



Climate Adaptation Meeting Starts Conversation About Future Community Resiliency



Climate Adaptation Open House Meeting

The City of Fort Lauderdale held a public forum recently to discuss long-term sustainability in light of climate change. The Open House was an opportunity to share current information with neighbors and initiate a conversation about working together to enhance Fort Lauderdale's resiliency to protect the City's future prosperity.

Fort Lauderdale's seven miles of shoreline and 165 miles of inland waterways, coupled with its flat topography, location on a peninsula, dense coastal development, and shallow, porous aquifer make it vulnerable to the effects of climate change. During the Open House Meeting, staff discussed a new Adaptation Action Area (AAA) initiative to craft policy language for the City's Comprehensive Plan. Once established, the policy could be used to prioritize future funding and infrastructure improvements for areas in the City that are more vulnerable to flooding, erosion, high tides, salt water intrusion and rising sea levels.

Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler opened the meeting and discussed how the Adaptation Action Area initiative will bring the citywide Vision to life by engaging neighbors in a meaningful dialogue about the damaging effects of climate change and appropriate adaptation strategies. The Mayor further emphasized the importance of engaging the entire community in the process to allow the City to draw upon the diverse resources and expertise of our partner agencies and organizations to address this significant environmental challenge and ensure the long-term livability of our City.

Given the importance of the conversation, the City broadcast the meeting on FLTV and allowed viewers that were not able to attend in person to submit questions via Twitter. Panelists from the City, Broward County and the South Florida Regional Planning Council responded to the questions during the live Q&A session.

In the coming months the City will review the public input provided, revise the policy language and present it to the City Commission for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan. Fort Lauderdale will also continue to work with its AAA project partners, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Broward County, and the South Florida Regional Planning Council to identify transformative solutions to protect the region's economy and quality of life.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, you can still provide input through February 21 by posting your comments on the City's interactive website at <http://webuildcommunityftl.com/>

For more information regarding Fort Lauderdale's sustainable initiatives and global partnerships to address climate change, please visit the City website at www.fortlauderdale.gov/gyr.

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