

Commissioner John C. Herbst appearance

2022 Coral Shores Civic Association Annual meeting on Jan.19th 2023

1) Intro.

Brief. reminder of John C. Herbst professional background in private sector and then as City Auditor for the City of Fort Lauderdale for 16 years: leads him to naturally apply a fiscally conservative and pragmatic approach to any substantial Policy making decisions, regardless of any special interest or established beliefs: while trying to work with other members of the Commission, Mr Herbst strives to emulate this approach of a long term, strategic outlook of best interest for all Fort Lauderdale Residents and his District 1 Constituents...

2) Current priorities/ updates:

As illustrations of his approach & vision of his new Leadership, the Commissioner shared updates and details on pressing matters, both Citywide and more specific to District 1 such as:

- **City WATER TREATMENT renewal OPTIONS:** *as the current 5Ashmain treatment plan built in 1954 is subject to serious aging and reaching capacity, new options have been explored in past years under previous Commission, involving various scientific processes/ techniques ("ion membrane electrolysis", desalinization etc...), each bearing major long term impact and heavy levels of investment (ranging from min. \$40 Miliions for repair or \$ 200M upward of 750 Millions for a new plant...). Under the new Commission and efforts lead by Comm. Joh Herbst to find the best, most strategic and cost-efficient solution is a Public-private partnership , incl. with IDE, Israeli firm that has successfully built such models around the globe, incl. in California. The focus is now to finish assessing the best solution and formally commit to it without any further delay as costs keep increasing with every delay. Whatever the option chosen, impact of this capital improvement on Cost of water bill for Resident likely to double in next 10 years.*
- **Tunnels:**
 - *The Tesla Boring Company driven project (beach to Downtown) initially championed by Mayor Trantalis for past years seems to be, after many questions and challenges uncovered re. rising Cost and serious doubts about feasibility in Fort Lauderdale terrain, seems to have reached a standstill.*
 - *Freight train tunnel is an unavoidable necessity: central focus of the Commission is how to reduce the social impact /stigma of separating Neighborhoods across the City as it has been observed in many cities in Florida and nationwide...It requires a massive footprint due to mechanical & engineering criteria*
The impact of these options on already heavy traffic across the city is not really known as a new train line for Commuters will add to current Brightline service, which will lead to more frequent, albeit short, traffic stops...
- **Urban Development:**
 - *beyond City planning masterplan, focus in recent years on Downtown areas for construction of high buildings- that can reach 500 feet- is being more and more questioned, esp. re. state of current infrastructure (lobbyists successfully pushing approvals for high-density, higher income Residential projects).Our Commissioner is instead trying to nurture working class or affordable housing solutions that can help revitalize the Uptown area i.e. around Cypress Creek/FtL Executive airport, one of them involving an ambitious mid rise, mix use..*
 - *Current design for a new Residential and Commercial project to replace the current Galleria Mall has been delayed by change of Developer's ownership.*
 - *Lockhart stadium: the approach of the new Commissioner is to re-establish an open dialogue with the Beckham team to reset, address issues and extract better Revenue sharing scheme for the City, at least for current parking agreement...and better use of current Stadium configuration.*
- **Homelessness:**
 - *Under new City ordinance, more effective enforcement, esp. in critical areas such as Target/Publix on Federal Highway.Two types: those can be rehabilitated after a major fall out, the others chronic lifestyle and associated issues (addiction, predators etc...).A lot of help from City and County already in place can't resolve endemic , underlying issues.*