



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

January 14, 2026, at 3:00 PM

www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab

Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Russ Klenet, Chair	P	1	0
William Feinberg, Vice Chair	P	1	0
Nicholas Kollias	P	1	0
Marianna S. DeJager	P	1	0
Allyson Meyers	P	1	0
Jason Hughes	P	1	0
Haley Dowling	P	1	0
Kymrae Mizell-Hill	P	1	0

Staff

Von Howard, Administrative Supervisor (Present)
 Porshia Garcia, Community Services Department Director (Not Present)
 Katrina Johnson, Interim Asst. Community Services Department Director (Present)
 Melissa Mata, Management Analyst (Present)

I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Due to the absence of the Board Chair, Vice Chair, Russel Klenet, called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM. Roll call was issued, and it was noted that quorum was established.

II. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair, Mr. Klenet, carried out a motion to approve the EDAB Minutes from the meeting that took place on Wednesday, November 11, 2025. Motion moved by Member Seiler DeJager and seconded by Member Feinberg. Motion passed; EDAB Minutes were approved at 3:12 PM.

III. 2025 Priorities

The first item discussed on the Agenda was the 2025 Priority list created by the Board in January of 2025. The Board engaged in a discussion saying the list priorities have changed or met over the course of the year. Member Seiler DeJager went through the list and stated, priority number six, “Educational Opportunities in the Downtown Area,” has been met through City programs such as StartUp FTL, SizeUpFTL, and the Impact FTL Microgrant initiative. Discussion continued around priority number four, “Unhoused Individuals in the Downtown Area of the City,” and Priority number five, “Traffic Light Synchronization.” Board members expressed that traffic light synchronization was not considered a suitable solution to current downtown challenges and should be removed from the list along with Priority number four.

IV. 2026 Priorities

During the 2025 Priorities, Vice Chair Klenet open the floor to discuss the 2026 Priorities as a good sequence to the meeting. Vice Chair Klenet, recommended that the Board consider supporting a recommendation to the City Commission for the creation of a new police district in

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Downtown Fort Lauderdale, emphasizing that such a district would be an addition to existing services rather than a replacement. Member Kollias inquired whether the recommendation would require the establishment of a new physical office, and Chair Klenet clarified that the intent was to provide representation and coordination among law enforcement officers in the downtown area. Member Kollias seconded the recommendation.

To provide context, the City liaisons showed the City of Fort Lauderdale GIS map showing existing police districts. Vice Chair Klenet noted that there is currently no designated downtown police district. Further discussion centered on the Himmarshee area, including ongoing public safety and quality-of-life concerns, property acquisitions by developers, alcohol beverage sales permitted until 4:00 a.m., and the negative impact of late-night crime on the City in that area. A potential motion requesting staff to return with information regarding the historical designation of Himmarshee and related business demographics was discussed but ultimately withdrawn. The Board agreed to focus future discussions on Himmarshee and requested that Chief Schultz or a representative attend a future meeting to discuss the potential creation of a downtown police district.

During the meeting, Member Seiler DeJager commented on the success of the StartUp FTL program, noting its positive impact on community members. Member Feinberg asked whether the program had been successful, and it was confirmed that the program continues to demonstrate strong outcomes.

Due to the nature of the discussion, 2026 Priorities were introduced as a new business item. Vice Chair Klenet reiterated that the Board's role is to provide informed recommendations to the City Commission and prompted a discussion regarding the mission of the EDAB. Seiler DeJager stated that the mission centers on supporting the local economy. Vice Chair Klenet noted that the Downtown Development Authority and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance have not regularly participated in Board meetings despite having significant expertise and resources. The Board discussed the importance of engaging subject-matter experts, including the Alliance and CBRE, and suggested inviting them to participate in future discussions. The Downtown area continued into discussion by Vice Chair Klenet, mentioning The Las Olas Boulevard Mobility Plan, noting that it has been debated for several years and includes proposals such as removing the median and expanding sidewalks. Vice Chair Klenet requested the City Liaisons to share the Las Olas Mobility Study with Board members for the board to review independently.

Additional recommendations included improving the consistency of EDAB communications to the City Commission, inviting Chief Schultz to a future meeting to discuss downtown policing, convening a joint discussion with the Alliance and major developers, and scheduling Dr. Zeman to attend a meeting in March.



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V. Communication of Resignation of Board Chair

The Board proceeded with the communication of the Board Chair's resignation. Staff liaison, Von Howard, conveyed the formal notification letter submitted by Enrique Bargioni, in which he reflected on his vision to help move the City of Fort Lauderdale forward and expressed confidence in the Board's ability to continue advancing that vision. In his letter, Mr. Bargioni noted his efforts to introduce new ideas and business attraction strategies, including exploring competitive naming and current developments in neighboring municipalities. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Board Chair and conveyed his confidence that the Board would continue to perform at an exemplary level in his absence.

Following the communication, the Board opened nominations for a new Chair. Member Feinberg nominated Vice Chair Klenet for the position of Board Chair and Member Meyers seconded. With no additional nominations, nominations were closed and Vice Chair Klenet was elected as Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Board. The Board then opened nominations for Vice Chair, with Member Seiler DeJager nominating Member Bill Feinberg for the position. Nominations were closed and following a vote by Member Seiler DeJager and seconded by Member Meyer, Bill Feinberg was elected Vice Chair.

The Board congratulated Russel Klenet as Board Chair and Bill Feinberg as Vice Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Board.

VI. Notification of Ratification of Microgrant Award Recipients

The Board then addressed the notification of ratification of a microgrant award recipient. Acting Assistant Director, Katrina Johnson, explained to the board the situation that arose during the review process of the Impact FTL Microgrant program, regarding a conflict-of-interest involving Board Member Dr. Mizell-Hill, noting that the conflict arose due to the Board Member applying for the microgrant while also participating in the review process. Dr. Mizell-Hill disclosed that the funds were intended to support the payment of an intern within her non-profit organization and explained that her nonprofit organization, which is governed by a board, was required to retract the funds. Board members asked if the Board could provide assistance in any way for Dr. Mizell-Hill to receive the award. Mrs. Johnson stated the Board Member had to abstain from the funds as instructed by the City's Attorney's Office. Chair Russ requested clarification on the purpose of the agenda item, and Mrs. Johnson stated that Dr. Mizell-Hill is required to complete an 8B Form, Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal, and other Local Public Officers, and abstain from the award.

Dr. Mizell-Hil completed the form as requested. See corresponding addendum.

VII. Areas of Concentration

No individual member reports were presented at this meeting.

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VIII. Staff Reports

During Member Reports, Von Howard informed the Board that a representative from SizeUp will be providing a tutorial on SizeUpFTL to the Board at the February meeting. Mr. Howard also reminded members that, with the start of the new calendar year, all attendance absences have been reset to zero. Board Members were advised that, in accordance with Board attendance policies, members may be subject to resignation if they incur four consecutive absences or three absences within a calendar year. Additionally, a reminder was provided that Board Members may participate in meetings virtually, provided prior approval is obtained from the City Clerk's Office.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 4:18 PM.

With no further business, Chair Klenet motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Member Hughes and seconded by Member Mizell-Hill. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 PM.

The next EDAB meeting will be on February 11, 2026, at DSD Building.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

FORM 8B MEMORANDUM OF VOTING CONFLICT FOR COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, AND OTHER LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICERS

LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME <i>Hill Yumrae Mizell</i>	NAME OF BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY, OR COMMITTEE <i>EDAR</i>
MAILING ADDRESS <i>9335 W. Commercial Blvd. #209</i>	THE BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY OR COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE IS A UNIT OF: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CITY <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER LOCAL AGENCY
CITY COUNTY <i>Port Lauderdale FL Broward</i>	NAME OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION:
DATE ON WHICH VOTE OCCURRED <i>11/5/25</i>	MY POSITION IS: <input type="checkbox"/> ELECTIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPOINTIVE

WHO MUST FILE FORM 8B

This form is for use by any person serving at the county, city, or other local level of government on an appointed or elected board, council, commission, authority, or committee. It applies to members of advisory and non-advisory bodies who are presented with a voting conflict of interest under Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes.

Your responsibilities under the law when faced with voting on a measure in which you have a conflict of interest will vary greatly depending on whether you hold an elective or appointive position. For this reason, please pay close attention to the instructions on this form before completing and filing the form.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 112.3143, FLORIDA STATUTES

A person holding elective or appointive county, municipal, or other local public office **MUST ABSTAIN** from voting on a measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss. Each elected or appointed local officer also **MUST ABSTAIN** from knowingly voting on a measure which would inure to the special gain or loss of a principal (other than a government agency) by whom he or she is retained (including the parent, subsidiary, or sibling organization of a principal by which he or she is retained); to the special private gain or loss of a relative; or to the special private gain or loss of a business associate. Commissioners of community redevelopment agencies (CRAs) under Sec. 163.356 or 163.357, F.S., and officers of independent special tax districts elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis are not prohibited from voting in that capacity.

For purposes of this law, a "relative" includes only the officer's father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law. A "business associate" means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with the officer as a partner, joint venturer, coowner of property, or corporate shareholder (where the shares of the corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange).

* * * * *

ELECTED OFFICERS:

In addition to abstaining from voting in the situations described above, you must disclose the conflict:

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN by publicly stating to the assembly the nature of your interest in the measure on which you are abstaining from voting; *and*

WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE VOTE OCCURS by completing and filing this form with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who should incorporate the form in the minutes.

* * * * *

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Although you must abstain from voting in the situations described above, you are not prohibited by Section 112.3143 from otherwise participating in these matters. However, you must disclose the nature of the conflict before making any attempt to influence the decision, whether orally or in writing and whether made by you or at your direction.

IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH THE VOTE WILL BE TAKEN:

- You must complete and file this form (before making any attempt to influence the decision) with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who will incorporate the form in the minutes. (Continued on page 2)

APPOINTED OFFICERS (continued)

- A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency.
- The form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

IF YOU MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION EXCEPT BY DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING:

- You must disclose orally the nature of your conflict in the measure before participating.
- You must complete the form and file it within 15 days after the vote occurs with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who must incorporate the form in the minutes. A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency, and the form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

I, Kymrae Mizell Hill, hereby disclose that on November 5, 20 25:

(a) A measure came or will come before my agency which (check one or more)

- inured to my special private gain or loss;
- inured to the special gain or loss of my business associate, _____;
- inured to the special gain or loss of my relative, _____;
- inured to the special gain or loss of _____, by whom I am retained; or
- inured to the special gain or loss of _____, which is the parent subsidiary, or sibling organization or subsidiary of a principal which has retained me.

(b) The measure before my agency and the nature of my conflicting interest in the measure is as follows:

I sit on the board of the awarded agency.

If disclosure of specific information would violate confidentiality or privilege pursuant to law or rules governing attorneys, a public officer, who is also an attorney, may comply with the disclosure requirements of this section by disclosing the nature of the interest in such a way as to provide the public with notice of the conflict.

11/4/26
Date Filed

[Signature]
Signature

NOTICE: UNDER PROVISIONS OF FLORIDA STATUTES §112.317, A FAILURE TO MAKE ANY REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR AND MAY BE PUNISHED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT, DEMOTION, REDUCTION IN SALARY, REPRIMAND, OR A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.