

Board of Directors Meeting
February 5, 2026
12:00 – 1:00 PM
John Trudel Community Center
4521 NE 22nd Avenue
Lighthouse Point, FL 33064

Call to Order, Moment of Silent Meditation, Pledge of Allegiance

President Horland called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

The roll was called, and a quorum was established.

Present were:

Officers: President Denise Horland, and First Vice President Joyce Davis.

Board Members/(Alternates): Past Presidents Mayor Felicia Brunson, Councilmember Susan Starkey, and Councilmember Jim Allbritton, Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Mayor Samson Borgelin, Commissioner Anthony Caggiano, Commissioner Tycie Causwell, Mayor Denise Grant, Commissioner Neil Kerch, Commissioner Everette Marshall, Commissioner Tom Plaut, Commissioner Maria Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Joy Smith (Alternate Katrina Touchstone) and Mayor Richard Walker.

Board Members Excused: Treasurer Traci Callari, Past President Mayor Todd Drosky, and Commissioner Heather Berman, Councilmember Slava Borshchukov, Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer Bowen, Commissioner Jeremy Katzman, Vice Mayor Henry Mead, and Commissioner Paul Rolli.

Board Members Not Present: Past President Mayor Joy Cooper, Commissioner John Brodie, Commissioner Kicia Daniel, Commissioner Beam Furr, Commissioner Aisha Gordon, Mayor Edmund Malkoon, Mayor Wayne Messam, Commissioner Erik Morrisette and Commissioner Rhonda Sigerson-Eaton.

Also Present: Legal Counsel Samuel Goren (Goren Cherof Doody & Ezrol), Executive Director Mary Lou Tighe, Hayley Zagacki (Conceptual Communications) and Deputy Executive Director Sely Cochrane.

Welcome

President Horland welcomed everyone to the City of Lighthouse Point. She introduced Mayor Kyle Van Buskirk to share a few words. Mayor Kyle Van Buskirk provided a warm, community-focused update on the City of Lighthouse Point. He highlighted the city's stable population, its 70-year heritage and its unique governance structure shared by only one other city, Plantation. Mayor Van Buskirk introduced several officials, including Commissioners Everett Marshall and Jason Joffe, Commission President Patty Petrone, and City Administrator Ross Licata. He shared Lighthouse Point is known for its 18 miles of non-fixed bridge waterways, and the city relies heavily on its marine access for its identity and success. Population Stability: The population remains steady at approximately 10,800 residents. He emphasized that Lighthouse Point is a tight knit community where children who grew up there frequently return to raise their own families. While

steeped in tradition, the demographic is actually trending younger. The Mayor mentioned they are still searching for a time capsule buried 50 years ago.

Minutes

The minutes of January 2026 were resented. Upon motion of Past President Brunson, seconded by Commissioner Mead, the minutes were approved as presented.

Financial Report

Executive Director Tighe presented the Financials through January 2026. She shared the current focus is on dues invoiced in October, which are now 90 days past due. There is currently \$72,000 in uncollected revenue, which is a significant amount for the league. Upon motion of Commissioner Kerch, seconded by Past President Starkey, the financials were approved.

President's Report

President Horland reported on the high level of activity at the Capitol during "Broward Days" and "Legislative Action Days." She emphasized the importance of local officials staying vigilant and telling their city's story to legislators. Several critical bills are currently in play, including property tax reform, sovereign immunity, and local business taxes. She encouraged members to participate in the FLC Monday Webinars held every Monday at 9:00 AM during the session. Recordings are available on the FLC website after the fact. She also encouraged members to sign up for "The Capitol Connection" emails from Casey Cook (FLC) for weekly recaps. President Horland shared the meeting held in the City of Sunrise was a success with high attendance. The guest speaker Shane Strum shared an insightful presentation. President Horland announced the 2026 Youth Scholarship Program has launched and the League is currently accepting applications for its 2026 scholarship cycle. The program awards four \$2,500 scholarships to Broward County high school seniors. She shared a success story regarding 2022 winner Ashley Wong, who is now a paid intern for the FLC, highlighting the long-term professional impact of these awards. She encouraged members to promote the program in their respective cities/schools and consider contributing to the scholarship fund. President Horland shared a proposed a new policy to maintain the nonpartisan nature of League events, "The distribution of political or campaign-related literature is prohibited at Broward League of Cities events unless prior approval is granted by the Executive Director or the Board of Directors." Upon motion of Past President Drosky, seconded by Past President Brunson, the language was adopted as presented unanimously.

Nominating Committee

Past President Brunson shared that on February 2nd, the nominating committee convened to select a candidate for the position of Second Vice President. The committee—which included President Horland, Treasurer Callari, First Vice President Davis and Past President Drosky considered the two interested individuals who responded to the solicitation: Sunrise Commissioner Neil Kerch and Pembroke Pines Commissioner Jay Schwartz. The committee voted unanimously to select Neil Kerch for position of Second Vice President. She shared the committee also voted unanimously to approve the following slate of Board members for the Florida League of Cities:

Mayor Felicia Brunson, City of West Park
Vice Mayor Traci Callari, City of Hollywood
Mayor Joyce Davis, City of Dania Beach
Mayor Todd Drosky, City of Deerfield Beach
Council President Denise Horland, City of Plantation

Vice Mayor Henry Mead, City of Weston
Councilmember Susan Starkey, Town of Davie

Upon motion of Councilmember Starkey, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano the recommendations by the nominating committee were approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Tighe added a note on the long-term impact of the League's scholarship program highlighting the story of past recipient Stephen Morante who is currently working in Tallahassee for the state's economic development. She emphasized how rewarding it has been to witness the transition of scholarship recipients from high school seniors to established professionals. Executive Director Tighe announced the February 19th general membership meeting would feature Broward County Commissioner and former Parkland Mayor Mike Udine. He was invited to discuss the lessons learned throughout his political career and the evolving political landscape in a provocative and entertaining session. She noted Commissioner Udine's long-standing friendship with the League. Executive Director Tighe shared the details and sponsorship information for the Annual Installation Dinner at Margaritaville Hollywood Beach Resort scheduled for May 30, 2026. This event is designed to be fun and lighthearted celebration for the hard work of the League's member and it's a critical fundraiser for the League. She issued a call to action for 100% city participation and urged members to advocate for the event within their respective commissions to help secure sponsorships.

Legal Counsel Report

Mike Cirullo informed members about several pieces of legislation moving through Tallahassee that threatened to impact municipal planning and development regulation. He highlighted a proposed bill that would require cities to certify private providers to conduct zoning reviews and code interpretations in lieu of municipal staff. He shared that such a shift would undermine a city's ability to regulate development, noting that zoning codes were often subject to the specific interpretations of local officials. Ultimately, he warned that while the public was distracted by high-profile tax issues, this mandatory certification process could fundamentally change how local governments conducted business.

Public Relations Report

Hayley Nicoletto presented the Public Relations Report. She shared the League continued its strong focus on the "Why I Ran for Elected Office" video series, which highlighted the personal stories and community motivations of local officials. This month's programming featured videos of Deputy Mayor Jaqueline Guzman and Council Member Chad Volkert, with an upcoming feature for Commissioner Newbold scheduled for release shortly thereafter. She encouraged members to engage with content on Facebook and Instagram through likes, comments, and shares to bolster the campaign's visibility. She also shared that every key metric—including engagement, impressions, and reach—showed substantial growth compared to January 2025

Miscellaneous

A copy of municipal resolutions and board meeting attendance was provided.