



From the desk of

STEVEN GLASSMAN

Fort Lauderdale Vice Mayor, District 2



May 2020 Newsletter

May 11, 2020

Relaunch Lauderdale

Most of Florida has begun to reopen including Palm Beach County which has a higher COVID-19 death rate per 100,000 than Broward County. That leaves just Miami-Dade and Broward Counties and many Fort Lauderdale residents, like me, are anxious to return to more of our daily routines and experience our beaches, restaurants, businesses and everything our beautiful city has to offer; however, we need a smart plan to reopen. The Mayor and his Reopen Fort Lauderdale Working Group developed excellent guidelines and advocated to the State that our city is ready to implement actions to Relaunch Lauderdale and help our city recover with proper safety measures. It is time now for us to join the rest of the State and enter Phase 1 when the Governor's Stay at Home Order expires on May 15; we have met the criteria for reopening.

Our City took the lead by closing Fort Lauderdale Beach during the heart of Spring Break when no one else in Broward would take any measures and we are continuing to work hard to protect the health of our residents. Sadly, each day I hear from so many business owners, especially restaurant owners, who are running on fumes. Some small businesses have shuttered completely, many have no idea if they will recover or ever open again, and I hear from neighbors who are desperate to get back to work in order to provide for their families. We have all made the sacrifice in order to protect the public's health, but now we must begin to find the balance while still remaining smart and safe.

How do we continue to protect everyone's health while understanding the heart wrenching suffering of folks who want to work, who need to earn money, and need to pay bills? Their concerns are now, too, causing undue health issues of their own. It is time to implement creative solutions to help Relaunch Lauderdale.

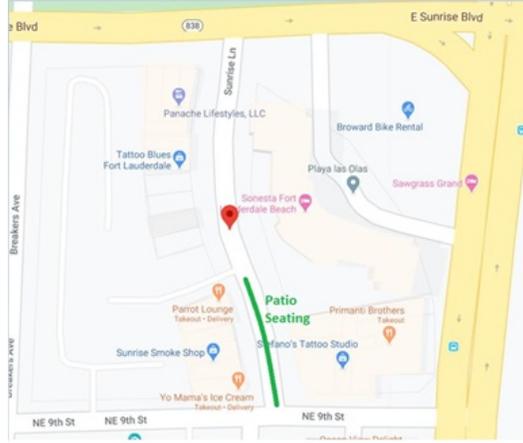
Businesses and neighbors are eager to get back to work and guidelines have been established to implement proper steps and procedures to Relaunch Lauderdale in a safe and smart way. All businesses should be able to open – some at the recommended reduced capacity levels while maintaining health and distancing guidelines. In addition, multi-family dwellings should be in control of their own private properties. Let them decide which amenities to open responsibly and safely and which should remain closed. We should not delay the opening of businesses or restaurants (at our Working Group's recommendation of 50% capacity) that are ready and able to adhere to the safety guidelines. In addition, there are many creative and safe opportunities to form open festival spaces in parking lots and alleys for both restaurants and retailers in order to decrease our density in public spaces; City Code regulations will need to be relaxed. Examples follow:

Restarting Restaurants & Retail

Spread out on Sunrise Lane:

By creating small festival streets, nearby restaurants can fulfil social distancing measures in an open communal space, providing a healthier and more spacious outdoor dining experience. Customers will be able to ease their way back into our local economy on the beach in an open-air

marketplace and unique eating experience.



Expanded Seating on the Las Olas Sidewalk:

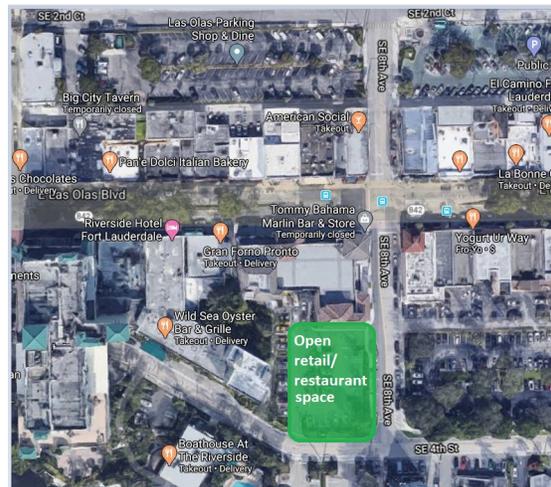
To reboot our local restaurants, we need to consider ways to decrease the density of customers looking to grab a bite to eat, while ensuring scale and sustainability of local business operations. Through the temporary elimination of on-street parking, we can improve dining and pedestrian access while increasing safety. This will ensure that restaurants can get back on their feet and expand capacity in compliance with the Governor's Orders.



Pop-Up Parking Lot Plazas:

Parking lots adjacent to parent properties are in prime position to be temporarily repurposed as we jump start our local economy.

In keeping with social distance guidelines, tents and stations could be set up that obey the 6-foot distance requirements with ground markings. Some of us are old enough to remember the "car hops" who used to place trays on your doors filled with your food order! All of the above examples have application throughout our City.



The Path Forward



Whether we adopt all of these approaches, or only a handful, we will not be alone in this task, and I truly believe that together, our community can tackle any challenge that comes our way. All across the state, our fellow cities and counties will be testing the best methods to restore confidence, preserve the health of neighbors, and revitalize local businesses. Just this past week, Hillsborough County was released from the Governor's order.

As it is not under the same restrictions as Broward County, the City of Tampa produced “Lift Up Local,” a playbook that they have used to implement a tailored economic recovery plan that we might be able to adapt to our particular needs. It is pivotal to get the beaches open quickly and safely, and with input and restrictions set by the Reopen Fort Lauderdale Working Group with non-congregating activities, we should be able to achieve this with deliberate steadiness. Working in coordination with our neighboring beach cities will help spread out recreational resources along the coast.

Bringing Back Fort Lauderdale Beach:

We should look to open the beach on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for the remainder of the month of May beginning on May 19. This will help our first responders understand and adapt to the patterns of beachgoers and return to patrolling our beaches while protecting our community. At the same time, this will allow local families the opportunity to access the beach and begin to return to normalcy.



The beach garages and surface lots should be opened; however, the parking on A1A should remain closed. The beach should be open only for recreational activities in May with no congregating and no towels, blankets, chairs, etc. After June 1, we can reassess the scope of the opening and slowly increase the number of open days and activities, while evaluating the results and ensuring the public welfare.

By following the plan to reopen Fort Lauderdale as presented by the Mayor’s Working Group and incorporating specifics outlined here, our City should be able to begin this process on May 15. Even more specifics can be finalized in the days ahead.

Thank you to everyone who has provided so much feedback these past two months. In the meantime, it is vital that we continue to adhere to all CDC guidelines, maintain social distancing, limit large groups and wear masks; this is our new reality for the foreseeable future. It is also imperative that each of us behave in a way that does not imperil our future. Every citizen must take personal responsibility for his/her actions and must realize that if we do not conduct ourselves in a responsible fashion, then we risk relapse and the loss of all of our Relaunch Lauderdale initiatives.

If anyone is not comfortable with participating in the reopening, has an underlying medical condition, or is a member of a vulnerable population, then it is best, if possible, to continue to Stay Safe at Home.

Stay safe; stay healthy!

Steve Glassman
Vice Mayor

COMPLETE YOUR 2020 CENSUS!

As a reminder, please make sure to fill out the 2020 census! Less than half of our community have responded to the census so far and it takes less than 10 minutes to complete. We need, more now than ever, for everyone to be counted for our share of

Click on below image to video link



2020 CENSUS SELF-RESPONSE RATES

National Self-Response Rate: 57.3%

Florida Self-Response Rate: 55.1%

Fort Lauderdale Self-Response Rate: 48%

(as of May 7, 2020)

A complete and accurate census count is important for everyone, including first responders. When Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida in 1992, first responders and public safety professionals used census data to estimate the number of people in each block to aid the rescue effort. The 2020 Census data will provide federal funding to help first responders:

- Battle the spread of pandemics like COVID-19 and other emergencies, and measure their economic impact to help our nation recover.
- Identify areas where assistance is most needed and how many people need help after natural disasters and other emergencies.
- Plan and prepare for, as well as recover from, all types of emergencies.

Help Fort Lauderdale get its fair share of federal funding for public safety for the next 10 years. [Complete your census](#) today and encourage others to do so too!

Learn More About Neighborhood Response Rates

The Census Self-Response Rate map provides daily updates on census responses at the national, state, and local level. To find out how your neighborhood is responding, visit the City's Self-Response Rate [web page](#) and select "Florida" and "Fort Lauderdale" from state and city menu at the right of the page. Then select "Census Tract" from the menu and hover your mouse over each tract (or click on it) to see the response rate for your neighborhood.

Avoid Scams!

The Census Bureau will never ask for your social security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party, your bank or credit card account numbers, or your citizenship. [Learn more](#) about avoiding census scams.

**You count, Fort Lauderdale counts, everyone counts.
Stand up and be counted!**

[Learn more about the 2020 Census](#)

Respond to the Census Anywhere, Anytime



Respond online at
my2020census.gov



Complete and mail back
questionnaire in envelope provided



Respond toll-free by phone at
1-844-330-2020 (English)
1-844-468-2020 (Spanish)
1-844-477-2020 (Haitian Creole)
1-844-474-2020 (Portuguese)
([phone numbers](#) for other
languages)

(Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. By law, your census information cannot be shared with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.)

**Please Watch the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
Special Workshop
Today, Monday, May 11 at 1:30 PM
The workshop agenda will include an update on COVID-19.**

**The Workshop can be accessed:
<https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv**

**Cable Television:
Comcast Channel 78 and ATT Uverse Channel 99**

City of Fort Lauderdale

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

Agenda

City Hall is Closed to the Public

Monday, May 11, 2020 - 1:30 PM

Workshop can be accessed:

<https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
www.fortlauderdale.gov/ltv

Cable Television - Comcast Channel 78 and ATT Uverse Channel 99



FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II

HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I

ROBERT L. McKENZIE Commissioner - District III

BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager

JOHN HERBST, City Auditor

JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

Click below to view the Governor's executive order on the phase 1 plan to reopen Florida

[#2020-120 Executive Order re: Expanding Phase 1: Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery](#)

Sun Sentinel Article

[Plan to reopen Broward could come in day or two, but there's no consensus on extent or timing](#)

[South Florida's confused reopening: What's open, what's closed, and what's next?](#)

**COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions
& Informational Links**

[COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

[Baptist Health](#)

[Memorial Health](#)

[Health Information](#)

[City Rules](#)

[Business Assistance](#)

[Broward School Coronavirus Updates](#)

[Broward Food Resources](#)

[Search COVID-19 In Your Area By Zip Code](#)

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

Please do not hesitate to contact our District 2 Outreach Coordinator, Celia Gisleson, with any questions, comments or thoughtful suggestions cgisleson@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-5923.

[Fort Lauderdale City Calendar](#)

[City News Center](#)

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Steve Glassman
Fort Lauderdale Vice Mayor, District 2