

## FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER BRUCE G. ROBERTS



Now that **Hurricane Season** has started, this is a good time to remind everyone to make sure you are prepared. Though only a few may lose power, we cannot forget the damage that even a tropical storm can do. The City is ready to respond, but I urge residents to make their own preparations for this hurricane season. Part of this preparation should include creating a disaster plan and assembling a disaster supply kit. The kit should include at least three days worth of water (one gallon, per person, per day) and non-perishable food for each person in your family. Other essential supplies you should have readily available include: a can opener, flashlights, a battery-operated radio, batteries, cash, pet supplies, medications, extra eyeglasses, contact lenses and supplies for people with special needs. For a complete list of emergency supplies and other preparedness tips,

Visit the new City hurricane website at <http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/hurricane/index.htm>. If you are interested in helping your fellow residents after a hurricane, I encourage you to join the Community Emergency Response Team (or "CERT"). CERT is a highly trained, volunteer group that assists the City after local emergencies. Through Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue, you can receive free training that covers disaster terminology, standard triage, basic first aid, fire suppression, light search and rescue techniques and disaster awareness. After graduation you will be prepared to care for your family and your community, and you will be part of a team that may be called upon to assist the City during an emergency. Free beginner and continuing education classes are available. For more information please call 954-828-6832.

**Pain Clinic Update:** We have recently closed two clinics by Holy Cross, one by Executive Airport, one on Oakland Park Boulevard, and "raided" the clinic near Broward General Hospital. I know there are several others in the City, but please be assured that this Commission is aggressively pursuing the elimination of ALL illegal pain clinic operations within our City. Our Police Department and Code Enforcement are actively involved in this undertaking along with federal agencies and the Florida Department of Health... **progress is being made.**

**Pay by Phone Parking is Now Available:** On April 1, 2010, the City implemented Pay by Phone Parking. In areas where this service is implemented, you no longer need cash for parking. Simply park your car, make one short phone call, and then head for your destination. You can even choose to receive a text message reminder before your parking time expires. You have the option of calling back and extending your parking session from anywhere, subject to meter time limits. Pay By Phone parking is convenient, easy and safe. When you pay for your parking by phone, your parking space and parking time are automatically displayed on a handheld device used by the parking officer. The regular parking charge plus a 35-cent convenience fee (25 cents if you de-select the optional 10-cent text message reminder cost) will be charged to your credit card. A history of transactions is then viewable any time you log into your account. For more information log on to [http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/parking/pay\\_by\\_phone.htm](http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/parking/pay_by_phone.htm).

**Fort Lauderdale Stadium:** Four proposals were submitted to redevelop this property. One of the responses came from Schlitterbahn regarding a waterpark and multi-sport multi-use athletic facility. While Schlitterbahn has several award winning parks in this country (ranked #1 for the last twelve years), it is also an internationally recognized successful and reputable family enterprise. They are agreeable to a fair market appraisal as the basis for the rent, which is consistent with City of Fort Lauderdale requirements and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines for long-term leases of Airport property. Schlitterbahn gave a presentation at the Conference Agenda on June 14, 2010. The plan is to transform the site into a destination attraction – one that integrates sports including youth facilities, water-based entertainment, retail opportunities and lodging. They will keep and upgrade Lockhart Stadium. They are confident that the park will attract hundreds of thousands of sports enthusiasts and vacationing families, as well as create new jobs and expand tax revenues. They propose to spend \$110 million to construct the park and will not ask the City for any financial support. The Commission is seriously looking

at this proposal, and directed Schlitterbahn to negotiate with City staff and the Broward County School Board. I will keep you updated.

As a reminder, I host two **Pre-agenda Meetings** per month in addition to attending homeowner meetings at your request. The pre-agenda meetings focus on items of interest as well as the upcoming agenda. They are held the Monday before a Commission Meeting, 6p.m., Cardinal Gibbons High School, Media Room. Also, we have changed our usual summer schedule – our last meeting until recess is July 7, 2010 and will resume again August 17, 2010. We will not be having a pre-agenda meeting July 5, 2010 as the offices will be closed due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

**Office Contact:** Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: [ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov)