

# FORENSIC INSPECTION OF THE CITY'S POLICE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

By Ralph Zeltman

As the civil engineer member of the City's Infrastructure Task Force Committee (ITFC), I received permission from Chief Rick Magllone to conduct a forensic walkthrough inspection of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) Headquarters on April 9, 2018. Both the outside grounds and inside building premises were observed and photographed to document existing conditions. My report, photographs, conclusions and recommendations were submitted to the ITFC for review and approval to submit to the City Mayor and Commission for their consideration.

Most of the observations listed in my report for the police headquarters indicated health, building safety and security concerns. The Police Headquarters has experienced severe differential settlement resulting in structural separation between the east and west portions of the building. There was unhealthy mold and mildew observed on ceilings and walls, apparently caused by roof leaks and from groundwater intrusion into the basement. There was also evidence of decades of electrolysis between the old galvanized water piping and copper internal piping connections, causing leaks. There was inadequate air conditioning circulation throughout the building, both in terms of air flow volume and too few air handlers servicing overcrowded offices that were occupied by three times what is allowed. The building is generally unsafe with non-fire rated doors, antiquated and unreliable fire hose cabinets, and no firefighting suppression sprinkler systems throughout most of the building. In my opinion, the building is a candidate to be condemned.

We trust the City will take immediate action to start planning and budgeting for a modern, state-of-the-art facility to help our police men and women better protect the City of Fort Lauderdale. It is imperative we support our police. They deserve better than these horrible conditions while dealing with the everyday stresses of keeping us safe by reducing crime in our community and City.

