



MAY 2013

## New era begins at City Hall for District 2

It's been a busy first couple months at City Hall, and I want to take a moment to tell you what's been going on in District 2.

Since I was sworn in as your city commissioner on March 19, we've begun work on several new initiatives and are trying to jumpstart some district projects that have been delayed too long.

Over the next couple months, I will be working with city staff to fine-tune a proposal to obtain county aid for improvements to the 13th Street corridor.

The city wants to add on-street parking and wider sidewalks, construct bike lanes, and improve landscaping and street-lighting. A vibrant streetscape and pedestrian-friendly environment should help stimulate redevelopment.

We also have made inroads in obtaining funds to pave the three unimproved streets in South Middle River. They are being designed as one-lane roads with adjacent landscaping.

In Middle River Terrace, we are working with residents to reach a conclusion on plans to improve Dixie Highway. The city has scheduled a forum for 6 p.m. June 6 at Art Serve, 1350 E. Sunrise Blvd., to present plans and answer questions. Neighborhood property owners will then vote if they want to proceed.



At the end of April, I joined Commissioner Romney Rogers at a town hall forum to discuss traffic problems on Las Olas Boulevard. We are looking for solutions that maintain Las Olas as a business and entertainment destination, protect neighborhoods and provide easy travel for residents of the Isles.

We are now making progress on the creation of a dog play area in Holiday Park. The idea is to utilize a small portion of the park so dog owners have another convenient place in the city to take their pets in addition to Snyder Park's Bark Park and the Canine Beach.

The city also recently agreed to invest \$30,000 in redevelopment funds to help create a community garden in Flagler Village.

Years of discussion have surrounded undergrounding utilities on the Isles off Las Olas. By the middle of summer, I anticipate the proposal to bury utility lines in Idlewyld, Riviera Isles, Las Olas Isles and Seven Isles will advance to the next stage.

The City Commission will hold a public hearing on whether to proceed with detailed engineering plans and pay for that work through a special charge on the water bills for residents in those neighborhoods.

The pedestrian railings on Las Olas Boulevard will be replaced beginning in June.

The commission recently approved the contract to modify the railings between Southeast 16th Avenue and Sunset Drive. More than half will be removed and replaced either with landscaping or retaining walls



topped with horizontal rails. Construction will be this summer.

I also joined the commission in authorizing an agreement with other regional governments to establish the Wave streetcar. The agreement represents the core understanding for design, construction and operation of the Wave, a 2.7-mile electric streetcar that will serve downtown.

The city has also begun construction on Hendricks Isle to address flooding, approved the purchase of decorative street signs for Progresso Village and authorized the dredging of several canals in the district.

You can expect regular newsletters and updates from me to keep you abreast of what is happening in District 2.

I hope to be a tireless advocate for preserving the integrity of our neighborhoods and finding balance to the growth of our city. Working with residents and city officials, we can carve out a new direction for our community.

Sincerely,

Dean 

# Major road and bridge projects advance

A series of major construction projects are commencing around District 2.

The Florida Department of Transportation has begun the rehabilitation of the bridge on Las Olas Boulevard over the Intracoastal Waterway.

Three inches of concrete will be removed from the deck of the bridge leading up to the movable span. This is needed to address salt permeating through the top of the deck, but the result should also create a smoother ride for drivers.

The open, steel sidewalk grating on the movable bridge span will be removed and replaced with a solid, aluminum plating that is slip resistant. New pedestrian railings will be installed, and the bridge painted.

FDOT is in the final stages of planning two other projects.

One is the replacement of Sunrise Boulevard's bridge that

crosses the Middle River near the Galleria Mall. Construction is expected to start in August or September and will take 18 months to complete. The first stage will be building a temporary bridge north of the existing bridge to handle westbound traffic while the construction occurs.

Transportation engineers consider the bridge to be structurally deficient and in need of replacement. The new bridge will have a similar configuration with four traffic lanes and adjacent sidewalks.

The other project encompasses the replacement of five island bridges in the district. The existing bridges on Las Olas Boulevard at Fiesta Way, Isle of Venice Drive, Royal Palm Drive and Nurmi Drive as well as the one at the entrance of Sunrise Key are considered structurally deficient.

The new two-lane bridges with sidewalks are being designed. Construction should begin in November or December.

In addition, the City Commission recently joined me in laying the groundwork for long-term reconstruction of State Road A1A where it was damaged last year during Hurricane Sandy.

The result should be a much improved road that is less prone to flooding as well safer and more appealing to the pedestrians and bicyclists enjoying our beach. The cost of the improvements will be covered by the Florida Department of Transportation.

The plan narrows A1A between Northeast 14th Court and Northeast 18th Street to two lanes with a turning lane-landscaped median strip. A 17-foot promenade would be built along the beach, and there would be 5-foot bike lanes on each side of the road.



Broward County Judge Robert Lee swore Commissioner Trantalis into office in a ceremony at City Hall after he won a special election for the District 2 seat.



Commissioner Trantalis joins other local officials at the groundbreaking of a new Bokamper's restaurant at 3115 NE 32nd Ave. in Fort Lauderdale.

Commissioner Trantalis hosts regular community forums to discuss the agendas of upcoming City Commission meetings. They are held at 5:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month in the 7th floor conference room of City Hall except when the commission is in recess.

If you would like to receive an email version of this newsletter and other updates from Commissioner Trantalis, please send an email to [swyman@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:swyman@fortlauderdale.gov) or call 954-828-5923.