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JUNE 2018



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BCT Bus Blockade finally OUSTED from Galt Ocean Drive

By Eric Berkowitz

When Sun Trolley Executive Director Robyn Chiarelli notified Galt Mile officials that Broward County Transit (BCT) defunded the Galt Mile Route in June of 2017, Galt Mile President Pio Ieraci informed her that "BCT is no friend to the Galt Mile," a conclusion he reached two years earlier – for reasons unrelated to the agency's punitive Sun Trolley action.

Upon commencing construction in July of 2015 on the long-neglected section of A1A along the Galt Mile, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) planners asked Broward County Transit liaisons to temporarily clear the work zone of Broward County buses. A major bus layover on 41st Street and A1A would have to be moved. A layover is a bus stop that is converted into an on-street bus depot - where two to five buses might park – depending on the number of routes served by the layover site.

Layovers are typically implemented to adjust route schedules. If a bus arrives at a stop 20 minutes ahead of schedule, the driver will wait for 20 minutes before returning to service. Layovers also allow drivers to grab a quick lunch. While providing spent drivers with an opportunity to stretch their legs, these institutional delays are often abused in Broward County.

Blindsiding the Galt Mile

FDOT mandates that bus layovers be located on thoroughfares with multiple lanes in each direction of traffic (such as A1A), enabling vehicles to bypass buses that are either double parked, or parked a sufficient distance from the curb to accommodate handicap devices. They are also barred in heavily populated neighborhoods, where even one route layover is considered dangerous. In violation of FDOT protocols, BCT relocated the layovers for the buses serving routes 72, 55, 36 and 11 to a narrow beach side street lined with 16,000 residents.

As a result, since August of 2015 BCT buses had been deliberately choking off traffic on Galt Ocean Drive near Playa del Mar and Regency Tower, blocking association driveways and a heavily used handicap access ramp across from Playa del Mar. Drivers typically abandoned buses for hours at a time to eat lunch, go shopping or otherwise disappear for an entire afternoon.

Buses regularly parked (or double parked) on both sides of the street, often on the sidewalk, creating a traffic plug on Galt Ocean Drive. Vehicles unable to edge around the buses would have to turn around and take another route. When a Fire-Rescue EMT racing south on Galt Ocean Drive was blocked by a driverless double-parked bus, it was forced to circle back to A1A and re-enter Galt Ocean Drive from 35th Street, delaying response to a medical emergency. About an hour later, the missing bus driver emerged from Dunkin Donuts.

Booted from LBTS

There was a brief respite in September of 2015, when the layovers for buses servicing Routes 36 and 72 were supposed to be transferred to a site north of the Galt Mile. However, the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Town Commission would only allow a route 72 layover on El Mar Drive between Hibiscus Avenue and Palm Avenue (in front of the old Holiday Inn).

After causing significant damage to town property and ignoring repeated official requests to avoid parking on the sidewalk, BCT was evicted from the layover site by the LBTS Town Commission on the recommendation of former Town Manager Connie Hoffmann. Officially bounced from LBTS, Broward County Transit Director Tim Garling surreptitiously

returned the Route 72 layover to Galt Ocean Drive on December 21, 2015, where it wreaked havoc for almost 3 years. Buses participating in the resulting blockade damaged association-funded cutouts usurped without permission, repeatedly ran over private and public landscaping, cracked a curbside sewer drain that the city was forced to replace, flattened signage, and left the City with tens of thousands of dollars of additional damage to curbs, the street and sidewalks.

The Meeting

A flood of complaints poured into the neighborhood association while scores of others were sent to former District 1 City Commissioner Bruce Roberts and/or District 4 County Commissioner Chip LaMarca. Shortly thereafter, the two Commissioners met with Galt Mile officials and Tim Garling at the Galt Ocean Club.

Garling characterized blocking the handicap ramp as an act of mercy, mistakenly insisting that its original construction was not performed under permit, raising safety concerns for disabled locals who often used the ramp. When Garling said that he would gladly move the Route 72 layover if an alternative site was available, Roberts suggested investigating the Coral Ridge Mall or 36th Street and A1A, where the Route 55 layover had been transferred earlier. Confirming that each option was capable of supporting multiple route layovers, Garling agreed that either location would suffice.

After the meeting, Galt Mile officials retrieved a copy of the permit for the handicap ramp, and forwarded it to Garling, Roberts and LaMarca, quashing Garling's claim that BCT was burdening the disabled for their own good. Although Coral Ridge Mall rejected the BCT request to implement a layover on their property, Garling's refusal to respond to inquiries about moving the Route 72 layover to 36th Street and A1A raised concerns that Garling's stated interest in a less dangerous layover site was disingenuous.

Feldman, LaMarca and Garling Come up Short

Armed with pictures of City property damaged by BCT buses at incidents often witnessed by Galt Mile residents and/or association security personnel, on January 29, 2016, Fort Lauderdale City Manager Lee Feldman sent County Administrator Bertha Henry the pictorial evidence along with a demand to repair the damage and relocate the Galt Ocean Drive layover "to a more suitable location outside the City of Fort Lauderdale." He also lodged a complaint about the blocked EMT.

Henry passed the message to Broward Transportation Director Chris Walton (Garling's boss). Precluded from returning the layover to a now-alienated Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Walton denied BCT responsibility for the damage, ignored the EMT incident and marginalized a nearly flattened road sign as "wear and tear typical on any city street." Not surprisingly, when BCT failed to comply, Feldman did nothing. Since the City and County are chronically embroiled in turf protection skirmishes, the issue devolved into a low-value bargaining chip.

We soon learned why the City of Fort Lauderdale would not mirror LBTS actions taken to protect municipal residents and City property. The LBTS Town Commission never trusted BCT, and authorized former Town Manager Connie Hoffmann to execute an agreement enabling an eviction after 30 days' notice and providing that damaged Town property would be reimbursed. The failure of Fort Lauderdale officials to match their diligence set the stage for the subsequent chaos.

Continued on page 8



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EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

Chip LaMarca's APRIL 2018 Newsletter

By Eric Berkowitz

In his April 2018 LaMarca Letter, District 4 Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca describes how the Police Foundation will craft an After-Action Report (AAR) about the February 14th massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, having recently concluded an AAR for the questionable police response to the Pulse Nightclub mass shooting in the City of Orlando. He also celebrates April as National County Government Month, outlines the 90-year evolution of Port Everglades into a regional economic powerhouse, and notes how the latest new flights are contributing to the rapid expansion of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

SCHOOL SHOOTING IN THE GUNSHINE STATE

As a consequence of the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the entire country seemingly awoke from a narcoleptic-like slumber. Due to the sheer frequency of unspeakable acts of senseless violence, people deprived of sufficient time to process a blur of catastrophes grow increasingly numb with each subsequent horrific incident. This time, 5 kids whose friends were sent to the morgue during classes were given an unrestricted pipeline into our lives by an adoring media.

Immune to the political predations of the NRA and a host of their bought and paid for elected officials, these children forced a Governor who staunchly opposed legislation preventing the sale of guns to the mentally ill, to advocate for Florida's first and only gun control law. Supported by the parents of millions of school-age children, including long-standing NRA members, the message was infectious, as four other states passed similar measures.

When a series of quickly organized gun control protests attracted millions of angry participants in thousands of cities across the planet, vicious NRA attacks on the kids ordered by gunmakers ground to a halt when the organization was showered in angry feedback by its membership.

Lost in this unprecedented gun violence epiphany was an event that occurred on the day of the shooting. Despite nationwide police active-shooter protocols, which mandate that armed law enforcement officers confront shooters immediately, four Broward Sheriff deputies who heard shots ring out from inside the school sat out the massacre until Coral Springs Police arrived and rushed in after

the shootings. Although a BSO deputy who resigned shortly after the incident was publicly lambasted as a coward by both Broward Sheriff Scott Israel and President Donald Trump, the event also raised concern about the adequacy of BSO's public safety response protocols. While one cop might be a bad apple, four BSO deputies ignoring gunshots in a school suggests a command and control failure.

POLICE FOUNDATION ASSESSES ORLANDO MASSACRE

In his April 2018 newsletter, after announcing that the incident will be investigated by the Police Foundation, which he characterized as an "independent, non-profit, non-partisan, and non-membership driven organization" that specializes in police science, LaMarca references a Police Foundation After-Action Report (AAR) acclaimed by Orlando City officials that evaluated the police response to a terrorist event in which 49 people in an Orlando nightclub were slaughtered by a gunman with a semiautomatic rifle two years ago.

On June 12, 2016, when an off-duty Orlando PD detective working club security at the Pulse Nightclub heard the initial gunfire, he issued a call for police back-up at 2:02 a.m. Upon converging at the scene, officers from Orlando PD (OPD), Orange County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Belle Isle PD, Eatonville PD, Maitland PD, Winter Garden PD, Winter Park PD and other nearby jurisdictions were assigned as needed to triage, recon, and hospital transport, as poorly coordinated communications with the Orlando Fire Department (OFD) delayed the arrival of Fire-Rescue EMTs and paramedics.

Small teams comprised of six different police agencies launched opportunistic forays into the club, rescuing the injured while searching for the shooter. A full-on breach wasn't authorized by SWAT until 5 a.m., 3 hours after the shooting began. 15 minutes later, the self-proclaimed terrorist was shot by the police. Instead of a sycophantic accommodation to the thin blue line, the 192-page Police Foundation report meticulously reviewed time-lined events, describing what tactics worked and which ones could have worked better.

THE CATASTROPHE UNFOLDS

The AAR observed that Police initially implemented hostage negotiation procedures - like those depicted in Dog Day Afternoon - as SWAT planned a breach while a shooter who was systematically murdering people in the nightclub eventually barricaded himself with some hostages in one of the club's two restrooms for more than two hours. The murders were originally misconstrued as hate crimes targeting LGBT and/or Hispanic patrons that frequented the club. The theory was soon dispelled following several cell phone contacts with police and a television producer, when the shooter announced "I did it for ISIS" - the fundamentalist designation for an "Islamic State in Iraq and Syria", adding "to stop the bombing in Syria and Iraq."

Investigators later revealed that the shooter, 29-year old Omar Mateen from Fort Pierce, had been a regular at the club who contacted men on gay dating apps. Following inflammatory comments to colleagues asserting ties to ISIS, he was questioned by the FBI in 2013 and 2014 and released when no links to known terrorists were established. It was unclear as to whether his actions were those of a self-hating homophobic, or driven by fundamentalist zeal, or both.

The Command and Control assessment of the incident morphed from an active shooter event with casualties - to a suspect with hostages - and finally to a terrorist with hostages. While prepared for the first two scenarios, OPD commanders who were less educated and trained in combating terrorism turned to on-site agents from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the FBI to creatively improvise responses.

While commending the bravery of OPD and other officers who meticulously followed department procedures, the AAR lamented flawed Command and Control decisions. For example, once the SWAT commander led the response inside the club, no one assumed command outside the club (to manage the overall operation as well as the staging and deployment of continuously arriving personnel and resources) until a unified command center (UCC) was established more than an hour later.

Some agencies - including the Orlando Fire Department (OFD) - established their own incident command posts, which unnecessarily delayed information and resource sharing, impeded coordination, and undermined overall situational awareness. As a result, firefighters at station 5, located within a block of the incident, sat on their thumbs while vainly waiting for the OPD to give them a "safe to enter" notification before responding to the scene.

Since the body armor issued to patrol officers offered little protection from the shooter's weapons, many of the first responders were ill-equipped to protect themselves throughout the event. Some never adorned the protective vests. The officer's shields didn't block incoming rounds. No provision was made for a decontamination facility, forcing officers to improvise their own cleanup.

THE COP & THE BYSTANDER

The report describes an exchange between a female bystander and police during the event. When she inquired, "Y'all is gonna shoot his ass?", an officer asserted that they couldn't for fear of hitting a hostage, to which the bystander remarked "Bullshit, go in there and shoot his ass, man." Her blunt suggestion proved insightful.

After diplomatically acknowledging the difficulty with resolving horrific incidents of mass public violence and terrorism, the AAR team cut to the chase, exclaiming "However, recognizing that extremist terrorism represents a continuing if not a growing threat, the OPD and other law enforcement agencies should develop specific negotiation protocols recognizing that an immediate and overwhelming tactical assault may be the safest and most effective response to resolve a hostage incident during a terrorist attack." In short, when a shooter's priority is a record body count, the immediate use of deadly force might most effectively limit the number of casualties. According to Police Foundation Gurus, the unnamed bystander got it right.

PICKING UP THE PIECES

As mentioned by LaMarca, another Police Foundation AAR commissioned by Broward County will assess the police response to the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Given the world-wide media coverage of the event, when BSO blew an admitted opportunity to rescue at least some of the shooter's victims, its reputation as a police agency took a nosedive - both here and abroad.

While the report could help defuse a public outcry for an unbiased independent investigation into the controversial actions taken by BSO, Broward officials seek to realize a critical incremental dividend. By successfully incorporating Police Foundation recommendations into its public safety protocols, BSO hopes to repair damaged credibility sufficiently to begin recapturing degraded public confidence. While it won't offset BSO's shattering February 14 failure, Broward officials believe it's a step in the right direction. As always, time will tell. Review LaMarca's April 2018 Newsletter elsewhere in this edition. - [editor]*

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Swamped with new complaints by angry local residents throughout 2016, Galt Mile officials asked County Commissioner Chip LaMarca to intervene with an unresponsive BCT on their behalf, especially since LaMarca's witnessed Garling's admission at the Galt Ocean Club meeting that the layover site at 36th Street and A1A was a viable alternative.

Contacted by LaMarca in July, on August 23, 2016, Garling finally wrote to the Commissioner "We checked with FDOT and the new bus pull-in for the Route 55 Bus on A1A will be completed this Spring, 2017. When completed, this will allow the Route 55 Bus to move from its current layover location on A1A near the McDonalds (NB) to its new location on A1A near Commercial. When this move takes place, the Route 72 Bus can move its layover on Galt to its final layover location on A1A near the McDonalds."

The message was perplexing. The Route 55 layover was at 36th Street and A1A, not on A1A near the McDonalds. Also, former LBTS Commissioner (and journalist) Mark Brown confirmed that the town had never agreed to allow a BCT layover at Commercial and A1A, especially in view of their snake bit 2015 experience at a relatively remote corner of El Mar Drive. Commercial and A1A is the heart of the Town's \$multi-million improvement project and a magnet for tourists. The LBTS Commission had no intention of tolerating the noise, fumes, property damage and traffic nightmares that often shadow BCT layover sites. Spring came and went – nothing changed. A BCT manager blamed construction delays along A1A for the Galt's continuing hardship.

Fear Prompts a New Plan

Fearful that the Galt BCT layover might become permanent, in early 2018, Galt Mile officials embarked on a more aggressive strategy. A petition with thousands of signatures by angry Galt residents would be conjoined with a plan to send several buses filled with those residents to a series of County Commission meetings after engineering placement of the issue on each meeting agenda.

If the County board failed to provide relief, invited local media contacts would document a post-meeting demonstration by the Galt Mile attendees. In March and April, parts of the plan were imparted to stakeholder officials in the City and County, including newly elected City Commissioner Heather Moraitis and Chip LaMarca. Two hundred angry constituents ranting at him and eight commission peers might have cost LaMarca some of the political capital deservedly accrued for his contribution to fleshing out their shrinking beach. For two years, LaMarca commuted between Tallahassee and Washington D.C. to mitigate regulatory obstacles blocking the long-awaited Segment II Beach Renourishment. After simmering for a week, the new plan peeled off a remarkable coincidence.

On April 30, 2018, Garling suddenly winged a message to GMCA President Pio Ieraci, exclaiming "I wanted to give you an update on the move of the BCT buses that have been laying over on Galt Ocean Drive. Effective next Monday, May 7th, 2018, all BCT layover buses currently using the bus pull-in at BCT bus stop #3900 southbound on Galt Ocean Drive will be relocated to new

layover locations on A1A. In addition, we will also be removing that bus pull-in location as a BCT bus stop and the bus stop sign will be removed. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call." Having endangered local residents for almost three years, he closed with "Thank you for your patience on this matter."

BCT: Inmates Run the Asylum

Given the bulletproof protections built into the contract between Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1267 and the BCT, Broward bus drivers risked little by defying their BCT supervisors. In fact, the BCT was ousted from LBTS primarily because the bus drivers ignored official instructions to avoid driving on the sidewalk. Other provisions in the agreement in force at that time entitled Broward bus drivers to cause 4 accidents and run 4 red lights every two years – without jeopardizing their jobs – although they could be disciplined for clocking in late. Since the slate was wiped clean every two years, Broward bus drivers could smash into 40 vehicles and run 40 red lights during a 20-year tenure, without losing a wink of sleep over employment concerns. The agreement was recently amended to extend the "forgiveness clause" from 2 years to 30 months.

Although most BCT drivers are careful and well-trained, a high-profile handful have cumulatively racked up hundreds of moving violations while precipitating scores of collisions, for which they received boilerplate reprimands - a slap on the wrist before returning to their buses and once again terrorizing Broward streets. These inherently dangerous asinine protocols negotiated by BCT prompted the Sun Sentinel (Journalist Brittany Wallman) to create an online database that documented thousands of BCT driver traffic citations, infractions and collisions, and the resulting litany of lawsuits settled with multiple millions of your tax dollars.

While the Galt Ocean Drive Bus Layover was officially closed on Sunday, May 6, BCT drivers who evidently couldn't modulate their appetite for Dunkin Donuts, DaVinci's Pizza or a boxed fried chicken lunch from Winn Dixie ignored Garling's mandate – and continued blocking the street on May 7. When a complaint by Regency Tower President Eileen Bendis was forwarded to City and County officials, Garling sent each one a message detailing how he would enforce the layover relocation for errant drivers, stating "I have placed a bus supervisor in the bus layover, effective immediately, to make sure this is implemented properly. I will have supervisors on site all week for both shifts and this should resolve the problem. The layover was closed as of Sunday, 5/6. Sorry for these implementation issues, but the on-site supervision will immediately handle any issues from this point forward."

Pio's Pipedream

It appears that the dangerous BCT bus blockade is history, but given the agency's paper-thin credibility, no one is celebrating just yet. Once Garling announced his April 30th plan to relocate the Galt layover, Ieraci responded "Hopefully, we can now anticipate repairs to the damage caused by the buses." Sure, when Hell freezes over...•



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<p>10</p> <p>Two on Tap Sunrise Civic Center 2 to 4 p.m. Info.: www.sunriseft.gov</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk Museum of Discovery and Science 9 to 11 p.m. Tix.: 954-713-0930</p>	<p>13 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk Museum of Discovery and Science 9 to 11 p.m. Tix.: 954-713-0930</p>
<p>17 Maroon 5 BB&T Center Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com</p> <p>"Fables and Fairytale" by world renown Brorowski Glass Studio Flamingo Gardens 9:30 to 4 p.m. Info.: flamingogardens.org</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Commissioner Heather Moraitis: Pre-Agenda Meeting Broward Health Imperial Point, AUD A&B, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5033</p>	<p>19 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk Museum of Discovery and Science 9 to 11 p.m. Tix.: 954-713-0930</p>	<p>20 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p> <p>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk Museum of Discovery and Science 9 to 11 p.m. Tix.: 954-713-0930</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Daryl Hall & John Oates and Train BB&T Center, 7 p.m. Tix.: ticketmaster.com</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale Career Fair Marron Fort Lauderdale North (6650 N Andrews Avenue) 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 702-614-9537</p>	<p>27 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063</p>

JUNE 1: Shania Twain, BB&T Center, 7:30 p.m., Tix.: ticketmaster.com

JUNE 1: First Friday Food Trucks, Flamingo Gardens, 5 to 9 p.m., Info.: www.flamingogardens.org

JUNE 2: Sunshine SUP Series Kayak Race 1 2018, Pompano Beach Pier, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 415-766-7223

JUNE 9: March for the Ocean, Charnow Park in Hollywood, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Info.: www.goriverwalk.com/greater-fort-lauderdale-events/march-for-the-ocean

JUNE 9: Butterfly Gardening Workshop, Butterfly World, 1 to 2 p.m., Info.: butterflyworld.com

JUNE 12: A Conversation with President Bill Clinton & James Patterson, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 8 to 10 p.m., Tix.: www.PresidentClintonLive.com

JUNE 13: Audra McDonald, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m., Tix.: ticketmaster.com

JUNE 16: 5th Annual Marine Industry Day, Esplanade Park, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 954-524-2733

JUNE 23: Bob Saget, Seminole Casino, 8 to 10 p.m., Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com

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<p>7 Reception: The Wizard of Oz The Frank Gallery 6 to 9 p.m. Info.: www.thefrankgallery.org</p> <p>Art of Food & Wine Series: Red, White & Wine NSU Art Museum 6 to 8 p.m. Tix.: 954-525-5500</p>	<p>8 Friday Night Soundwaves Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub (Las Olas & A1A) Performer: School of Rock 6 to 9 p.m. Info: fridaynightsoundwaves.com</p> <p>Culinary Arts Showcase & Moonlit Movie Movie: Despicable Me 3 Jaco Pastorius Park 6:30 to 10 p.m. Info: 954-630-4507</p>	<p>9 Intergalactic WPB Bead and Jewelry Show (Through 6/10) Palm Beach County Convention Center Info.: 888-729-6904</p> <p>Harry Styles BB&T Center Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk Museum of Discovery and Science 9 to 11 p.m. Tix.: 954-713-0930</p>	<p>15 Friday Night Soundwaves Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub (Las Olas & A1A) Performer: The Fabulons 6 to 9 p.m. Info: fridaynightsoundwaves.com</p> <p>Juneteenth Celebration Spady Cultural Heritage Museum 5 to 9 p.m. Info: 561-279-8883</p>	<p>16 Father's Day Fishing Tournament Royal Palm Park, Oakland Park 7 to 10 a.m. Info.: 954-630-4507</p> <p>Stonewall Pride Parade & Festival Wilton Manors 3 to 9 p.m. Info: www.wiltonmanorsstonewall.com</p>
<p>21 G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Mtg Nick's Italian Restaurant 11 a.m.</p> <p>First Day of Summer</p> <p>Moonlight Sea Turtle Walk Museum of Discovery and Science 9 to 11 p.m. Tix.: 954-713-0930</p>	<p>22 Friday Night Soundwaves Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub (Las Olas & A1A) Performer: Gypsy Lane 6 to 9 p.m. Info: fridaynightsoundwaves.com</p> <p>Annual Caregiver Symposium Nova Southeastern University 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reg/Info.: www.thesofia.org</p>	<p>23 Intergalactic WPB Bead and Jewelry Show (Through 6/10) Emma Lou Olson Civic Center Info.: 888-729-6904</p> <p>Triumph 5k Run/Walk 2018 Vista View Park in Shelter #1 & 2, Davie 7 a.m. Info: 954-499-0909</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Donny and Marie Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, 8 p.m. Tix.: ticketmaster.com</p>	<p>29 Friday Night Soundwaves Fort Lauderdale Beach Hub (Las Olas & A1A) Performer: Guavatron 6 to 9 p.m. Info: fridaynightsoundwaves.com</p> <p>Fishing for the Dream Tournament (Through 6/30) Lighthouse Point Yacht and Racquet Club Info: 954-564-3512</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Fort Lauderdale Gun & Knife Show (Through 7/1) War Memorial Auditorium Info: 954-828-5380</p>

JULY 4

July 4th Family Celebration and Fireworks Show

Fort Lauderdale Beach
Family Activities, DJ Music, Games: 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.;
Live Music & Entertainment: 4 p.m.; Fireworks: 9 to 9:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-396-3622

JULY 4

Lauderdale-by-the-Sea July 4th Events

El Prado Park (East of A1A at El Mar Dr. in LBTS)
Parade: 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Food, Games, Contests: Noon to 4 p.m.; Fireworks: 9 to 9:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-640-4210

JULY 4

Old Fashioned Fourth & Collectible Car Show

Flamingo Gardens, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-473-2955

JULY 13

Culinary Arts Showcase & Moonlit Movie: Deep

Jaco Pastorius Park, 6:30 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 954-630-4507

JULY 14

7th Annual Boca Burger Battle

Sanborn Square Park (72 N. Federal Hwy.), Boca
6 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 561-338-7594

JULY 14-15

26th Annual International Mango Festival

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Coral Gables
Info.: 305-667-1651, ext. 3392

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS, GO TO THE CALENDAR AT WWW.GALTMILE.COM

First Saturday of Every Month: Beach Cleanup, Commercial Blvd. & the Beach LBTS (Meet at Pavilion), 9 to 9:30 a.m., Info: 954-776-1000

First Saturday of Every Month: North Beach Art Walk, 3280 NE 32nd St, 7 to 11 p.m., Info: 954-537-3370

Second Saturday of Every Month: Beach Sweep, Fort Lauderdale Beach Park, 1100 Seabreeze Blvd., 7 to 11 a.m., Info: 954-593-8501

Second Saturday of Every Month: Burlock Coast Farmer's Market, Burlock Coast at the The Ritz-Carlton, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Info: myfortlauderdalebeach.com

Second Tuesday of Every Month: Orchid Greenhouse Tours, Bonnet House, 11 a.m. to Noon, Info: 954-703-2606

Mondays: Food Trucks at Artspark, 5:30 to 10 p.m., Youngs Circle in Hollywood

Thursdays: BHIP Farmer's Market, Broward Health Imperial Point Medical Arts Pavilion (633 N Federal Hwy.), 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sundays: Tour-the River Ghost Tour, Stranahan House & Water Taxi, 7:30 p.m., Tix.: 954-524-4736

Sundays: Las Olas Sunday Market, 333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info: 954-426-8436

Sundays (through May): Farmer's Market at El Prado Park, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info: 561-714-2745

Saturdays: Saturday Night Under the South Florida Stars, Fox Astronomical Observatory at Markham Park, Sunset to Midnight, Info.: 954-384-0442



Chip LaMarca's

APRIL 2018 Newsletter

Be sure to visit Broward.org and/or stop by the Governmental Center Lobby and view a special exhibit on the many services the County provides to keep our community healthy and prosperous. Or, visit Broward.org/CountiesMatter for details.

Port Everglades 90 Years Strong

Established as a deep-water harbor in 1927 by the Florida State Legislature and dedicated in 1928, Broward County's Port Everglades is now one of the three busiest cruise ports in the world, one of the top 10 U.S. container ports, and South Florida's leading seaport for receiving petroleum products including gasoline and jet fuel. Today, nearly 13,000 residents are directly employed by Port-related businesses earning \$502.7 million in wages and generating \$1.1 billion in state and local taxes. Total economic activity for Port Everglades is nearly \$30 billion. Very important to me as a County Commissioner and resident who works to make local government fiscally responsible, Port Everglades is a self-supporting Enterprise Fund that does not use any ad valorem tax dollars.

The first official commercial vessel to dock at the new harbor was the Graypoint on November 23, 1928. Today, more than 4,000 ships call on the Port annually, carrying 25 million tons of waterborne cargo including 3.86 million cruise passengers, nearly 5 billion gallons of petroleum and more than 1 million TEUs of containerized cargo (TEUs stands for 20-foot equivalent units and it the cargo industry's standard container measurement). Port Everglades has come a long way since its humble beginnings, and there is much more opportunity ahead.

To learn more about Port Everglades growth please visit porteverglades.net.

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport Update

Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport continues to grow with many new services this year. Spirit Airlines has added new services which include Columbus (February), Richmond (March), Guayaquil, Ecuador (March), Seattle (April), Cap-Haïtien, Haiti (April) and St. Croix (May). Southwest Airlines also has new service which includes Aruba (March) and San Antonio (July). Jet Blue has new service to Atlanta (March), Grand Cayman (June) and Santiago, Dominican Republic (June); and Azul Brazilian Airlines has new service to Recife, Brazil.

For more information on all the exciting new things at FLL, please visit Broward.org/Airport.

The Resident's Guide to Government provides a convenient resource to help people stay connected to their local government. It includes contact information for County officials and Federal, State, and local agencies. Visitors can subscribe to eNews and social media sites. Please sign up at Broward.org/District4 to receive email updates from our office. If there is anything that we can do to assist you with your vision for a better Broward, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 954-357-7004 or by email at clamarca@broward.org.

As always, it is my honor and privilege to serve you.

Best regards

Chip



Dear Broward County Residents,

I am honored to serve as your County Commissioner, representing our coastal communities from Deerfield Beach to Fort Lauderdale and all of the amazing cities, towns and villages in between. Here are some recent highlights from around Broward County:

After Action Review Following the MSD Shooting

Broward County recently chose the Police Foundation as the independent organization to create an After-Action Report (AAR) on the event that transpired on February 14th at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. This independent organization will identify and review all relevant information about the event and conduct interviews to complete an assessment and provide an AAR to the County.

The Police Foundation was created in 1970 and is the oldest nationally known independent, nonprofit, non-partisan, and non-membership driven organization dedicated to advancing policing through innovation and science. Most recently, it conducted and concluded an AAR for the police response to the Pulse Nightclub mass shooting in the City of Orlando. The Police Foundation received extremely high recommendations from the City of Orlando for its thorough, fact-based and unbiased reporting. The team will be comprised of subject matter experts in the field of public safety response to critical incidents, psychology of school shooters, school safety, security and emergency preparedness. The assessment is expected to begin later this month and take between 3 to 6 months to complete.

National County Government Month

April is National County Government Month, an annual recognition of County government and the many services it provides. Since 1991, the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties around the country to actively promote the services and programs they offer. In Broward County, there are more than 60 agencies that provide key programs and services every day to serve those who are economically disadvantaged, and to make our communities stronger. Some of these programs and initiatives are in the areas of education, finance, housing, health and wellbeing, transportation and technology.

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Second Studio, LLC
954-292-6553
2ndstudios@gmail.com

EDITOR

Eric Peter Berkowitz

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EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

District 1 City Commissioner HEATHER MORAITIS' April 2018 Newsletter

By Eric Berkowitz

**On April 17, 2018, District 1 City Commissioner Heather Moraitis delivered her second constituent Newsletter to the neighborhood association. Opening with a plan to exploit an opportunity created by a labor shortage in the world's fast-growing commercial airline industry, Moraitis connects Broward students with high-paying local jobs in Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE); urges constituents to nominate candidates for the 2018 Transportation Awards; equips residents near Executive Airport with the Aircraft Noise Abatement Reporting Line; lists a series of upcoming municipal events and invites District 1 residents to attend her bi-monthly pre-agenda meetings.*

AVIATION JOBS & TRANSPORTATION AWARDS

At the March 20 City Commission meeting, Moraitis declared March as "Women in Aviation Month" and capped the extended event by hosting a "Careers in Aviation Open House" on April 23, a program enabling high school students to network with airline businesses, military recruiters and local colleges with an aviation curriculum.

As observed by Moraitis', the explosive 20-year demand for pilots, maintenance technicians and cabin crews in the commercial airline industry has prompted Executive Airport aviation businesses to ramp up recruiting efforts and expedite training programs for mechanics and corporate cabin crews. Moraitis' statistics are drawn from a 2016 Pilot and Technician Outlook study by Boeing Commercial Aviation Services.

While surging industry workforce needs are worldwide, the economic conditions and market opportunities in each global region drives local demand. For instance, the Asia-Pacific region, which comprises 40 percent of the global need, is driven by low-cost carriers, North America is benefitting from new markets in Cuba and Mexico, while growth in Europe is attributable to a strong intra-European Union market. Referencing the 7th Annual Transportation Summit - a May 16 collaborative forum at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts (Huizenga Pavilion at 201 SW 5th Avenue in Fort Lauderdale) - wherein elected officials, regional experts, and industry leaders exchange best practices, share innovative ideas, and plan transportation infrastructure befitting the City's current and future needs, Moraitis describes two awards for community members who help the City achieve a safe, connected, multi-modal, and sustainable community - Neighbor Champion and Outstanding Project or Program - which recognize innovation, advocacy, and excellence in transportation projects.

PET WASTE ON THE GALT MILE

At the April 19, 2018 Galt Mile Advisory Board meeting, Moraitis expressed her continuing support for neighborhood projects discussed at earlier meetings, such as replanting browned-out A1A medians with new landscaping, equitably balancing skewed water and sewer rates and placing pet stations along Galt Ocean Drive (as earlier approved by a unanimous vote of the Advisory Board). Moraitis exclaimed, "I noticed that the City has begun installing 'Poo Pylons' on Galt Ocean Drive," referring to Pet Waste Stations - essentially a pole affixed to a chamber that dispenses biodegradable plastic bags.

By electing to ignore Section 6-4(c) of the City's Code of Ordinances, which requires the removal and proper disposal of their pets' droppings, a few irresponsible pet owners aren't just creating an irritating nuisance, but a significant health hazard. Pet waste that accumulates on the street, parking lot, sidewalk, association driveway or lawn is often carried by rainwater into a storm drain or catch basin that discharges the intestinal bacteria and disease-causing parasites into streams, lakes, canals or the ocean. Given South Florida's porous karst limestone geology, these pollutants also reach groundwater and permeate the aquifer. Pet owners who think it clever to stuff the waste into a nearby storm drain instead of an appropriate receptacle are responsible for the recent on-street flooding caused by inevitable blockages.

In rejecting the prospect of relying on the city to refill depleted bag chambers in a timely manner, in exchange for receiving these free Pet Stations, adjacent associations will replenish the biodegradable plastic bags as needed. Hopefully, the pet stations will help reverse these adverse impacts while improving the appearance of our neighborhood.

SUN TROLLEY GALT LINK

*Recently named as Fort Lauderdale's voice on the Broward County Planning Council, Moraitis also serves on the Board of the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (DFLTMA) - parent of the Sun Trolley - where she is currently working to revive the suspended Galt Link. She explained that participants at two March Sun Trolley Galt Link Public Workshops held at the Beach Community Center and the Galt Ocean Mile Reading Center helped map alternatives for a reconfigured Galt Link route. The new route is planned for implementation in May. Moraitis closes her monthly update with upcoming event reminders for a Wave Streetcar workshop, Broward Navy Days, the Fort Lauderdale Air Show and the little-known Cares Day. Read on for District 1 Commissioner Heather Moraitis' April 2018 message to constituents elsewhere in this edition. - [editor]**



From the Desk of Commissioner **HEATHER MORAITIS**

District 1 is home to the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) and FXE is addressing the issue regarding the aviation workforce skills gap. There is a growing demand for workers in the aviation industry and the Executive Airport is home to a variety of businesses working hard to train a talented workforce.

Over the next 20 years, statistics show that globally there is a need and opportunity for people to pursue aviation careers:

- Almost 40,000 new airplanes will be built in the next 20 years
- Highly trained workforce will be needed – over 2,000,000 new aviation personnel
- 617,000 new pilots will be needed
- 670,000 new technicians will be needed
- 814,000 new cabin crew members will be needed

Students interested in careers in aviation can learn more from Broward College (BC). BC has a comprehensive program in a number of areas, which can provide students with information they can use to pursue aviation training.

On Monday, April 23, I am hosting an Aviation Career Night for high school students interested in aviation careers at FXE in partnership with Broward College and Banyan Air. The event flyer is below. Please contact my office if you would like more information or your high school student is interested in attending!

Seeking Nominations for the 2018 Transportation Awards

The City is accepting applications for the 2018 Transportation Awards. The awards will be presented in two categories – Neighbor Champion and Outstanding Project or Program – at the Transportation Summit on May 16. Past winners include Ronald Centamore, Tarpon River Civic Association, Frederic Stresau, and Mockingbird Trail. Neighbors can apply online at www.fortlauderdale.gov by April 27.

Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport Aircraft Noise Abatement Reporting Line

Neighbors may call a 24-hour Aircraft Noise Abatement Reporting Line at 954-828-6666 to report excessively loud aircraft.

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- **Pass on the salt** – Added salt increases your blood pressure
- **Control your cholesterol** – Reduce intake of saturated and trans fats
- **Exercise daily** – Commit to 30 minutes of physical activity daily

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