



JOHN C. HERBST, CPA

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1



Dear Neighbors,

We're just past the halfway mark of 2025, and I wanted to take a moment to thank you, our incredible District 1 community, for your continued engagement, advocacy, and dedication. Your voice is pivotal to the progress we make together. From strategic planning to public spaces and community celebrations, your participation is what drives our city forward.

As your Vice Mayor and District 1 Commissioner, I'm excited about what we've already accomplished this year and even more energized for what's ahead. Here's a snapshot of the key developments and initiatives shaping our district and the City of Fort Lauderdale.

#### COMMISSION PRIORITY SETTING

Each January, the City Commission sets its strategic priorities for the year ahead through a series of collaborative workshops. This year, our discussions focused on:

- **Affordable Housing & Economic Development**
- **Homelessness Initiatives**
- **Infrastructure & Resilience**
- **Public Places & Community Initiatives**
- **Public Safety**
- **Transportation & Traffic**

These priorities have guided our budget process from March through June. We're now preparing for two **September Budget Hearings**, after which the **FY 2026 Budget** will be formally adopted and implemented in October.

For more details on the City's FY 2026 Priorities and Budget, visit: [\*\*Fort Lauderdale Budget Information\*\*](#)

#### DISTRICT 1 PARKS: INVESTING IN PUBLIC SPACES

Parks are the heart of our community. They provide health, happiness, and a place to connect. I've consistently advocated for expanded and improved parks in District 1, and I'm pleased to share progress on several exciting projects—many supported by funds from the Parks Bond:

##### Lockhart Park

We were moving forward with our previously approved designs for transformative improvements near the Airport and had expected to go out for bid this month. Recently however, Mayor Trantalis negotiated a settlement with InterMiami that makes substantial changes to the site plan that the community came together on. Specifically, the three multipurpose playing fields have been replaced with parking for the benefit of the visitors coming to watch the soccer games. I vigorously opposed the loss of these recreational amenities for our children, but my arguments did not persuade my colleagues to support the residents of District 1. While I remain disappointed in the changes, the one positive thing to come out of the settlement is that InterMiami has committed to begin construction on the park by April 2026.

##### Sunrise Middle School Park

Finalized plans are in place! Permits are under review with Broward County. Planned upgrades include:

- Turf field & improved drainage
- Directional lighting for Pickleball court and pool
- Shade pavilion (30x44)
- Water chiller
- Picnic amenities, and more

Work will begin once permits are issued.

#### THE GALT: ACTIVATION & REVITALIZATION

We're reimagining the Galt Ocean Mile and the North Beach Shoppes—now collectively branded as **"The Galt."** Thanks to our Open Spaces Coordinator, Arianne Glassman, and feedback from residents and businesses through a recent Community Insight Survey, a new **Activation Plan** is taking shape.



##### Debut Event:

We'll kick things off with a **Pre-Labor Day celebration** featuring live music, branded giveaways, and a vibrant "We're Here!" moment.

##### Upcoming Events:

- September: Dine-Out Night
- October: Halloween Scavenger Hunt
- November: Light Up the Galt
- December: *A December to Remember*—classes, seminars, and in-store holiday happenings!

#### GALT MILE STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS

Design is well underway for the **Galt Ocean Drive Project**, in partnership with Chen Moore & Associates. Improvements will include:

- Road resurfacing, new bike lanes, and widened sidewalks
- Decorative paving, raised intersections & traffic-calming elements
- New landscaping, lighting, signage & public amenities
- Our goal is a safer, greener, and more walkable corridor for everyone.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We've hosted several public meetings to ensure your voice is heard on critical local projects. Recent gatherings include:

- **North Beach Town Hall**
- **Mixed Use Zoning District 1 Public Meeting**
- **Shape the Future of NE 15th Avenue**
- **Sunrise Middle School Facilities Input Meeting**

Your feedback directly influences how we build and grow our district—thank you for showing up and speaking out.

#### CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

District 1 has had a lot to celebrate so far this year! Some of the fantastic events we've shared include:

- **Breakfast with the Commissioner**
- **FXE ACE Awards**
- **Tu B'Shevat Tree Planting**
- **FLPD New Officer Graduation**
- **Fleet Week Celebrations**

These moments remind us of the strength and spirit that make Fort Lauderdale such a special place to live.

#### Looking Ahead

Thank you once again, District 1, for your commitment to your community. I am honored to serve you and look forward to finishing this year with the same drive and collaboration that have brought us this far. Let's continue to build a brighter future together.

Warm regards,

**Vice Mayor John C. Herbst, CPA**  
*City of Fort Lauderdale – District 1*

Please contact District 1 Assistant **Melissa Whiddon**, [Mwhiddon@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:Mwhiddon@fortlauderdale.gov) or 954-828-5033, for any questions or to schedule an appointment.