



CITY OF LAUDERDALE LAKES

NORTHWEST COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS VIRTUAL MEETING

Monday, November 9, 2020 – 12:00 noon

GoToMeeting link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/305781581>

Please contact Dwight at (954) 535-2706 or email dwighth@lauderdalelakes.org to confirm attendance from your city by November 5th.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Minutes of June 8, 2020 meeting, hosted by the City of Sunrise
- 3. SELF-INTRODUCTIONS**
- 4. SPEAKER(s)**
We are the Leaders and Speakers
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
Non-Entitlement Cities – COVID19 Funding

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled to be hosted by the City of Coral Springs in December, with the meeting location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES THAT IF ANY PERSON SHOULD DESIRE TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, SUCH PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AT SUCH MEETING, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE HE OR SHE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH ANY SUCH APPEAL MAY BE BASED.



**Minutes of the Northwest Council of Elected Officials
Hosted by the City of Sunrise
June 8, 2020 @12:00p.m. via Zoom**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Sunrise Mayor Michael J. Ryan at 12:09p.m. Mayor Ryan welcomed all in attendance.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Becky Tooley	Coconut Creek
Commissioner Mikkie Belvedere	Coconut Creek
Commissioner Sandra Welch	Coconut Creek
Vice Mayor Joy Carter	Coral Springs
Mayor Hazelle Rodgers	Lauderdale Lakes
Vice-Mayor Veronica Edwards Phillips	Lauderdale Lakes
Commissioner Marilyn Davis	Lauderdale Lakes
Mayor Ken Thurston	Lauderhill
Commissioner Denise Grant	Lauderhill
Vice-Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz	Margate
Commissioner Joanne Simone	Margate
Lee Peerman	Margate
Anais, Margate Resident	Margate
Mayor Ana Ziade	North Lauderdale
Commissioner Mario Bustamante	North Lauderdale
Mayor Christine Hunschofsky	Parkland
Commissioner Bob Mayersohn	Parkland
Commissioner Ken Cutler	Parkland
Commissioner Rich Walker	Parkland
Mayor Michael J. Ryan	Sunrise
Kimberly Kisslan, City Attorney	Sunrise
Thomas Moss, Deputy City Attorney	Sunrise
Shannon Ley, Community Development Director	Sunrise
Lourdes Lawrence, Administrative Aide	Sunrise

Others present unknown:

Fred Momplainer
Candice's iPad

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon motion by Lauderhill Mayor Ken Thurston and seconded by Margate Commissioner Joanne Simone minutes of the March 9th, 2020 meeting hosted by the City of North Lauderdale were approved unanimously.

Mayor Michael Ryan welcomes and thanks the group for joining in the Zoom call as this is a great opportunity to “see” each other. Mayor Ryan opens up the floor to the group with the following topics: Pandemic Issues/Covid-19, the death of George Floyd and the broader issues that are occurring in our communities. He mentions the following numbers on new Covid-19 Positive Cases in Broward County: June 2nd 52; June 3rd 91; June 4th 123; June 5th 110; June 6th 118; June 7th 114. These numbers represent the highest numbers we have seen yet and need to continue to watch as we re-open with the next phase, which has begun today (parks and athletics). Mayor Ryan mentions that the City of Sunrise in general are compliant as far as restaurants and other establishments.

Commissioner Sandra Welch thanks Mayor Ryan for hosting the Zoom call. The Commissioner mentions COVID-19 education and awareness has been effective within the communities – she mentions the key factor is communicating, communicating, communicating and fortunately the residents and businesses have listened. Of course, there are bumps along the road as we are all human, but for the most part she is proud of all business/residents and staff for the way they have handled the communication to the community. She continues her discussion by mentioning the death of George Floyd--“It is time to listen to all communities.”

Mayor Ryan mentions that the factor in reopening was not a medical/scientific decision it was an economic/political decision. It didn’t defeat COVID-19, there is no effective testing to find out who is asymptomatic in spreading the disease, we don’t therapeutic antiviral that will mitigate the long-term residual effects and contact tracing needs to be more robust. He thanks his colleagues for constantly sending out messages to their communities. While we don’t have all those other things, we do have each other in this situation.

Mayor Ken Thurston notifies the group that Lauderhill had a nursing home with positive COVID-19 tests with fifteen deaths. The facility decided to make it a COVID-19 positive facility which has a license for 108 beds. However, the State of Florida is allowing them to have 60 beds since its COVID-19 positive facility. The concern Lauderhill is having is that the COVID-19 patients being transferred there by paramedics. Paramedics are concern with the exposure, but the city can not do anything about it. The decision is made by the Florida Department of Health says it’s okay, then the city has to live with that decision. Mayor Ryan mentions that this is a perfect example of what happens in other cities impacts their surrounding city. He thanks Mayor Thurston for raising that issue as other communities must be aware of this.

Mayor Thurston continues, June 30th ends the authority by the Governor for the municipalities to meet virtually so starting July 1st we would have to go back to live

meetings and try to figure out how that will look like -socially distancing residents who would like to attend these meetings. This is another opportunity to solve a problem. Mayor Thurston praises his residents that they are compliant by wearing face masks, socially distancing and those establishments who do not comply once they are educated by code enforcement they comply and continue to stay compliant.

Mayor Thurston shares with the group the information on the CARES Act meeting that occurred the previous week. Mayor Levy from the City of Hollywood represents the Task Force was established by the Broward League of Cities. The task force made a plea as to why the cities should be receiving a share of the \$430 million dollars that the County received. The County could not have completed the application if they weren't representing cities, so the premise that the County completed the application was that the monies were for the use within the County and all the of the cities would benefit. Many cities are indicating they are in fiscal needs and would like to receive a direct allocation of the monies provided to the County. The County has pushed back a bit and talking about funding broad items and pushing back in actually providing monies to the cities. The discussion is continuing at this point and waiting on County Administrator Bertha Henry. Mayor Ryan thanks Mayor Thurston in his efforts in this Task Force and the Broward League of Cities in maintaining a coherent consistent message for all cities. Mayor Ryan believes that the County Commissioners are really listening to the cities and it has been a really good cooperation. All the rough patches encountered with the County in March and April has smoothed out. There is more work to be done on the CARES Act and if you have any specific questions please contact Mayor Thurston or Mayor Ryan and you will be brought up to speed on the latest information. Next CARES Act meeting is Wednesday, June 10th at 3pm via Zoom.

Mayor Ana Ziade mentions the mobile unit in her city which moves around the lower socioeconomic areas in her city in order to allow residents to get tested for COVID-19. The mobile testing site this week is in Hampton Pines Park, 7800 Hampton Blvd, North Lauderdale beginning on Tuesday through Saturday – you do not have to be a North Lauderdale resident to get tested – all ages, no appointments are necessary but preferred. Mayor Ana Ziade advises the group to go up the chain of command and reach out to your Representatives and Senators regarding the CARES Act and let them know how these monies are affecting the municipalities and that the County is holding our funds. It's really not fair to any of us, so please reach out to anyone that will listen and let them know what's occurring. Back and forth discussion on the CARES Act Fund with Mayor Ryan and Mayor Ziade.

Vice Mayor Joy Carter wanted to mention to the group after speaking on the CARES Act funds the fact that the 130,000 residents in Coral Springs are currently facing a \$5 million budget shortfall and are expecting more. She mentions a blood drive/donation that is being held on Saturday, June 13th from 10am to 5pm at the Old City Hall Site and if you donate blood you can get an antibody test as well.

Mayor Ryan mentions loss of jobs and how to retain and retool for a strong economic growth in Broward County. We really need to think about investing in the next generation of jobs in a post COVID-19 environment. During Mayor Ryan conversation, Margate Resident Anais messaged all participates at 12:49pm: “meetings happen during they work day. being able to join remote is great. I thought you all had the Census on the agenda?” Mayor Ryan addresses that comment and thinks there is a greater turnout when meetings are virtual, residents can listen in from home and its been successful. Mentions the court system and how the virtual environment is going to be needed during this pandemic.

Mayor Ryan mentions what transpired in Minneapolis and that not only has it rocked Minneapolis it has affected the entire nation and world. Mayor Ryan mentions that in 2016 Congressmen Alcee Hastings and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Shultz put together a community policing task force. One of the things that came out of the task force was when an event like the one that occurred in Minneapolis or when Walter Scott in South Carolina where the individual was shot in the back by a police officer. Historically local Police Departments, Police Chiefs and Sheriffs have been silent as that wasn't their department and they didn't feel the need to speak up. There was a mistaken idea that was completely rational that their silence was believed that they condoned the act by that particular police officer, yet when I speak to our Police Chief and our police officers they denounce the use of force and they would call it what it was which is criminal. One of the recommendations that was provided was that when these events occur, the community needs to know that our Police Department do not condone those acts – we need to be able to stand up and say that. It has never occurred; however, it did this past week where the Broward County Chiefs of Police issued a statement not only denouncing the use of force but acknowledging that there needed to be a serious discussion about policing in our community. Mayor Ryan mentions Former President Obama has challenged local Mayors to take a look at our use of force policy and in the City of Sunrise the use of force policy is on the commission agenda this coming Tuesday to begin that process. Mayor Ryan continues by referring to the protests, last week the City of Sunrise had a very well attended protest and had some minimal interaction with the organizer. He is pleased to share with the group that the city did not have a single-use of force and not even one arrest. The protesters were out in the City of Sunrise for five hours covering eight miles. They blocked traffic, it was inconvenient for people and even more for the businesses impacted by the traffic, but the First Amendment can be inconvenient and democracy can be raw. Mayor Ryan believes that peaceful protesting is patriotic as many in the group believe the same. Our field force officers in full gear were handing out water to the marchers as it was getting extremely hot out and the protestors were appreciative and made comments that they weren't angry at them they were angry at officers who do bad. Due to the hot weather some protestors just couldn't continue and our officers gave them rides, Mayor Ryan even provided a ride to a few protestors. It was a great experience for the protestors, the community, our field officers and myself. We were blessed the protestors were there to peacefully protest. No conflict what so ever. Mayor Ryan concludes with

opening up the floor regarding George Floyd and the issues we are facing as a nation regarding this incident.

Commissioner Mario Bustamante mentions another issue that his city is facing is the “panic”. It is a problem that his residents are feeling and he doesn’t know if they are panicking due to lack of money, Covid-19 or the George Floyd situation, but its something that needs to be addressed. Most of the residents are telling him that the panic is devastating everyone around the world. It’s a very big issue we are experiencing today. Mayor Ryan is not sure how to address that issue of panic.

Mayor Ryan speaks on the continuous census messaging to the community – perhaps having the message in different languages or having the interfaith community push out the messaging. We have to chase those numbers and get the message out there. Covid-19 has made it harder to get the message out – we perhaps need to adapt and work harder at the messaging. Mayor Ryan asks the group if they have any ideas on how to message please share.

Mayor Ryan invites Mayor Hazelle Rodgers to speak: she speaks eloquently and shares since she joined the call late she decided that this time she “will use her ears to hear and keep her mouth shut”.

Mayor Christine Hunschofsky speaks on census messaging to the community and how her staff is trying to catch up with the late notice which Broward County released very late on Friday. Parkland will continue to message on the community not only the census, but any other issues that come up due to Covid-19. Parkland’s goal to the community is that they are seen and we want to hear what they have to say and that everyone has a strong sense of belonging in the community. Mayor Ryan concurs with Mayor Hunschofsky – the community more than ever needs to be heard now, their fears are rational, their concerns are reasonable and valid. Now more than ever we must be compassionate. Mayor Hazelle Rodgers mentions that we all must be respectful of each other during this time. Mayor Ryan agrees and makes mention with the latest County order which Mayor Hunschofsky sent the County and email requesting they send out the order sooner rather than later so municipalities can prepare. At the end what we have to do with our own communities is tell them to please be patient with us as we try to implement these new orders issued so late on a Friday. It may take a couple days to get it right, but we will get it right. Margate Resident Anais messaged all participates at 12:58 PM: “maybe virtual census town hall on YouTube and/or Facebook live? Have language translators and sign-language? have an invite circulated for residents to RSVP in each community and invite others or host those live sessions in English, Spanish, French, Creole at different times of day and on a weekend with sign-language or captioning purchase online ads to serve in each city Facebook and Google Ads can reach many people with as little as \$25 per day.”

Commissioner Bob Mayersohn shares with the group that Parkland recently had a drive through/parade graduation and on behalf of his colleagues he wanted to thank Mayor

Hunschofsky for her leadership within the community as she spearheaded this event, Marjorie Stoneman Douglas staff along with city staff did contribute immensely in the event; however, he wanted to share his kindness to Mayor Hunschofsky for her hard work and dedication in making sure these graduates received a proper send off. Commissioner Mayersohn wanted to leave the meeting on a positive note. Mayor Ryan mentions that one of the challenges we faced that the School Board made a judgment call that they were not able to facilitate these graduations and left it up to the municipalities to have an event for all high schools. Commissioner Becky Tooley makes mention that in Coconut Creek they had their graduation at Broward College on Saturday at 6:30am until roughly 2:45pm. Comments made to her by principals were that they prefer this method instead of having a traditional graduation. Even though some parents had shared that their kids didn't want to attend at the end of the ceremony they loved it and glad they attended. Commissioner Becky Tooley praises her city staff as being fantastic as they handled it all. Mayor Hunschofsky requests if the group received an update as she recalls hearing about Broward Schools had reserved facilities for later on in the summer should the restrictions came to a point where they can have some sort of in-person graduation? Commissioner Tooley mentions that on June 16th, but she doesn't know if they will discuss this issue. Commissioner Sandra Welch mentions that North Broward Prep is holding a tentative date of July 25, 2020 for an in-person graduation just in case it materializes. Mayor Hunschofsky provides kudos to all cities in providing an honorable graduation and working so hard in providing that to our future leaders.

Vice-Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz mentioned that her city doesn't have a high school, but she personally stood and handed out gift bags to those graduating elementary and VPK. It was with great joy she was able to participate in such event as she typically doesn't have that unique opportunity to see these children individually. These events in her opinion was far more personal.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Ryan announced that he hopes to "see" everyone at the next Northwest Council of Elected Officials and wishes everyone a great day. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m with all present in favor of adjournment.