

Vice Mayor Romney Rogers, Commissioner, District IV



Happy 100th Birthday, Fort Lauderdale!!

By now I hope everyone knows that the City of Fort Lauderdale was incorporated on March 27, 1911. The City will be celebrating our first 100 years with several major events planned throughout the year. For the full listing, please visit the City's Centennial website at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/centennial/events.htm>. Of particular interest is the Centennial Parade and Festival celebrating St. Patrick's Day and set for Saturday, March 12th. For more information, go to <http://ftlaudirishfest.com>. Also, please join us on the actual birthday, Sunday, March 27th, for Centennial Riverfest! This free, family-friendly event with live entertainment will be held on the Riverwalk from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. In addition, I want to extend a special thanks to all District IV neighborhood and civic associations planning to acknowledge the Centennial with an event, such as a speaker, tour, dedication, or other activity to mark this auspicious occasion.

Highlighted Issues:

City Manager Search – We approved the job advertisement and brochure for the City Manager position on February 1st. The ad can be viewed at <http://www.bobmurrayassoc.com> (our search consultant). Bob Murray & Associates will present its applicant recommendations (approximately 15 candidates) at a meeting of the City Manager Search Committee in late April / early May for further short-listing. Interviews for those applicants will follow (late May / early June) and will be held at City Hall. The public is encouraged to attend.

Las Olas Boulevard – We have received a status report from Public Works regarding the Priority Action Items, which are based on participant recommendations from the Las Olas Boulevard Mini-Workshop I convened in December 2010. Staff is focusing on options to improve pedestrian signage and crosswalks at problematic locations, as well as extending the medians and making other improvements. We are also studying the \$16 million renovations recently made on Worth Avenue in Palm Beach in order to create a brighter vision for our City's crown jewel.

Fort Lauderdale Beach Parking Lot – Several residents have contacted me about the construction activity at the South Beach Parking Lot. This project has been in the planning process for three years. The City's Urban Forester, the Chief Landscape Examiner, Parks and Recreation, and landscape architects have consulted extensively with staff on the new landscaping design. The removal of sabal palms and other trees is part of the work. Most of the sabal palms were in poor condition, and staff was told it would cost more to relocate them than to buy new ones with no guarantee of their survival. Every tree that could be used in the new design has been relocated. All permits have been obtained, including one for tree removal. The lot will be made ADA-compliant, the existing deteriorated wall will be replaced by a new wave wall matching the one to the north, and the existing sidewalk will be widened from seven feet to 13 feet. New turtle-compliant lighting and underground utilities will be installed, and other improvements are planned. Completion is expected in January 2012. Questions? Please call the Beach Community Redevelopment Agency at 954-828-4517.

Tunnel Top Park Phase II – The City's Urban Forester has inspected the transplanted trees and is optimistic about their survival. The redesign and paving portions have been completed, and bid submittal closed on February 9th for landscaping, lighting, and street furniture. The contract for these finishes will be voted on during the March 1st Commission Meeting. Construction will start in mid-April, to last about 60 days, depending on material availability (light poles and street furniture may require longer lead times).

Pain Clinics – Florida's crackdown on unscrupulous pain clinics is moving forward again after being stalled in Tallahassee for two years. Governor Rick Scott has signed off on the new rules, which will go to the Legislature when session begins on March 8th. In the interim, we have tentatively approved extending the moratorium, which prohibits the licensing of new clinics in Fort Lauderdale for another six months, and the City Attorney is working on a proposed new ordinance to address the exigent problems.

Upcoming Events and Activities:

The Civic Packet is full of upcoming events. See <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/neighborhoods/index.htm>. Please click on "February 2011" under the bullet, "Two most recent Civic Packets - Info for HOA Newsletters."

Please continue to provide your input on how to improve our dynamic city and your quality of life, as I am here to serve you. As always, I can be reached at my office at 954-828-5004 or via e-mail at RRogers@fortlauderdale.gov. My assistant is MJ Matthews: phone 954-828-5028 or e-mail mjmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov. Thank you.