



Minutes of January 13, 2026, General Membership Meeting

A video of this meeting is available on the CFLCA YouTube Channel on the CFLCA.org website.

CFLCA President Wm. Bill Brown opened the meeting.

New City Attorney

Sherry McCartney was introduced as the City of Fort Lauderdale's new City Attorney. She highlighted her prior service on the Planning and Zoning Board, her tenure as an Oakland Park commissioner and mayor, and her long-standing residency in the area. She noted the City Attorney's Office consists of 14 attorneys with expertise in land use and related disciplines and emphasized a commitment to engaging with neighborhood organizations.

Public Safety Briefing

Chief Schultz reviewed two recent shootings occurring prior to New Year's and on New Year's Eve. He discussed the possibility of expanding "high-impact event" authority beyond the beach to areas such as Himmarshee during major events. Potential ordinance changes under consideration include curfews, open container restrictions, hours of operation, and outside alcohol sales. Entertainment district operating hours and alcohol service rules were clarified. Community engagement with commissioners was encouraged.

Sgt. Darren Ogden of the Violent Crimes Unit reported that both incidents stemmed from ongoing disputes originating outside the city and were not random acts. One juvenile arrest has been made in the beach incident, and the downtown/Himmarshee investigation remains active with strong leads. He noted illegal weapon modification and emphasized that rapid police response and tactical medical care helped minimize injuries.

A strong community sentiment was expressed that late-night activity presents public safety risks. Members stressed that neighborhood streets should prioritize residents and encouraged coordinated advocacy with elected officials, the city manager, police, and fire departments.

Housing & CDBG-DR Funding Overview

Rachel Williams, Housing and Community Development Manager, provided an overview of the City's CDBG-DR funding related to the April 12, 2023 flooding. Approximately \$40 million is allocated for housing programs, including homeowner repairs, reimbursements, and affordable housing development. All programs must tie directly to flood recovery or mitigation and comply with federal requirements that 70% of funds benefit low-to-moderate income residents. Applications are not yet available. Public education efforts and HOA outreach are planned once HUD approvals and policies are finalized.

Clarifications were provided regarding reimbursement eligibility, infrastructure funding limitations, and transparency efforts. Staff welcomed invitations for neighborhood presentations and joint civic association meetings.

Strategic Communications Update

Kevin Polito was introduced as the City's new Director of Strategic Communications. He outlined plans to establish a liaison system to improve communication and coordination between the City and neighborhood associations

Development Services & Planning Updates

Jim Hatzel and Ella Parker reviewed existing half-height side yard setback regulations in higher-intensity residential districts and explained why these standards frequently require modifications. Staff analysis found the standards uncommon nationally, prompting a review of alternative approaches that balance development feasibility with neighborhood compatibility. Community feedback was requested prior to any code amendments.

They also provided an update on proposed mixed-use code amendments along major corridors. Proposed standards address street wall length, tower setbacks, podium height, residential transitions, and neighborhood buffering. The interaction of these amendments with the Live Local Act was discussed, including limitations on local regulation and concerns related to infrastructure, affordability, and public safety

Legislative & Policy Advocacy

Updates were provided on SB 180 and its impacts on local planning authority. Cities statewide continue coordinated advocacy efforts. A draft resolution supporting legislative fixes was discussed, with minor wording adjustments recommended before submission to legislative and city representatives.

Concerns regarding the Live Local Act were also raised, including affordability thresholds, long-term compliance, and infrastructure impacts. Recommendations focused on targeted legislative refinements rather than repeal.

The Public Arts Ordinance update reflected committee input supporting greater neighborhood representation, prioritization of local artists, and clearer community involvement in selection processes. A draft ordinance is expected to move forward for Commission consideration.

Civic Association Business & Community Events

HOAs and Civic Associations need to renew with the City for Recognized Neighborhood program

Neighbor Support Night on February 12

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on **February 10, 2026**, at the same location.

Signed, Suzi Burstein. Recording Secretary