

UPDATES FROM COMMISSIONER ROMNEY ROGERS



As we head to year-end and the holiday season, I want everyone in District IV to know that I am thankful for all the input you have provided on the many issues that come before the commission. All the late night meetings and tough decisions on expenditures of funds, the renewal of our utility franchise agreement and the safety and security of our city are made easier with your input. As you probably have read, the commission approved the renewal of the FPL franchise agreement. I supported this renewal because the contract negotiated by the city attorney's office provides for a non-exclusive agreement incorporating almost every suggestion the city's consultant recommended, including such things as smart grid technology, discounts for undergrounding and a purchase option at the end of the contract term. The new agreement contains better terms and conditions than ever before offered by FPL. Thanks for your input on this.

Flu season is upon us and the Broward County Health Department has kept the commission and staff abreast of the developments in their plan of action to protect the community. For many, the decision about inoculation is not easy because of the reported pros and cons regarding safety of the drug. I certainly cannot advise you on this decision which must be made by each adult for themselves and their family. I do, however, want you to be as informed as possible and know that if you choose to take the vaccine, there are many distribution sites around the county, including your personal physician, Walgreens and the health department. For high-risk individuals who are not able to access the vaccine through their healthcare provider or have no healthcare provider, as of Monday, November 2, 2009, the Broward County Health Department opened a High Risk H1N1 Vaccination Clinic at their Northwest Health Center located at 624 NW 15th Way. Their operating hours are 8:00am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

For information about the flu and how to prevent and treat, please visit the websites listed below for Broward County and the Broward Health Department for frequently asked questions, a self-evaluation tool for flu symptoms, Florida flu shot locator and links to other health organizations.

- <http://www.broward.org/newsalert.htm>
- <http://browardchd.org/Services/Administration/H1N1Info.htm>

If you are not inoculating, nothing beats adopting or maintaining healthy eating habits, exercise and frequent hand washing for your personal health. Help protect others by not going into work if you suspect you have any of the early signs of the flu. Better safe... than sorry.

In some neighborhood news...I had the opportunity to take a bus tour of Riverside Park with several key staff and saw the "good, bad and ugly" as

described by neighborhood participants. As is the case in many areas of our city, the main concerns are crime-related activity, abandoned and undeveloped properties, the increase in rental properties and cut-through traffic. I'd like to thank Mark Hill, Joanne Becker, Sharon Bogard, Tod Sloan, Marie Bessette, Dave Marshall, Keith Blackburn, Natalie Shelley and Jeff and Patti Moos for the time and energy they put into the preparations and presentation. This was just the groundwork for future action plans for maintaining the good and bringing remedy to the bad and ugly. City staff consisting of David Hebert, Major Gregory Salters, Mike Maloney, Terry Rynard, Captain Luis Alvarez and Valerie Bohlander have lots of information to work with and will begin drafting that action plan soon.

As we find ourselves in the holiday season we are reminded to be thankful for family and friends and the many advantages and opportunities we have, despite difficulties we may also experience this year because of constraints on finances. I am thankful for the opportunity to work with and serve you as we find solutions that will allow the City of Fort Lauderdale to remain one of the most beautiful and best cities to live, work and play in. Happy Thanksgiving!