



Vice Mayor Heather Moraitis



Today, I toured Full Sail University Orlando Health Fortress—home to the largest collegiate esports arena in the country, to learn more about the university and its tremendous impact within the esports landscape. There is no doubt esports is a rapidly growing industry, with numerous recreational opportunities for all ages. High school leagues, adult leagues, and even intergenerational leagues come together to compete and connect in person and around the world. Providing recreation and a place of belonging is integral to a thriving community and I believe building a 15,000 square foot esports arena, holding about 500 people, on the second floor of the proposed community center at Lockhart Park, is the right fit for our city.

Investing in innovative ideas is not just about creating a hub for recreation and cutting-edge businesses. It's also about cultivating the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators. I have been working with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance to further support Broward County's standing as a longtime tech hub. Building an esports arena would be an additional asset in achieving this goal. Bringing an esports and gaming arena to Lockhart Park would service South Florida and provide another option outside of Central Florida, but more importantly, help us provide endless programs for the youth in our city.

Another exciting possibility would be to connect Brightline to Lockhart Park with a Boring Company Tunnel to transport people to the esport arena for tournaments and the Inter Miami CF Stadium on game day. Talk about bringing together multiple sectors! After seeing the arena at Full Sail University and touring the Boring Company Las Vegas Loop, I have no doubt we can achieve these goals right here in Fort Lauderdale.

I will bring this topic to the City Commission on Tuesday, August 17 and I hope the commission supports bringing an esports arena to Lockhart Park! Please email any questions or comments to HMoraitis@fortlauderdale.gov. I also look forward to hosting a zoom meeting in September to discuss this project with you!

Sincerely,

Heather Moraitis



Out and About in the Community



Santa's "ELFicers" from the Fort Lauderdale Police and Fire Department were at the Beach Community Center in District 1 celebrating Christmas in July! Christmas in July is an annual initiative that provides school aged children backpacks, supplies, clothes and many other resources needed to help start the academic year off right. A huge thank you to our Fort Lauderdale Police and Firefighters for making today extra special.



It was an honor to welcome the Black Chiefs Officers Committee Members to Fort Lauderdale for their annual educational symposium. Fire fighters nationwide were on the frontline providing emergency services during the pandemic and I am grateful for their service to our communities everyday. In 1986, the Black Chief Officers Committee (BCOC) was established as a resource committee under the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters. Today, with membership of over 5500 fire service professionals, the BCOC's mission is to improve the educational and networking resources available to those that aspire to the highest ranks in the profession.



Our office was honored to participate in the 2021 Back to School Drive held by the Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center. Every year, the CDTC helps fill the backpacks for more than 800 children in their program ensuring a great start to the academic year.



The Broward Partnership along with its development partner, Green Mills Group, celebrated the groundbreaking of Seven on Seventh. This mixed use affordable residential apartment community in downtown Fort Lauderdale will have 72 units, half of which will be reserved for low- income and formerly homeless individuals and families. Seven on Seventh represents a major step forward in tackling the affordable housing crisis in South Florida and will no doubt offer a diverse community where residents will reside and thrive!



We were so excited to celebrate our city campers at the Summer Enrichment Award Ceremony held at the Beach Community Center in District 1. At the ceremony, children who completed a summer camp experience with the city presented their end- of- summer capstone project. Each camper also received a certificate and special recognition for their hard work.

Save the Date!

LIVE MUSIC ★ CAR SHOW ★ ART & FASHION SHOW ★ KIDS ZONE
CARNIVAL RIDES ★ FACE PAINTING ★ PETTING ZOO ★ THE NATIVE VILLAGE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 ★ 1 - 9 PM
 North Beach Restaurants and Shoppes at A1A and Oakland Park Boulevard

MR. NICE GUY
(Classic Rock)

SOUTHERN BLOOD
(Classic Rock)

REMIX
(Top 40 & Oldies)

SLIP AND THE SPINOUTS
(Rock 'n' Roll)

Enjoy a block party featuring food and drink specials from more than 15 restaurants and bars plus great entertainment on four different stages!

PARKS & RECREATION
 City of Fort Lauderdale

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To discuss any issues in your neighborhood, please join our District 1 meeting. Please contact District 1 Assistant **Melissa Coningsby**, mconingsby@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-5033, for any questions or to schedule an appointment.