



**From the office of Commissioner Moraitis:**

While the last few weeks have certainly not been a walk in the park for anyone, it has been my pleasure serving you during these trying times.

Working together with the Governor's office and the Department of Emergency Management, Commissioner Fisher, Representative LaMarca, Mayor Trantalis and my fellow city of Fort Lauderdale commissioners, we have focused on responsible action to keep you safe while understanding the economic impacts of our decisions. And let me say these decisions are not easy, because my family is facing the same challenges. I know this is hard - for all of us.

From the beginning Fort Lauderdale was ahead of the curve when Coronavirus first emerged. We acted proactively to reduce the significant risk our residents faced, and looking at the data both then and now, it was the right thing to do. As a hotspot for tourism and industry, we were on the cutting-edge of fighting this virus and our efforts are making a real difference.

Now we are ready to take the next steps. Together, we flattened the curve and allowed medical infrastructure to be built, manufactured, and distributed. We are not out of the woods yet, but this is now a manageable scenario.

I have continually pushed for more testing, both in the form of active testing as well as antibody testing and because of this we are building out a strong testing infrastructure with the help of the state and in partnership with Nova Southeastern University. This is critical for mitigating the risk and intensity of a second wave and allowing our economy to reopen safely - and remain open.

I was one of the first to call to reopen Fort Lauderdale -- in a smart and measured way -- because I believe we need to save our local economy as many families are hurting. This

cannot be done solely through top-down, government funded stimulus. It must come from the support of our community, by patronizing our favorite restaurants and retail stores, so they may open their doors and get their employees back to work.

Our community has been overwhelmingly supportive of each other, lending a hand to those in need and staying put even when that meant missing special moments like birthdays, weddings, or graduations. To everyone, I say “thank you!” The people within our community make living here special.

Now, I ask that you help us create a new normal by safely and smartly venturing out when appropriate. Please continue to follow guidelines, knowing your actions help flatten the curve and revitalize our city. And as always, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me or my staff if we can serve you through this trying time.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you again soon!

Commissioner Heather Moraitis

**For More Information:**

- Sign-up for Email Updates/Newsletters to get additional links to important city information, upcoming events, photos, commission agendas and meeting reminders for district meetings. Please contact District 1 Assistant Melissa Coningsby, [MConingsby@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:MConingsby@fortlauderdale.gov) or 954-828-5033, to receive emails or to schedule an appointment.
- Follow Commissioner Moraitis on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn @heathermoraitis