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES**

Mayor Seiler volunteered for intergovernmental relations. Commissioner DuBose volunteered for growth management and transportation. Commissioner Rogers volunteered for finance and taxation. Vice Mayor Roberts volunteered for urban administration. Commissioner Rodstrom volunteered for energy and environmental quality.

#### **III-A – COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION AND MINUTES CIRCULATED FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JULY 16, 2009**

Mayor Seiler noted the Aviation Advisory Board wanted to bring to the Commission's attention the outstanding work being done by the Noise Abatement Office.

The City Clerk noted that in response to concern about timeliness of communications, they will be provided to the Commission before the minutes are approved.

Mayor Seiler noted the Budget Advisory Board has requested an analysis of the reserve fund for the last eight years. He felt that is a good idea. With respect to that board's request to create subcommittees. The problem is staffing them. Boards and committees can continue their meeting without a quorum.

Alan Silva, Chair of the Budget Advisory Board, indicated minutes must be taken even if there is not a quorum, therefore the burden of staff support is not relieved. Some members of the board want to get more involved in certain items of the budget. With the time shortage this year, Mayor Seiler suggested subcommittees be addressed at the end of September for the future. Mr. Silva agreed that was essentially the board's thought as well. Vice Mayor Roberts suggested that each individual member could become an

expert in an area. Commissioner DuBose suggested workshops instead of subcommittees.

Commissioner Rodstrom distributed copies of the Budget Advisory Board scope.

Commissioner Rogers wanted the boards and committees to be certain that the communications are a clear consensus. The City Clerk indicated she is working to make it clear that the Commission would like only a consensus or motion of the board or committee.

Mayor Seiler noted the Code Enforcement Board's recommendation to expedite and streamline the permit process. He felt some sort of task force needs to be created to accomplish this. It should be indicated to the board that a proposal will be forthcoming.

Mayor Seiler referred to the Marine Advisory Board's motion on Peterson Fuel. The City Attorney indicated this issue is regulatory and land use. Zoning applies in the Intracoastal. There are limitations on the City's ability to regulate navigation of vessels in the Intracoastal and surrounding waters, but clearly for commercial use, he believed the City has the authority and the obligation to regulate the zoning in the Intracoastal. The proposal is to change the zoning that will allow Peterson to operate at a particular area and this will come back to the Commission.

Commissioner Rogers felt there is concern for residents and the neighborhoods. Although he respected the free enterprise system, there needs to be some balance.

In response to Mayor Seiler and a communication from the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Board, Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation, outlined where there are currently lightning handheld detectors and the Capital Improvement Plan contains money for predictors to clear the parks and pools before the lightning hits. The predictors would address those areas that are not staffed. The City Manager noted this is something that could be discussed with the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mayor Seiler referred to the Planning and Zoning Board's deferral of the Bahia Mar item (Case 3-ZPUD-08). He commented about the lack of a traffic study being significant. Commissioner Rogers noted that a study was conducted by Keith and Schnars, but the individual is no longer employed by Keith and Schnars. This should be addressed. Commissioner Rodstrom thought that review of traffic is purely an item for review by the Planning and Zoning Board. Commissioner Rogers thought staff should meet with Keith and Schnars and point out that they were paid for this work. Albert Carbon, Director of Public Works, advised that this has been addressed.

Mayor Seiler wanted staff to continue negotiating size, scale and scope of the project, and to address the project finances. He thought there was Commission consensus on this. Commissioner Rodstrom referred to the three items previously highlighted by the Mayor: boat show, finances and impact. She thought the board might be confused about looking at the impact based upon the design presented which could possibly violate the charter with construction of condominiums.

Vice Mayor Roberts thought there should have Planning and Zoning Board discussion of whether it is rezoned PUD or it stays the same and the ramifications.

Commissioner Rodstrom did not think it should be packaged and presented as a site plan before the Planning and Zoning Board because the site plan contains the condominiums. She suggested they first analyze the rezoning and present a recommendation to the Commission.

Commissioner DuBose thought the consensus was to move forward with the process.

Commissioner Rogers questioned that it go forward to the Planning and Zoning Board, if the Commission cannot get on the same page with which to do first. He agreed with Commissioner Rodstrom that the plan is not permitted under the current zoning. The PUD issue is pivotal. He wanted to get some items like height sorted out first.

The City Manager advised that staff will be meeting with the developer in August and perhaps will have some items fleshed out. He believed staff received clear direction at the last meeting. Hopefully, the Commission will have more information in September.

Commissioner Rogers wanted to make sure that staff is comfortable with the representative from Keith and Schnars on the traffic study. If there is uncertainty, the City should commission another study.

In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Attorney believed that the boat show issue is resolved, although they have not done an indepth analysis.

The City Manager understood staff was to look into the finances and scaling back the project.

Commissioner Rogers did not want to violate the face of the charter. Commissioner Rodstrom agreed.

**The conference meeting recessed at approximately 5:42 p.m. and reconvened in the Commission chambers at approximately 11:03 p.m. to address item I-B; at 12:40 a.m., they returned to the regular meeting, item R-05 and reconvened again at approximately 12:56 a.m. to address Commission Reports.**

### **III-B – CONSENSUS BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

NOTE: Please see regular meeting item R-06.

### **IV - City Commission Reports**

#### **Citizens Volunteer Corps Projects**

At Mayor Seiler's request, Genia Ellis announced the upcoming Citizens Volunteer Corps projects.

#### **Budget Workshop**

Commissioner Rodstrom was interested in a workshop on the budget. Mayor Seiler asked the City Clerk to look into the Commission's availability in late August.

Baltimore Orioles Update

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Mayor Seiler advised that the Baltimore Orioles have a tentative agreement reached with Sarasota.

City Manager Review

Commissioner Rodstrom asked about the process and timing on the City Manager's contract. Mayor Seiler anticipated it will be done in September. He asked that each member of the Commission meet with the Manager individually. The City Attorney advised the Mayor needs to meet with the City Manager in September and report back to the Commission within twenty-one days of that meeting.

State Road A-1-A Greenway

Commissioner Rodstrom asked that staff keep her in the loop with respect to the design effort.

17<sup>th</sup> Street Causeway; formation of merchants association

Commissioner Rogers announced that merchants along 17<sup>th</sup> Street Causeway have indicated their intention to form as a merchants association.

District III upcoming events

Commissioner DuBose announced upcoming events in District III.

South Beach signage; Galt Mile shops

Vice Mayor Roberts referred to a letter from the Chamber of Commerce Beach Council that the signage for South Beach be examined as it is confusing with Miami's South Beach. The council would like to work with staff to develop different signage. Also the Galt Mile shops have decided to rename the area to North Beach Shops and Restaurants. Signage is being worked on to attract more business.

City Commission agenda and support documents

Vice Mayor Roberts was concerned about the agenda process. He wanted to move the process back a day. The City Auditor's review and comments are then delayed which means the Commission is sometimes looking for answers on key issues until the day before the meeting. In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Clerk outlined the current deadline and noted that until the items are actually signed by the City Manager nothing can happen with them. The City Manager explained there are now more items and need for discussion. It is a new Commission. He was concerned about compressing the timeline. Mayor Seiler asked the City Manager to propose a timeline with which everyone is comfortable. He wanted to make sure agenda items are available to the public in advance. The sooner the agenda is finalized, the sooner the public knows what will be up for discussion. Commissioner Rogers indicated he would appreciate an additional day for review, but did not want to put more pressure on staff. Perhaps there should be a little few items. Commissioner Rodstrom pointed out that the length of the meetings has to do with the Commission's desires on the amount of discussion. It is



more about the time that the items are submitted to the Clerk. She also preferred an additional day of review and that is why she was interested in being able to access the agenda software. She expanded upon the difficulty in getting answers in the timeframe available.

The City Manager explained many of the conference items are a result of commissioner requests, which is new. There is a tremendous amount of time needed by staff to prepare weighty items. He offered to try to find a way to streamline.

The City Clerk pointed out there were twenty more items on this meeting last year. It is true there are some things that are different with a new Commission, but the Clerk's staff has never had to work until 3 a.m. It is about keeping staff this late, but it is also about the process. Mayor Seiler pointed out there have never been four new members before. In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, the City Manager noted even though there are less items this year, the meeting is going until 1:15 a.m., thus the dynamic has changed.

Commissioner DuBose was frustrated with emails from the City Auditor on a Monday or Tuesday of the meeting. He wanted staff to work together. It is not possible to leave for a weekend until Friday.

Vice Mayor Roberts felt it is a process issue. The items are not signed off until Thursday evening. If more than half of the items are not signed off until after 5 p.m., this is the problem. The final signoff should be the day before.

In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Manager explained after the agenda is published, staff prepares for the meeting. There is a limited amount of time from the meeting and the first round of deadlines. The City Clerk pointed out that all of the charter officers are involved in this. Mayor Seiler asked that all of the charter officers look into improving the deadline.

#### **V – City Manager Reports**

None given.

The City Commission met privately in executive closed door session from 1:35 a.m. to 2:18 a.m. and then adjourned.

#### **EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION WAS HELD AT 1:35 A.M.**

**The City Commission shall meet privately regarding the following:**

**Collective Bargaining (Florida Statute 447.605)**