



From the desk of  
**STEVEN GLASSMAN**  
Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner, District 2



## August 2018 Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

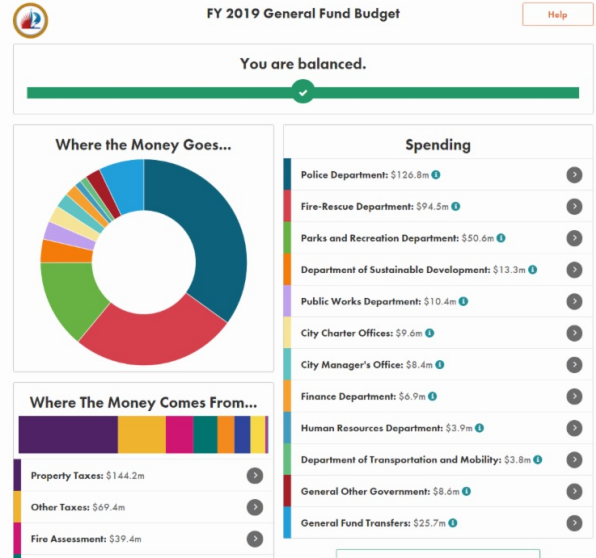
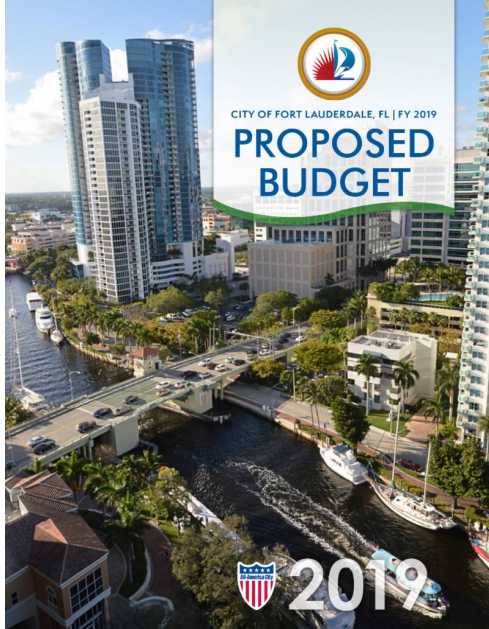
While the Commission is currently on summer recess, I am eagerly looking forward to resuming our work. Our next meeting on **Tuesday, August 21** will include (as of this date) the Alexan project and Fire Station 8. As always, our Commission Assistant, Pratima Raju, will continue to be available for calls and meetings regarding any neighborhood concerns. I sincerely hope everyone is enjoying the summer, and I look forward to your participation as we continue making strides forward.

### 2019 Budget and Millage Rates

As many of you know, one of the main reasons I decided to run for the City Commission was my concern with how the budget was allocated and managed under the previous Commission. At the Commission goals-setting workshop in May, I made it clear that we needed to end the debatable practice of raiding the sewer and water funds to balance the budget for year-to-year general operating expenses. In June, I repeated this desire to eliminate the practice at a joint meeting with the Budget Advisory Board and gained support from Mayor Trantalis and Vice-Mayor Sorenson. At the last Commission meeting on July 10, I again reiterated that the proposed 2019 budget needs to reflect the intentions of the majority of the Commission and stop the "return on investment" practice. Our vigilance leading up to the meeting resulted in a responsible compromise to phase out ROI over four years to prevent a drastic \$20M+ blow to the budget all at once (instead reducing the budget by \$5M over four years).

To help implement a more fiscally responsible budget, the millage rate was provisionally adjusted at the same meeting - an increase of \$14 per every \$100,000 of assessed value. This means a \$300,000 home would pay \$42 more for the year. This tentative millage rate increase provides a safety net if the City Manager is unable to reduce the budget in an acceptable fashion or find alternative funding for \$5M. Again, this is a safety measure, as it is a much more difficult process to raise the millage rate in September, but we can always decrease it with no problem. That is why I supported this preemptive increase - so as not to pin us in a corner right away, and to give our city the flexibility to focus on our biggest problems while controlling our debt. Please note that the rate is not officially set until Q3 of this year - we still have two meetings in September to finalize the budget.

I would also like to thank everyone who has offered notes and suggestions to the proposed 2019 budget. I am making my way through the materials a second time and hope to have a thoughtful and productive discussion at **the two budget hearings on Thursday, September 6, and Wednesday September 12, at 6:00PM**. I am very much looking forward to working with the community and hearing your ideas on how to balance our budget while tackling the challenges that lay ahead for our great City. Click the budget book to view the 2019 proposed budget and click the chart to provide input on how YOU would balance the budget.



## Controlled Development and Call-Ups

We have made progress in ensuring that Fort Lauderdale follows a path to controlled, smart growth, starting with the Commission's bold action in using its "call-up" authority to review amendments to development site plans. Previously, many major projects were simply rubber-stamped by staff with no discussion by the City Commission. This precluded the democratic engagement from our community in the discussion. Now our process has led to an outcome which has been positive, providing more community participation and better results for surrounding residents and neighborhoods.

Our first call-up back in April was the Alexan project located just south of the US1-Kinney Tunnel and alongside Smoker Park. Residents were concerned with the height, density, impact on infrastructure and neighborhood compatibility. After months of public debate and discussions, the developer has agreed to reduce the height by almost 100 feet and the number of units by 30%. My intent going forward is to change the code so that the City Commission, not just staff, has oversight of significant projects affecting all of Fort Lauderdale.

At the last Commission meeting in July, we approved a Development Agreement with the owners of the Pier 66 parcel and the Sails property on the south side of the bridge at the Intracoastal and 17th Street. Our city staff and neighborhood groups worked with the developer on a revised agreement that ultimately, among other things, unified the parcels, reduced the potential scope of the overall project by decreasing the maximum number of housing units that can be requested (800 to 575) and shortened the length of the agreement (20 to 15 years). However, the Development Agreement is only the first step in the project process - simply setting the parameters, with no entitlements, as we move forward. There will be many opportunities for your input and further evaluation once the developer submits a site plan - neighborhood meetings, the Development Review Committee, Planning and Zoning, and Commission review. All of these are open to the public and I would encourage your participation to ensure a dynamic discussion.

I will continue to utilize call-ups and other available means to provide more general transparency and properly vet development projects that will have a lasting effect on Fort Lauderdale long after this and future Commissions.



The Iconic Pier 66 Tower which the Developer has pledged to designate historic.

Steve Glassman  
Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner, District 2

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### **Calendar Highlights**

#### **Tuesday, August 7**

National Night Out Against Crime at Carter Park 5-9PM

#### **Wednesday, August 15**

First Day of School for Broward County

Central City CRA Rezoning Workshop #3 at War Memorial Auditorium 6-8PM

#### **Monday, August 20**

District 2 Pre-Agenda Meeting at City Hall, 8th Floor Conference Room 5:30-7PM

#### **Tuesday, August 21**

Commission Conference Meeting at City Hall, 8th Floor Conference Room 1:30PM

Commission Regular Meeting at City Hall, Chambers 6:00PM

#### **Tuesday, August 28**

Florida Primary Election

#### **Monday, September 3**

Labor Day (No Pre-Agenda Meeting)

#### **Tuesday, September 4**

Commission Conference Meeting at City Hall, 8th Floor Conference Room 1:30PM

Commission Regular Meeting at City Hall, Chambers 6:00PM

#### **Thursday, September 6**

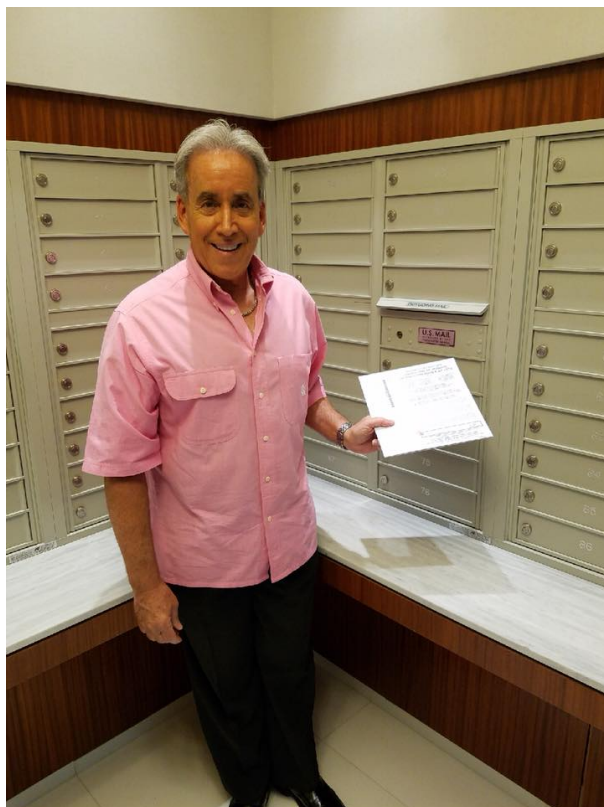
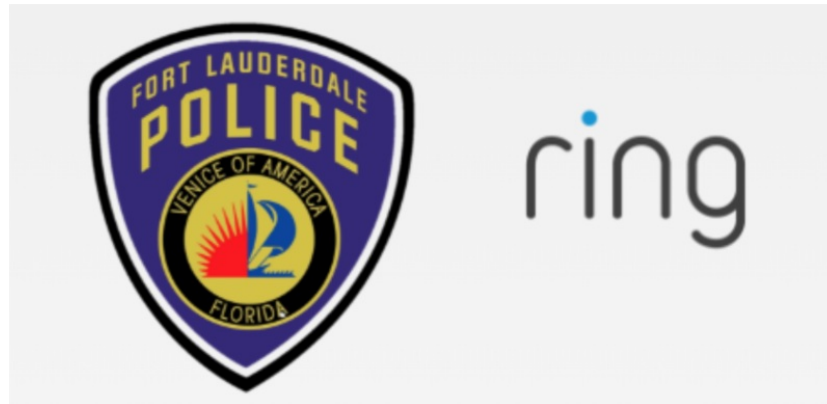
Commission Budget Hearing #1 at City Hall Chambers 6:00PM



For the full calendar of events and details visit [fortlauderdale.gov/visitors/event-calendar](http://fortlauderdale.gov/visitors/event-calendar)

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**FLPD is joining *Neighbors*, a digital neighborhood watch that puts the power of millions of neighbors and security cameras at your fingertips.** The *Neighbors* application by Ring, available on iOS or Android devices, creates a network of connected residents who can communicate in real time about neighborhood safety. This partnership provides our department with an additional crime reduction strategy to continue our efforts to decrease crime and improve safety. FLPD encourages everyone to download the *Neighbors* app, and discover the power that can emerge from combining neighbors, cameras and the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. For more details click the image below.



**The primary election is August 28!**

Please vote - we all need to do our part and exercise this most important, fundamental right of our democracy.

**You can vote early from August 18 - 26 from 10am to 6pm at three Fort Lauderdale locations.**

**African-American Research Library**  
2650 Sistrunk Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

**Coral Ridge Mall (North Entrance)**  
3200 N Federal Hwy, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306

**Fort Lauderdale Library/ArtServe**  
1350 E Sunrise Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

**For more information, visit [browardsoe.org](http://browardsoe.org)**

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Commissioner Glassman joined dozens of participants for the second Central City Rezoning Public Workshop at the War Memorial Auditorium on Wednesday, July 10.

**The last Central City CRA Rezoning public workshop is slated for Wednesday, August 15 at 6PM at War Memorial Auditorium.** This is your opportunity to discuss new mixed-use zoning classifications for the area. Your attendance is needed to help prioritize goals and identify community preferences, needs, and focus areas. Click the image above for details regarding the project.

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On Tuesday, June 26, Commissioner Glassman addressed the packed house at the South Middle River Civic Association Meeting. He discussed City issues and stressed the importance of being on the email list for all notices and newsletters. Thank you to the Police Officers and Code Compliance who also attended.

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On Thursday, July 26 Commissioner Glassman attended a terrific event hosted by the New River Inn/Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. The GLBX (Gay and Lesbian Business Exchange of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce) held its monthly gathering and featured the beautiful art of Tim Forman. Congrats to all involved.

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District 2 is home to many new residents currently moving in to Riva Condominium near US 1 and Sunrise Blvd. Board member Cindy Gaiette invited Commissioner Glassman to a Sunset Happy Hour on Friday, July 27 to meet his new constituents and tour the new building. It was a pleasure!

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**The greatness of our community starts with passionate citizens like you.**

**Please do not hesitate to contact our District 2 Commission assistant, Pratima Raju, with any questions, comments or thoughtful suggestions at [praju@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:praju@fortlauderdale.gov) or 954-828-5923.**

Visit the District 2 Website

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