



## Minutes of February 10, 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.**

- **City Manager Rickelle Williams attended with remarks**
  - City Manager expressed support for neighborhood associations and city teams.
  - Encouraged engagement; city team available as a resource.
  
- **Legislative Update: Daphnee Sainvill – Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs, City of Fort Lauderdale - Land Use and Housing Bills**
  - **SB 218** (Land Use Regulations; “glitch bill” to **SB 180**): exempts certain jurisdictions from restrictions on more stringent regs for hurricane-damaged properties to expedite rebuilding; seeking inclusion; Judiciary Committee heard it; House companion stalled.
  - **SB 948** (Local Government Land Development Regulations and Orders): limits local single-family zoning control; imposes uniform statewide development application process; refinements ongoing; House companion stuck in first subcommittee; monitored closely.
  - **SB 354** (Blue Ribbon Projects): preempts large-scale development over comp plans/land use in exchange for reserve areas; not expected to affect the city due to acreage thresholds.
  - **HB 979** (Infill Redevelopment): preempts certain local regs; requires administrative approval for specified infill; mandates 20-foot buffer next to single-family/townhouses; allows general architectural regs; excludes agricultural zones, parks, outside UGB, and near military installations.
  - **SB 448** (Accessory Dwelling Units): clarifies primary dwelling for ADUs; requires ADUs allowed via site plan conformity without discretionary hearings; preserves homestead; separate assessment for rented ADUs; prohibits renting ADUs for fewer than 30 days; language could be inserted into other bills despite stalled House companion.

- **HB 675** (Live Local Act Adjustments): extends affordability duration to 50 years for variance eligibility; requires incentives used for construction; lowers AMI cap for 75% ad valorem exemption from 120% to 100%; Senate companion stalled; staff considering next-session proposals.
- Session status: Week 5; committees winding down; some bills stalling; monitoring language transfers to moving bills; working with League of Cities and associations.
  
- **Marilyn Mammano Commented SB 948** (“Starter Home” Bill)
  - Concern that SB 948 could allow subdivision of quarter-acre single-family lots into multiple ~1,200 sq ft lots via administrative approval.
  - Potential impacts: dramatic upzoning (up to ~36 DU/acre), forced comprehensive plan and zoning rewrites, no affordability requirements, speculative townhouse development, limited parking (one space per unit), and negative neighborhood effects.
  - Legislative intent cited as expanding housing due to population influx; local stakeholders fear “one-size-fits-all” harms urban areas; hope stalled House bill stalls Senate bill as well.
  
- **Police Chief William “Bill “ Schultz” gave a presentation on the Fort Lauderdale Police Department Structure and Operations Overview**
  - Organization includes five bureaus:
    - Office of the Chief: Finance, Media Relations, Research/Planning/Analysis, Public Safety Grants, Legal.
    - Support Services: Building/fleet, court liaison, logistics, evidence/property, records/teletype (local dispatch), communications/technology.
    - Investigations: criminal investigations (property), special investigations (upper-level narcotics/vice, threat response), violent crimes (burglaries, robberies).
    - Operations: Support (marine, mounted), Patrol (non-emergency and 911), Special Operations (events, SWAT, quick response, EOC/storm response), Community Support Unit
    - Office of Professional Development (new): Accreditation, Internal Affairs, HR, Field Training, Background/Recruiting, Training.

- **Public Safety Training Complex Initiative**
  - Proposal to acquire a repurposed school site for centralized emergency/public safety training (indoor/outdoor) with joint fire rescue/emergency management training, community education, and youth outreach.
  - Goals: better-trained responders; faster, safer responses; long-term cost efficiencies; potential revenue from renting to state/federal agencies.
  - Federal appropriation of \$1,000,000 received; complements firearms training and the new police station.
  - Regional context: current reliance on Broward College, Miami-Dade, and BSO facilities; demand exceeds capacity.
- **New Police Station Status and Facilities**
  - Partial certificate of occupancy obtained; incremental move-in underway.
  - Complex includes classrooms and firing range; primarily office space.
  - Training focuses on FLPD: orientation, post-academy, ongoing retraining, expanded leadership/management courses.
  - Ribbon-cutting TBD pending full occupancy, community center completion, and demolition of old building to convert to public parking.
- **Communications Tower Replacement**
  - Existing tower at end of life; new state-led tower under construction west of I-95, north of Broward Boulevard near Tri-Rail by the juvenile justice building.
  - Old antenna to be decommissioned once the new site is functional.
- **ICE Agreement Status**
  - Statewide agreement exists; city has not signed.
  - FLPD provides backup to ICE when requested but is not part of the agreement.
  - City discussed last summer; decision remains not to sign; no deadline.
- **SWAT Callouts, Warrants, and Domestic Violence Trends**
  - Increase in warrants served due to proactive efforts targeting wanted felons.
  - Focus on street-level narcotics, money laundering, and local targets; SWAT present during warrant services.
  - Domestic violence incidents increased, mostly batteries rather than shootings; no observed link to open carry.
- **Recruiting and Retention**
  - Recruiting strong; applications steady; retirements raised vacancies from 3 to 11; candidates in pipeline.
  - City support and new PD facility aid recruitment.
  - Spring Break Engagement on the Beach

- Social media (e.g., Traffic Tuesdays) improved engagement and tips.
- Police and Fire in negotiations; South Florida pay remains strong and competitive.
  
- **Off-Duty Staffing for Large Events (e.g., Tortuga)**
  - Event staffing is off-duty and funded by organizers; does not impact on-duty coverage.
  - Additional support from federal partners may be present but not highly visible.
  
- **School Resource Officers (SROs) and Guardians**
  - Public middle and high schools have SROs; many private schools hire off-duty SROs.
  - Broward County School Board building its own uniformed police program (target ~25 more officers this year); marked patrol cars in use.
  - Guardians often include retired officers; maintain strong relationships; guardians on FLPD radio system for rapid response.
  
- **Public Art Ordinance Updates and Neighborhood Involvement – Troy Ligget**
  - Ordinance revamp underway; subcommittee met with Cultural Affairs Officer **Joshua Carden** and saw ~99% of recommendations incorporated.
  - Improvements include stronger neighborhood impact via artist selection committees, funding tied to capital projects, and streamlined governance.
  - Outstanding issues: local artist preference and adding neighborhood residents to the seven-member Public Arts Board; board resists membership changes.
  - Timeline: Public Arts Board to consider amendments on February 23; potential City Commission first reading in coming months.
  - Council supports changes and urges adding one neighborhood representative per commission district.

- **Charter Revision Process and Public Outreach Jim Concannon**

- Charter Revision Board prepared recommendations; a workshop occurred in October for City Commission
- City Attorney illness delayed ballot language drafting.
- Planned timeline: Commission presentation in March; decisions in April; ballot questions due by June for November ballot; outreach after Commission finalizes questions.
- Concerns about late and insufficient outreach; Council to send a strong letter urging expedited public engagement and prioritizing key items (e.g., sale of public land).

- **Treasurer and Membership**

- Treasurer absent; membership renewals encouraged.
- Last year's audit committee report not received; Jim to revisit.

NEXT Meeting March 10, 2025

Signed ; Suzi Burstein, Recording Secretary