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SEPTEMBER 2011

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GMCA



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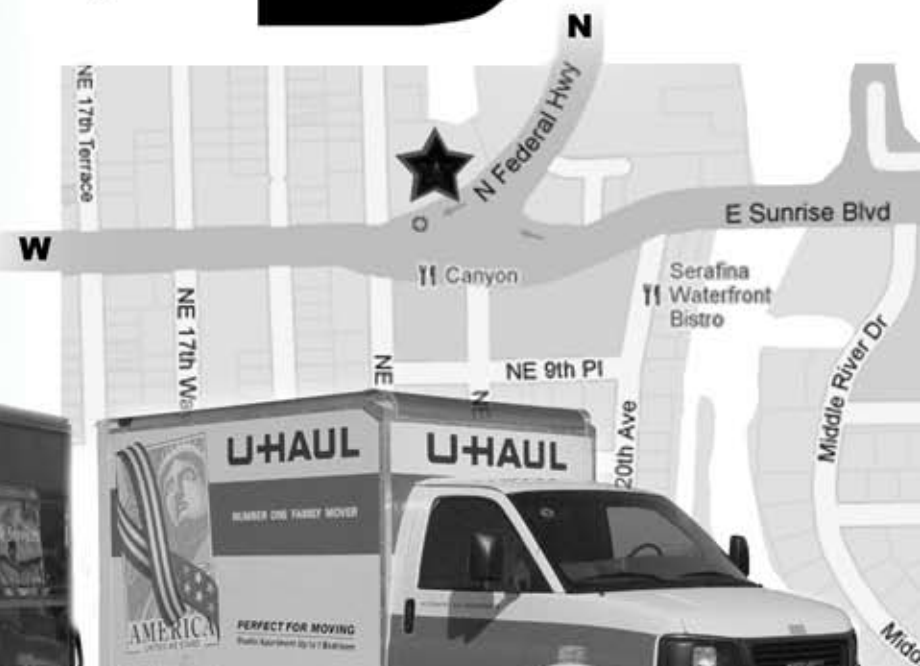
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FT LAUDERDALE AIR SHOW SET FOR TAKEOFF!

By Eric Berkowitz

"Look... up in the sky. It's a bird. It's a plane. No it's... Bryan Lilley and Ramola Motwani!" The Fort Lauderdale City Commission intends to breathe life into a 2012 variation of the devolved Air & Sea Show. Until a few years ago, the annual mega-event drew record breaking crowds to the Fort Lauderdale beach, delighted a nationwide television audience and tickled millions of viewers in 144 countries around the planet. Last year, a replacement show marketed as Air Lauderdale stirred hopes for a revival of the City's week-end-long one time signature event. After coming within a hair of actualization, the event stalled as promoters made pathetic supplications to the immediate world for a financial rescue that never came.

Five years after the last Air & Sea Show combined with Fleet Week to frame an impressive tribute to America's military, event production and management firm B. Lilley, Inc. (BLI) teamed with local real estate impresario Ramola Motwani to bring a scaled down version of the event back to Fort Lauderdale. Following two decades of producing auto shows for Liberty Productions (currently known as Motor Trend Auto Shows), BLI President and Founder Bryan S. Lilley displayed an aptitude for producing space and aviation extravaganzas.

After incorporating BLI in 2002, Lilley began rolling out successful air and space shows in 2006. To earmark NASA's 50th Anniversary, Lilley patched together the World Space Expo at the Kennedy Space Center in November 2007. Since then, he banged out the Cocoa Beach Air Show in Cocoa Beach, Florida each November for the past three years and the OC Air Show in Ocean City, Maryland this June. In the Air Show business, three home runs carry a considerable supply of street cred. In this case, enough to convince a tight-fisted Fort Lauderdale hotelier and real estate magnate to pony up the cash required for a similar performance on the Fort Lauderdale Beach. Since Ramola Motwani had long ago tied her star to Fort Lauderdale's beachfront, an investment yielding a boatload of free publicity was a good fit.

When husband Bob passed away in 1994, instead of liquidating their impressive portfolio of beachfront dives that drew squads of Funicello and Avalon wannabes into the Spring Break behavioral sink, Ramola decided to parlay the underlying land into a seat at the table reserved for Masters of the Hospitality Universe. In exchange for allowing "The Donald's" handlers to develop his Trump International Hotel on her property, she snagged an enterprise partnership in the near



bankrupt project. An attorney with an uncanny spongelike ability to learn on the fly, Ramola decided to go it alone on a similar venture next to the Trump International Hotel. She would replace her seedy Tropic Cay Motel and Avalon Waterfront Inn with a 22-story 328-room super-luxury hotel called the Ocean Wave (wedged neatly between her 24-story Trump International Hotel and the 25-story Q Club/Hilton Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort).

Ramola Motwani has two sons. In 2004, Nitin left Goldman Sachs to run Merrimac Ventures - the family business. After sowing his wild oats with Credit Suisse, Dev also agreed to work for mom in 2006. CEO Ramola named him Co-President with sibling Nitin, who was also assigned to scouting worldwide expansion opportunities. She also tapped Dev to temporarily manage the family's fleabag beachfront placeholders.

On June 21, 2010, BLI and the Motwanis tempted the City Commission with viable plans for an event called the "Lauderdale Air Show". Their scaled-back version would take place on the beach just north of Sunrise Boulevard from noon to 4 p.m. over the April 28-29, 2012 week-end. After regaling Commissioners with the new team's credentials, they warned that their participation was contingent on the absence of competition for the site license. They weren't about to engage in a shoot-out with some of the "less credible" previous recipients of the City Commission's largesse.

As if scripted for a tier 4 reality show to thicken a weak subplot, public relations consultant Stan Smith appeared out of nowhere to muddy the waters. In 2010, Smith flooded local media markets with press releases for an Air Show replacement called Air Lauderdale. Although a pale imitation of the traditional Air-Sea Show, the event was so sorely missed that Fort Lauderdale residents were more than willing to compromise their expectations. When the Air Force Thunderbirds and the Navy Blue Angels - two headlining attractions of years past - declined participation, potential sponsors ran for cover. To protect itself, the City required that promoters secure a \$1 million bond to ensure payment for municipal cops, firefighters and cleanup crews enlisted for the event. Following a futile search for an angel with deep pockets, Smith threw in the towel and cancelled Air Lauderdale.

The other prospective Air Show competitor was promoter Mickey Markoff's MDM Group, the parent company of Pro Series, Inc. (PSI), which developed the original Air & Sea show into the City's premier event. The Air & Sea show was actually a descendent of the Budweiser Air & Water Show of Chicago, which PSI inherited in 1987. By exploiting corporate sponsorship, they developed the Chicago lakefront show into the largest two day event in the nation, garnering 2.7 million visitors. When the Chicago Mayor's "Office of Special Events" staged a political "takeover" in 1994, a year later PSI honcho Mickey Markoff convinced Shell Oil to try the formula in Fort Lauderdale, surmising that the city would be desperate to fill the vacuum created when Fort Lauderdale decided to trade its mantle as the "Spring Break capitol" for the broader appeal of reinventing its image as the "Venice of America." After the audience tripled in 1996 from 800,000 to 2.5 million, Markoff swapped Shell Oil for McDonald's and

Continued on page 5

attracted all five branches of the military by developing the Air & Sea Show Display Village into a remarkably effective recruiting device. Incorporating Fleet Week enhanced the event's popularity, ultimately expanding its annual beachfront and local media audience to 4 million.

Markoff continued to build corporate support through 2007, assembling a \$5 million sponsorship network. Starting with the 2003 municipal budget blowout, Markoff and the City feuded continuously through 2007 about the provision of support services. The Air & Sea Show was originally organized as a self-sustaining event. In 1999, the city offered to provide certain services on the cuff. When City finances hit the skids in 2003, contract renewal negotiations toughened. Backed by new City Manager George Gretnas, Commissioners told promoters that the City's gesture of support made when Fort Lauderdale was fiscally healthy needed rethinking.

The show was a cash cow for promoter MDM Group Ltd. (MDM) and subsidiary Pro Series Inc. (PSI), bringing in millions every year. According to show spokesperson Elaine Fitzgerald, the show cost about \$4 million to produce. The U.S. military contributed the planes and fighter jets, boats and military personnel while Pro Series Inc. paid for aircraft and sea-craft fuel, room and board for participating military crews and "gym space" for hosted military VIPs. In addition to standby police and fire rescue personnel, the city provided sanitation services and the Parks staff required for the post-event beach rehab.

Senior sponsor McDonald's shelled out \$3 million each year for the Title sponsorship. TV revenues, promotional sales and enormous corporate financial support (40 + corporate sponsors) all fed the promoters' bottom line. When the City proposed returning to a self-supporting show, Executive Producer Markoff of MDM Group and Johnny Williams, Esq. (Executive Director, Air & Sea Show) of Pro Series Inc. slammed the door. The promoters not only refused to open their books to the City, they threatened to sue if the City didn't continue the service subsidies. At a time when Fort Lauderdale's hemorrhaging budget forced service cuts and layoffs circled above employees' heads like vultures, the promoters arrogantly insisted that taxpaying residents foot the bill for their "free" show.

At a June 17, 2004 GMCA Advisory Board meeting, former Commissioner Christine Teel explained that the City provided \$458,571 in Fire-Rescue, Public Services, Parks & Recreation and Police Services to the Air & Sea Show for which the promoters reimbursed the city \$171,039. Parking revenues of \$43,634 helped cushion the blood-letting. The rest, \$243,898, was picked up by the City's taxpayers. Not exactly a free show. Every subsequent year through its demise in 2007, Markoff threatened to move his traveling circus to Miami, Daytona or elsewhere on the coast.

Markoff claimed that the show represented a windfall for local vendors. Although President Nicki Grossman of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau (GFLCVB) agreed that the few hundred thousand people attracted to the beach over the weekend generated about \$4 million, it was unclear how much of that benefited the local economy. "It is worth a lot in terms of image, and it's a great patriotic boost," conceded Grossman. "But it's not a reliable source of room nights." The reaction of local merchants to the show's departure was mixed. The annual feedback from local retailers and restaurateurs along the beach and in surrounding communities convinced Grossman that the show's impact on area businesses as a whole was marginal. She stated, "All restaurants tell us is that it doesn't generate a whole lot of business."

Since the Air & Sea Show licensed its own vendors, profits for most food, retail and souvenir sales weren't reaped by area business owners. Grossman revealed how promoters hamstringed local merchants, "The vendors licensed by the air show get most of the food and souvenir sales." The city had no say over which vendors were chosen by the promoter to harvest profits. According to show spokesperson Fitzgerald, they utilized a single out-of-town vendor called

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San Francisco Puff 'N' Stuff to outsource all of the show's vendor needs. "We stick with who we know," said Fitzgerald. "A critical piece of running the show is getting vendors that can do a good job." Given the operational pitfalls of selling promotional buttons and "dirty water" hot dogs, her explanation hovered somewhere between ludicrous and insulting. However, it clearly explained why the show was of minor economic consequence to area businesses.

Although former Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle expressed his appreciation for the Air & Sea Show's success as an armed forces recruiter, he was never impressed with the event's fiscal contribution to the city. He said that merchants in the Galleria Mall, located just over the causeway from the Fort Lauderdale Beach event site, claimed that the show's traffic dramatically hampered Mother's Day shoppers in weeks preceding the holiday. Mall officials agreed that the show was detrimental to the bottom lines of most Galleria retailers. Naugle added that shop owners and restaurants on Las Olas Boulevard, the high-end shopping district perpendicular to the beach, also described the show as disruptive to business. Ironically, the average City resident mistakenly believed that the signature Air & Sea Show beneficently filled local coffers every spring. Due to the one-way business model tailored by an intransigent Markoff, it didn't!

Although the event's fiscal value to the City was always questionable, it was a stunning success as a recruiting tool for the military. When the show opened in Fort Lauderdale in 1995, Florida was 26th in the nation for military recruiting. After a decade of Air & Sea Shows, Florida had achieved recognition as the nation's most prolific recruiting machine. Commenting on the underlying rationale for the event's recruiting success, PSI promoter Johnny Williams said, "For a long time the military was trying to connect to the American public. This shows the American people how their military dollars are being spent."

Some insiders believed that the show's official withdrawal from Fort Lauderdale was a precursor to relocating to another venue. Suspected of potentially benefitting from Fort Lauderdale's loss were Miami, Daytona and Miami Beach. With the benefit of hindsight, a more credible

scenario envisioned a split between McDonald's and Markoff stemming from some embarrassing legal entanglements. McDonald's fashioned a business niche built on its reputation as a family institution. In 2003, the flashy promoter was thrice accused of being a peeping tom.

Fort Lauderdale police records show claims that Markoff breached a local woman's bedroom late at night uninvited. Another woman claimed to have confronted Markoff through her window causing him to drive off in his white Porsche tagged "Airshow" (as described in the police report). Another report filed on November 15, 2003 confirmed that Markoff was accused of watching a 25-year-old woman shower from a walkway marked "no trespassing" in a chic East Las Olas development. The woman "came out of her shower to see a man looking into her bedroom window" (as per the police report). "The man backed away and left on a motorcycle. However, he returned later, this time driving a car and wearing a different shirt, to resume looking into the window."

Following a year-long investigation that led State Attorney Michael Satz into court, Markoff pleaded "no contest" to charges filed on October 8, 2004 stemming from his nocturnal peeping proclivities. Found guilty of two trespassing charges, one loitering and prowling charge and one disorderly conduct charge, Circuit Judge Leonard Feiner sentenced Markoff to three years' probation conditional on his continued compliance with a remarkably friendly plea agreement. Markoff had to submit a DNA sample, undergo annual polygraph testing about voyeuristic behavior and, understandably, stay out of his neighbors' yards. Markoff was also mandated to make \$5000 contributions to assorted Women's support organizations including "Women in Distress". Additionally, he was precluded from entering the high-end Sunrise Key development - one scene of the crime - without the specific invitation and approval of every community resident.

The City and Markoff's corporate sponsors (such as McDonald's) were primarily concerned about the degree to which the resulting public relations nightmare would tarnish the event and its supporters. For a few years, they dodged a bullet by masterfully managing damage control. To their chagrin, Sun-Sentinel correspondent Brittany Wallman inflamed local outrage with follow-up reports about similar incidents in 1998 and 2001. A convicted sex crimes recidivist, Markoff's sponsorship

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opportunities hit a brick wall. Unless Hustler's Larry Flynt was suddenly beset by uncontrollable waves of patriotic fervor, the BLI - Motwani group had little to fear from Markoff.

They were, however, concerned about Smith. Hoping to exploit any renewed interest stirred by the BLI - Motwani group's offer, Smith claimed that his 2010 contract with the City - which he didn't fulfill - allows him to host another Air Show in 2012. When asked about his suspiciously disruptive last minute intervention, Smith exclaimed that he'd been quietly working on covert plans for an Air Show for the same April 28-29, 2012 weekend described by his rival. His dubious plans were so quiet that neither the neighborhood association nor the local beach redevelopment board was aware of their existence.

City officials also hadn't heard from Smith since his project withered last year. The City Attorney openly refuted any obligation to Smith, whose failure to deliver breached his compact with the City. Aware of the hallmark event's importance to the city's image, Mayor Jack Seiler stoically managed a straight face while announcing, "The city is going to have to pick one or the other. We have competing proposals, and the question is how do we handle this fairly."

The City Commission quickly scheduled a special meeting on July 12, 2011. The meeting agenda promised a forthcoming decision between the rival promoters. Hoping to trade on the success of the original Air & Sea show, the Air Lauderdale group was headed by Ted Plana, who managed operations for 13 years under Markoff. Since the \$1 million bond that tripped up Smith last year would again burden the winning bidder, both groups promised to address the expense through sponsorships and ticket sales. Unfortunately for Plana, the panel recalled similar assurances Air Lauderdale made last year before coming up short. A July 11th memo from new City Manager Lee Feldman estimated municipal operational costs in excess of \$700,000 for either plan. Fumbling their 2010 opportunity seemingly stigmatized Air Lauderdale's proposal and fatally clouded their credibility.

The Air Lauderdale group was also hampered by Smith's personal financial problems. When Smith pulled the plug on the 2010 event, Fort Lauderdale businessman Steve Savor sued Air Lauderdale and Smith for \$116,967 he loaned to the failed Air Show and was awarded a \$58,000 judgment that Smith never paid. A former spokesperson for billionaire businessman H. Wayne Huizenga, Smith owes another \$58,000 to the Internal Revenue Service for back taxes. After swimming through Smith's sticky finances, Commissioner Bruce Roberts commented "It's enlightening, and it makes you wonder if he can get it together. The most important thing is we get the air show, so it comes down their financial ability."

It came as no surprise when the Commission opted for the BLI - Motwani group's "Lauderdale Air Show". Dev Motwani said "We remember the good old days of the air show and how important it was to the city." Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan sent Mayor Seiler an endorsement of Bryan Lilley that glowed in the dark. The Mayor and the three attending Commissioners offered two reasons for their decision. Lilley's extensive experience with mega-events and his recently successful Air Shows served to boost Commission confidence in the BLI plan. The BLI - Motwani team emphasized that their production will require no tax dollars. Punctuating the Commission's commitment to realizing this opportunity, Mayor Seiler added "We need to make sure this event happens. We are going to have a tremendous event. It needs to return to the city of Fort Lauderdale."

Commissioner Charlotte Rodstrom's take on the decision is less clear. Since she was visiting in North Carolina during the meeting, she participated via a telephone hookup. As the panel was vetting the issue, Rodstrom was overheard asking some unidentified companion "Now, what do I say?" Mayor Seiler cautioned the seem-

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ingly confused District 2 Commissioner that the meeting hall audience and television viewers watching the proceedings could hear her remarks. Perhaps she misplaced her script.

The Lauderdale Air Show's new format cures most of the problems that plagued its predecessor. Local vendors will openly share in the event's economic spinoff. Taxpayers won't be scotched by service subsidies extorted from the City. The show's abbreviated duration will relieve traffic to and from shopping venues (A1A will only be closed during show hours instead of the entire weekend). Like other Barrier Island natives, Galt Mile residents will gather friends and family to watch the signature event from balconies, windows and their beach. After a five year hiatus, the City of Fort Lauderdale will resume celebrating an annual spectacle that applauds our heroic men and women in harm's way. Despite the brain-frying sonic booms, the Mayor got it right when he remarked "We need to make sure this event happens!"



Air Lauderdale Promoter Stan Smith Loses Air Show Bid

SENATOR BOGDANOFF ON FL REDISTRICTING

By Eric Berkowitz

* Florida Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff launched a campaign to engage her District 25 constituents in a redistricting process that will heavily influence how political power is distributed both locally and across the state. Redistricting is the redrawing of district boundaries for congressional and state legislative electoral districts to adjust for changing growth rates in different parts of the state during the prior decade. Districts determine which voters participate in which elections for choosing representatives in the U.S. House, the State Senate, and the Statehouse. Based on the new census, districts are redrawn every ten years.

Bogdanoff celebrates new technology that enables every Florida citizen to move from the nosebleed seats to the playing field. The Florida Statehouse uploaded user friendly redistricting software and operating instructions to its web site. "District Builder" is a free full-featured web-based application for modeling and analyzing Florida congressional, senatorial, and house districts. Using District Builder, legislators and citizens can navigate interactive maps and explore population characteristics. It continuously updates the demographic balance of changing districts, and it simplifies creating maps and statistical reports in PDF (Adobe Acrobat) format. The new District Builder software could enable Florida to become the first state redistricted by its citizens. Anyone living on the Galt Mile can now author a plan that underwrites the basis for our electoral clout. The following is Senator Bogdanoff's entreaty to constituents: - [editor]*

FLORIDA REDISTRICTING AND YOU!

What a long way we have come!

This picture is in the hallway of the House office building. I used to walk past it every day and think about how far we have come to encourage public participation and involvement in government.

Your input is especially important during this once-a-decade redistricting process, and I am proud that we have invested in the technology that allows Florida to lead the nation in public involvement.

Anyone with internet access and a computer can get full use of the same District Builder web application that Senators and our professional staff use, complete with block-by-block census data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

*To get started, register for a secure District Builder account at:
http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/sign_up.cfm*

*To learn more about District Builder before registering, view the online Help Manual:
<https://db10.flsenate.gov/db1/help/>*

This powerful, easy-to-use web application allows you to explore demographics, model districts, and evaluate plans for our area. The concrete proposals that you build and submit, in addition to your participation at the hearings listed below, will directly influence how I shape my proposal for Florida's new congressional, senatorial, and representative districts.

The Legislature's Redistricting Committee set up a series of public hearings to listen and learn how you want the laws and standards governing redistricting to be implemented, and how you think districts should be drawn in your area to advance the community's shared interest.

Submitting your plan is one of the best ways to show what you feel works for our community, and it will be part of the public record of the Senate and House committees, and available for public review on the Legislative Redistricting webpage.

*FYI - In this space, Senator Bogdanoff listed the dates and locations for local venues where public hearings were convened to elicit redistricting feedback from constituents. Although the relevant dates have

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since passed, you can still make inquiries to Senator Bogdanoff and/or the Redistricting Committee at the below email addresses. – [editor]*

Following the joint hearings, there will be meetings of the Senate and House committees for Senators and Representatives to reflect on what we have learned and pose questions or offer viewpoints and proposals. My staff and I will be reviewing the proposals from our area in the interim, so make sure you sign up for District Builder and submit your plans.

If you cannot make it a meeting, you can also email comments or suggestions to me at Bogdanoff.Ellyn.Web@flsenate.gov, to the Redistricting Committee at Redistrict-Florida@flsenate.gov, or feel free to call my office at 954-467-4205 with any additional questions or concerns.

I look forward to working with you during this exciting process.

*All the best,
Ellyn Setnor Bogdanoff
State Senator - District 25*

* WHO REWROTE OUR REDISTRICTING RIGHTS?

In early 2010, a redistricting reform advocacy group called "Fair Districts Florida" (AKA "Fair Districts Now") populated petitions with more than a million signatures to insure that Constitutional Amendments 5 and 6 were placed on the November 2010 Florida ballot. Subsequent approval by at least 60% of the electorate would amend the State Constitution and change the way state legislative districts (Amendment 5) and congressional districts (Amendment 6) were drawn. In short, criteria enumerated in the amendments require that districts be contiguous, compact, roughly equal in population and use existing city/country boundaries when possible.

Elements of the Republican-controlled legislature were spitting blood. Legislative leaders stitched together HJR 7231, a third amendment which they planned to group with the other two on the November 2010 ballot. Unlike the grass roots reforms approved by more than a million Floridians, HJR 7231 (Amendment 7) was engineered by a few openly conflicted lawmakers over the objections of peers on both sides of the aisle. The eleventh hour ringer was primarily distinguished by what it omitted.

One day before the September 2nd deadline for placing issues on the November ballot, the Florida Supreme Court voted to boot Amendment 7 from the ballot, declaring its ballot summary "confusing and lacking critical information" since it neglected to inform voters that, if passed, lawmakers would no longer be required to craft districts that are contiguous. The Galt Mile could have conceivably been pasted into a district in downtown Hollywood... or Gainesville... or the Krome detention center. The court also rejected a last ditch Statehouse maneuver to excise Amendments 5 and 6 from the ballot.

When 63% of the voters in the November 2010 election approved amending the Florida Constitution with the new redistricting standards, they finally replaced nearly two centuries of cultural neutering, racial & religious gerrymandering and partisan vote dilution with district lines based on factors unrelated to party and incumbency.

WHAT CHANGED?

Before the new Amendments were approved, the Florida Constitution treated gerrymandering as a legal enterprise, not unlike bungee jumping, paintball or racial profiling (see Patriot Act). Until last year, Florida was one of the few remaining states that openly allowed incumbents to manipulate district lines to insure small supportive majorities in targeted districts. In 2002, the fact that newly drawn districts were neither compact nor community based formed the basis of a political gerrymandering challenge to the 2000 redistricting plan. The Florida Supreme Court dismissed the challenge, explaining that compactness and adherence to community boundaries "are not constitutionally required." [In Re: Constitutionality of House Joint Resolution 1987, 817 So. 2d 819, 832 (Fla. 2002).] Thanks to the citizens of Florida, these criteria are now enshrined in the Florida Constitution (while minority voting rights were previously guaranteed by federal law, they are now also included in the State Constitution).

Continued on page 14

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FROM THE DESK OF COMMISSIONER ROBERTS



CITY MANAGER UPDATE Lee Feldman has been hard at work since June reorganizing City staff and preparing the next budget. Part of his reorganization has involved the elimination of an Assistant City Manager while bringing on board two new Assistant City Managers: Stanley Hawthorne and Susanne Torriente. Their brief bios are provided below:

STANLEY HAWTHORNE Prior to accepting his new position with the City, Mr. Hawthorne served six years as the Assistant City Manager of Lakeland, FL where he oversaw the departments of Human Resources, Information Technology, Risk Management/Purchasing, Internal Audit and the Lakeland Center. He also led the city's Performance Excellence Division where he focused on enhancing operations through performance efficiencies and process improvements. In addition, he directed Lakeland's strategic operating plan, \$600 million operating budget, and capital improvement program. Mr. Hawthorne has more than 25 years experience in government. He previously served as City Manager of Lauderdale Lakes, Assistant City Manager and Director of Finance for Tamarac, and Director of Management and Budget for the City of Hollywood, FL. He began his career in municipal government in 1985 in the City of Saginaw, Michigan where he worked for seven years advancing to the position of Assistant to the City Manager. Mr. Hawthorne holds an undergraduate degree from Troy State University in Alabama and a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from the University of Virginia.

SUZANNE TORRIENTE: Ms. Torriente comes to the City of Fort Lauderdale from Miami-Dade County where she most recently served as Director of the Office of Sustainability. In this position, she was responsible for overseeing major departments critical to achieving the County's sustainability goals including Solid

Waste Management, Environmental Resources Management, Water and Sewer, and Community Image. Ms. Torriente directed Miami-Dade County's policy formulation, grants, energy management and reduction strategies, alternative energy options, sustainable capital developed processes, water conservation, and other sustainability-related programs and initiatives. Under her leadership, the County developed and implemented its first sustainability plan, which also includes the County's first climate action plan. Prior to being appointed as Director of the Office of Sustainability, Ms. Torriente served as Chief of Staff and Chief Assistant County Manager. Her 20-year career with Miami-Dade County also includes overseeing Police, Fire-Rescue, Corrections and Emergency Management. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Miami.

BUDGET NEWS As indicated above, we are in the process of preparing the budget for FY 2011/2012. At our July 6th Commission Meeting, the City Manager introduced a very preliminary budget proposal. At this meeting, your Commission again held the line by adopting the current millage rate cap for the next year. This will make it three consecutive years that we have not increased the millage rate. Of Florida's twenty largest cities, we have the second lowest millage rate. In the past two years, we have reduced the General Fund Operating Budget by \$12.5 million. We further directed staff to maintain our healthy General Fund Balance, which is currently at 19%. Lastly, we intend to keep delivering vital City services at the levels expected by our neighborhoods. If you would like to read it in its entirety, go to www.fortlauderdale.gov/2012Budget_Book/11-12budget.htm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR These budget issues and other important matters will be discussed in several public forums on the following dates:

- 8/ 23, 7 p.m.: Quarterly Joint Workshop with our Budget Advisory Board; 8th floor conference room
- 8/ 23: next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting
- 8/25 at 5:30 p.m.: Re-districting Special Commission Meeting for public input; City Hall Chambers
- 9/7: regularly scheduled Commission Meeting including a Public Hearing on the budget
- 9/13, 6 p.m.: Special Meeting for public input regarding proposed Fire Assessment Rate Increase of \$15 per year
- 9/ 20: regularly scheduled Commission Meeting, which includes a final Public Hearing on the budget and the Commission adoption of the new budget

At the beginning of the year, I thought it worthwhile to reflect on our accomplishments, which have been brought about through a dynamic partnership with our neighborhoods. With so much negative news out there nowadays, I again want to take the opportunity to focus on some good news and encourage everyone to stay focused on the positive.

- We celebrated our Centennial.
- 364 Calls for service were logged into our office by concerned citizens of District 1 in 2010. We are on pace to at least repeat that volume.
- Once again, no increase in the current operating millage rate of 4.1193; this equates to the 2nd lowest rate among Florida's twenty largest cities.
- For two consecutive years, there was no increase in the fire assessment fee.
- In 2010, serious crime declined citywide by approximately 4% when compared to 2009.
- Initiated Police/Fire pension reform in finalizing contract negotiations. This is already saving us hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- Our reserve fund stands at 19% of the General Fund Budget, which exceeds the nationally recommended range of 7% to 15%.
- In the past two years, 145 vacant funded personnel positions were eliminated.
- 13 Parks have been outfitted with lightning warning systems, and 2 new parks are scheduled to open within the next few weeks.
- We hosted approximately 200 special events, which were produced by other organizations.
- Decisions on major projects, which have lingered for years, are now being moved forward, e. g. Sistrunk Corridor, Bahia Mar, Executive Airport stadium issues, and South Andrews Avenue Business District.
- Strong economic development support through partnerships such as the Chamber of Commerce's "Business First" initiative, and the TMA's (Sun Trolley) plan to expand routes which will cater to hundreds of thousands of cruise ship passengers and bring them to our business and entertainment venues.

Continued on page 11

- We have had meetings and public workshops with many of our advisory boards and committees, e.g. Budget Advisory Board, Centennial Committee, Sustainability Committee (now a board), Visioning Committee and Beach Redevelopment Board. Follow-up meetings are scheduled.

These are just samplings of what your Commission has been working with you to accomplish in these tough economic times. It also demonstrates my focused commitment towards my previous promise to:

- Bring back citizen participation in government decisions
- Bring back effective and efficient public safety
- Bring back collegial leadership to the City Commission
- Bring back balanced development that will protect our neighborhoods and green space

I want to thank City staff for their constant dedication in addressing all of the concerns, issues and ideas that come through the Commission Office – not only for District 1, but also for the City as a whole. We still have much more that we can do. I am looking forward to continue working for you.

PAIN CLINICS It has been some time since reporting to you about this issue. I am sure you are aware of the Governor's decision to support and sign into law a state statute which finally established a drug registration system and restrictions for dispensing certain drugs. Your Commission also enacted an ordinance which further regulates the operation of pain clinics. Some of the highlights include parking space requirements, office and examining room square footage space requirements, no queuing of customers outside, no employees with felony or drug related conviction backgrounds for five years, inspection of premises, annual license renewal and located at least 500 feet from schools, churches, parks, libraries or daycare facilities.

Continued on page 14

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TUE

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11 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166 Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985	12 Citizens' Crime Alert City Hall, 7 p.m. Info.: 54-828-5377	13 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 Roger Daltry Performs the Who's Tommy Hard Rock Live 7:30 p.m. Tix.: www.hardrocklivehollywoodfl.com	14 Home Energy Saver Workshops Broward Main Library 100 S. Andrews Ave 6 to 8 p.m. Info.: www.mods.org/events/calendar.htm Community Appearance Board Meeting City Hall, 8th Floor Conference Room 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
18 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166 Hollywood Beach Latin Festival Hollywood Beach Boardwalk 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Info.: 954-534-3500	19 Vice Mayor Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.	20 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting City Hall, 6 p.m.	21 Home Energy Saver Workshops Broward Main Library 100 S. Andrews Ave 6 to 8 p.m. Info.: www.mods.org/events/calendar.htm
25 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166 Ft Lauderdale Fall Antique & Collector Faire War Memorial Auditorium Info.: 954-828-5380	26	27 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	28 Home Energy Saver Workshops Broward Main Library 100 S. Andrews Ave 6 to 8 p.m. Info.: www.mods.org/events/calendar.htm
2 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166 Sunday Jazz Brunch Riverwalk, Downtown FL 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info.: 954-828-5985	3 Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.	4 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 Rair: A Tribute To the Beatles, Broadway (Through 10/14) Broward Center for the Performing Arts Tix.: 954-462-0222	5
9 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166 Peter Frampton Hard Rock Live 7:30 p.m. Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com	10	11 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	12 Celtic Thunder Hard Rock Live 7:30 p.m.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 17 - 18: Suncoast Gun Show, War Memorial Auditorium, Info.: 954-828-5380
 SEPTEMBER 17 - 18: American Fantasy, Parker Playhouse, 3 p.m. & 8 p.m., Tix.: www.browardcenter.org
 SEPTEMBER 17 - 18: Geology Rocks Weekend, Museum of Discovery & Science, Noon to 4 p.m., Info.: www.mods.org/events/calendar.htm
 SEPTEMBER 18: Elvis Costello Presents the Revolver Tour, Hard Rock Live, 7 p.m., Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com
 SEPTEMBER 22: HSBC Tennis Cup (McEnroe, Sampras, Chang, Courier), Bank Atlantic Center, 7:30 p.m., Tix.: www.ticketmaster.com
 SEPTEMBER 24: Big Toy and Truck Extravaganza, Holiday Park, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 954-828-5363
 OCTOBER 1 - 2: 17th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Craft Festival, 330 E Atlantic Ave., Delray, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 954-472-3755
 OCTOBER 1 - 2: West Palm Beach Antiques Festival, Aircraft Expo Center - South Florida Fairgrounds, Info.: 941-697-7475

ONE SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

THU

FRI

SAT

15

BINGO
Southpoint's North Lounge
(3400 Galt Ocean Dr)
7 p.m.
\$5/person for 3 boards

G.M.C.A. Advisory Board Meeting
Nick's Italian Restaurant
11 a.m.

16

Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
7 p.m.

XVI International Ballet Festival of Miami
Broward Center, 8 p.m.
Tix.: browardcenter.org

17

Riverwalk Urban Market
227 SW 2nd Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Info.: 954-298-5607

Ocean Conservancy's Coastal Cleanup
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Info. & Site Locations: 954-519-1270

22

BINGO
Southpoint's North Lounge
(3400 Galt Ocean Dr), 7 p.m.
\$5/person for 3 boards

Where the Cars Are
Riverside Hotel Lawn
6 to 9 p.m.
Info.: 954-771-0729

23

Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
7 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

24

Riverwalk Urban Market
227 SW 2nd Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Info.: 954-298-5607

8th Annual Butterfly Days
Fairchild Tropical Gardens
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Info.: www.fairchildgarden.org

29

BINGO
Southpoint's North Lounge
(3400 Galt Ocean Dr), 7 p.m.
\$5/person for 3 boards

30

Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
7 p.m.

1

Riverwalk Urban Market
227 SW 2nd Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Info.: 954-298-5607

Dine Out Lauderdale
(Through 11/10)
Over 35 top restaurants offering 3-course
menus for \$35.
Info.: www.sunny.org/dineout

6

Stone Soup - Smart Stage Matinee
Parker Playhouse
10 a.m.
Tix.: www.browardcenter.org

7

Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
7 p.m.

8

Riverwalk Urban Market
227 SW 2nd Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Info.: 954-298-5607

13

2nd on 2nd Thursdays Block Party
200 Block SW 2nd Street
5 to 9 p.m.
Info.: 954-468-1541

14

Jazz on the Square
The Village Grille
Commercial Blvd. & A1A
7 p.m.

15

Riverwalk Urban Market
227 SW 2nd Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Info.: 954-298-5607

BINGO
Southpoint's North Lounge
(3400 Galt Ocean Dr)
7 p.m.
\$5/person for 3 boards

Viva Broward
(Through 10/16)
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
8:15 p.m.
Info.: 954-771-7117

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Saturdays: Yoga @ Riverwalk, West side of Esplanade Park, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., free, Info.: 954-732-0517
Saturdays: Cardio & strength training @ Riverwalk, Esplanade Park, 11 to 12 p.m., free, Info.: 954-732-0517
Wednesdays: Cardio & strength training @ Riverwalk, Esplanade Park, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., free, Info.: 954-732-0517

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR AREA

October 21 - November 11
Fort Lauderdale Int'l Film Festival
Info.: 954-760-9898, www.fliff.com

October 22
Smart Watts Home Energy Saver Workshops
Cinema Paradiso (503 Southeast 6th St), 4 to 7 p.m.
Info.: http://www.mods.org/events/calendar.htm

October 22 - 23
The Edible Garden Festival
Fairchild Tropical Garden, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Info.: www.fairchildgarden.org

October 23 - 24
Las Olas Art Fair
Las Olas Blvd., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Info.: www.lasolasboulevard.com

October 28 - 30
Gross Out Halloween Weekend
Museum of Discovery & Science, Noon - 4 p.m.



**FOR A COMPLETE LISTING
OF EVENTS, GO TO THE
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Recent Technology Innovations: The City Manager and staff have recently introduced some new technology enhancements to improve communication with our neighbors:

- WWW.RAIDSONLINE.COM provides citywide crime data, maps and analysis.
- WWW.FORTLAUDERDALE.GOV/LAUDERSERV is a free application for Android-based mobile devices which provides 24 hour access to the City's Customer Service Center. The application also has several customer service-friendly features:
 - Makes the City of Fort Lauderdale more accessible to citizens.
 - Interfaces with Google Maps and GPS technology to automatically detect report location information.
 - Provides the option of attaching photos to reports.
 - Offers categories to streamline reports to help ensure information gets to the appropriate department.
 - Provides users with the flexibility to customize each report.
 - Connects citizens to the City.
- Quick Response (QR) Codes: We are also starting to use QR codes, which are the small black and white squares that, when scanned with a smart phone, will take you directly to a website. Adding QR codes to our marketing efforts will provide our neighbors with more detailed information about special events, new programs and services, green initiatives, grant opportunities, public workshops and town hall meetings. Similarly, placing QR codes on informational materials, signage and vehicles, will enable us to communicate details about employment opportunities, economic development initiatives, construction projects, parking, sports leagues, dockage rates, beach conditions, crime prevention, road closures, recycling, sanitation, bulk trash and more. The codes can be read with a QR code reader application (app). Some of these apps are preloaded on mobile phones, while others may be downloaded for free. The app scans the QR code and converts it to the appropriate content (i.e., a website, video link, contact information, data, etc.). For example, by scanning the QR code below, you will be directed to the City's Starlight Musicals webpage. There, you can quickly find information about the event schedule, upcoming performers, weather updates, participation of non-profit groups, recycling and Holiday Park. QR codes can be created and read at no cost. They represent an economical way to supplement our marketing efforts, reach our neighbors with salient information, and generate increased awareness, visibility and exposure for the City. Making information easily accessible through QR codes will foster greater transparency in government and create a stronger connection between our neighbors and our City. The City of Fort Lauderdale is committed to continually developing innovative ways to engage and assist citizens, especially through new and expanding technologies.

FLORIDA NEIGHBORHOODS CONFERENCE Thanks to all who attended the just concluded Florida Neighborhoods Conference here in Fort Lauderdale. We especially want to congratulate Vice President and longtime Council stalwart Betty Shelley (Imperial Point HOA President) on her induction to the All-State Neighborhood Team. This is an award given annually by the FNC State Planning Committee to "recognize the dedication and commitment of neighborhood leaders...for their unwavering efforts to improve the neighborhoods and communities where they live." This certainly fits Betty to a "T." We are proud of her and happy that she got the recognition she so richly deserves but would never seek for herself. Congratulations Betty!

OFFICE CONTACT Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov. In addition to hosting two pre-agenda meetings twice a month, I am also available to attend your HOA meetings to update your neighborhood on what is going on in the City as well as answer any questions/concerns you may have. Please contact Robbi to schedule. •

THE PROFESSOR'S ENFORCEMENT TEETH

Since many Florida Legislators have historically treated constitutional dictums as decorative accessories ranked somewhere between dreamcatchers and doormats, the reforms in Amendments 5 and 6 were fitted with a novel enforcement strategy. A principal author of the amendments, Jon Mills [Dean Emeritus, University of Florida Levin College of Law; Florida House of Representatives (1978-1988); Speaker (1987-88); Professor of Florida Constitutional Law; Style and Drafting Chair of the 1998 Florida Constitution Revision Commission] sought to preclude backsliding lawmakers from circumventing the new criteria and manipulating district boundaries for personal and/or political purposes.

In the past, the official public record only included comments made by lawmakers before they sliced and diced the district maps. Therefore, nothing in the redistricting paper trail indicated when lawmakers failed to correct deficiencies about which they were unquestionably aware (and often helped to create). To help equip the new amendments with enforcement teeth, Mills changed how the official record would be maintained going forward, stating "The public, the press and non-governmental organizations will have the opportunity to comment before and after the Legislature draws the initial maps..."

By allowing the process watchdogs a chance to give input after the Legislature draws the initial district maps, the amendments provide them with an opportunity to place into the public record any evidence of a district's constitutional inadequacy. In other words, any failure by the Legislature to comply with constitutional standards will become part of the public record. Within 15 days of a plan's legislative approval (by joint resolution), the Attorney General must petition the Florida Supreme Court for a declaratory judgment confirming the plan's validity. This is where it gets interesting.

If the legislature corrects shortcomings identified in the public record, the amendments' purpose is served. However, if the legislature ignores the warnings and creates districts that are constitutionally deficient, the public record would contain evidence that the non-compliant districts were created by lawmakers who were fully aware of their deficiencies, demonstrating intent to favor a party or incumbent.

The Supreme Court kicks the tainted plan to the Governor who gives the legislature a 15-day extraordinary apportionment session to address judicial concerns and straighten out the bogus boundaries. The AG once again petitions the Court for a validating declaratory statement. If the legislature's revised district map still resembles a nest of boa constrictors and reeks of political patronage, the Court has sixty days to file an order with the custodian of state records to properly reapportion the still skewed districts.

Mills' strategy kills two birds with one stone. When redistricting deficiencies that are not cured by public debate are challenged in court - where constitutional standards are enforced - in addition to requiring a redraft, the court can establish intent to manipulate electoral outcomes. Since no public official with a functional survival instinct will risk complicity in such a politically fatal endgame, lawmakers grudgingly released their death-grip on the redistricting process.

Ordinary Florida citizens and public officials are already using the new redistricting software available on the Statehouse website to create plans eligible for legislative approval. Constituent input was harvested at 26 Public Hearings around the state between June 20th and September 1, 2011. From autumn through December, Statehouse and Senate redistricting Committees will digest the hearing data. During the 60-day 2012 legislative session that opens on January 10, 2012, lawmakers will vote on the final district maps. Candidates who qualify for State and Federal offices between June 4 and 8 will butt heads in the August 14, 2012 Primaries and/or the November 6, 2012 General Election - hopefully in districts that haven't been preconfigured to guarantee results that were bought and paid for.

By registering for an account, creating your own plans and submitting them for approval, you can usurp a process that was previously the fiercely defended turf of lawmakers, lobbyists and assorted partisan parasites. Go to the Galt Mile website (www.galtmile.com) and click on the headline blurb entitled "Senator Bogdanoff on Redistricting" (in the center column of the home page) for links to the redistricting resources described in Ellyn's letter.

While some politicians mourned their lost monopoly, others - like Bogdanoff - decided to make the most of the open redistricting process by enlisting participation of constituents. After all, one of the adages that helped fuel our talented District 25 Senator's meteoric career is, "If you can't beat them, lead them." - [editor]*



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