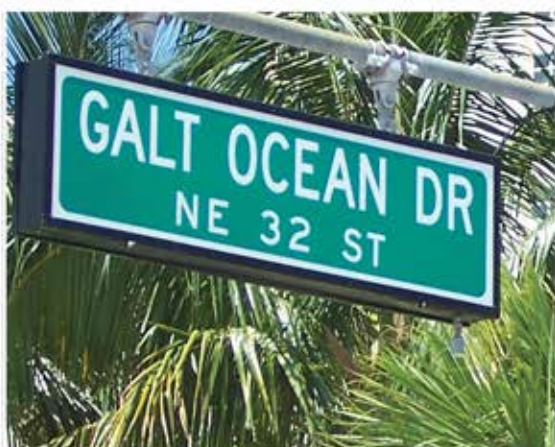


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THE BAD BLOOD AT BSO

By Eric Berkowitz

Galt Mile residents have a cloudy relationship with the Broward Sheriff. Every year, we send untold \$millions in assessed revenues to Broward County, half of which is funneled to the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO). Since our public safety needs are wholly addressed by the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department, funded by our municipal taxes, much of our supersized County contribution subsidizes BSO operations in 13 of Broward's 31 cities. Although we derive an indirect benefit from the Sheriff's protection of shared infrastructure at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and Port Everglades, our money pays for BSO police and fire services in Pompano, Deerfield, Dania, Oakland Park and other Broward municipalities.

The Broward Sheriff's Office is an Oligarchy, an agency where every scrap of power resides with the Sheriff. As such, it was generally assumed that the agency's integrity depended on the Sheriff's character. In the past decade, BSO has struggled to shed its reputation as an ethical sewer. Five years ago, Al Lamberti promised to "restore confidence in the agency's integrity." Last November, newly elected Sheriff Scott Israel made the same promise. In recent years, it has come to light that the problems plaguing BSO have less to do with the Sheriff than the political culture that drives the institution. Whether Israel can overcome BSO's pathological susceptibility to corruption remains to be seen. Here's the playing field.

After working as a prosecutor in the Broward County State Attorney's Office, Ken Jenne was elected to the Broward Board of County Commissioners in 1976. Starting in 1978, he spent 10 years in the Florida Senate representing District 32. Beginning in 1990, he spent another 8 years in the Senate representing constituents in District 29. When Broward Sheriff Ron Cochran lost his battle with cancer in 1997, Governor Lawton Chiles appointed a fellow Democrat - State Senator Ken Jenne - to run the state's largest Sheriff's Office. Jenne survived three elections while expanding the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) into the nation's largest fully accredited sheriff's department before succumbing to an epidemic for which Broward has become infamous. When a Federal corruption investigation uncovered \$80,000 in hidden vendor's payments funneled to Jenne through his two secretaries, he resigned and quickly cut a plea deal with prosecutors to dodge a looming grand jury indictment for money laundering. Pleading guilty to less serious charges - three counts of tax evasion and one count of mail fraud conspiracy - bought Jenne a year and a day in federal prison and left BSO without a rudder.

Former Governor Charlie Crist filled the vacancy on October 26, 2007 with fellow Republican Al Lamberti, who first joined the Broward County Sheriff's Office as a Detention Deputy in 1977 and carefully tip-toed his way up through the ranks in a Democratic County known to Tallahassee Republicans as "The Killing Fields". During the 2008 Presidential Election, he narrowly kept his job when 50,000

Broward voters skipped voting in the Sheriff's race, diluting the benefit of Obama's then powerful coattails for his Democrat opponent - just enough to leave Scott Israel short by a paper thin 15,375 vote margin (less than 1%).

Israel, a 25-year veteran of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department who retired as Captain before spending 5 years as the North Bay Village Police Chief, was not an empathic "nice guy" political candidate. Many of his closest friends don't like him. Aware that he could never survive an election bid framed as a popularity contest, his 2012 challenge to Lamberti would have to be a mudfest. From the outset, Israel tied jailbird Scott Rothstein to Lamberti's tail, focusing on the felon attorney's cozy ties to Lamberti and his leadership team. He also painted Lamberti as a capricious spendthrift, burning taxpayer dollars on personal agendas.

No stranger to mudslinging, Lamberti cast Israel as a philandering adulterer and a corrupt cop. In a mysterious YouTube video, an unidentified young woman claimed to have aborted Israel's prospective progeny following a sordid affair. Incredibly, Susan Israel made a "counter-video" defending her husband's fidelity and released a statement in which she called the woman a "whore". Anyone who claims that character or decency played a deciding role in how they voted is either lying or settling unfinished business with their inner child.

Israel won for two reasons. Obviously, the overwhelming 2 to 1 majority that registered Democrats hold over Republicans in Broward County would provide an almost insurmountable advantage to anyone other than an axe murdering pederast. Ironically, Israel made a futile attempt to exploit the partisan advantage when he strategically morphed into a Democrat shortly before the 2008 race. Lamberti also considered changing his party affiliation after 2008. When engaged in a 2009 face-off with the all-Democrat County Commission over their demands that he eviscerate his then \$720 million budget to help head off service cuts or a tax increase, his threat to place the decision in the Republican Governor's hands induced a Commission retreat. Since switching parties would have relieved him of his Tallahassee "nuclear option", he stayed put.

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Given his own political baggage and Lamberti's incumbency, Israel avoided repeating his 2008 mistake of relying on less than credible Democrat credentials to deliver a victory. Israel's campaign treasury, which was substantially less endowed than Lamberti's, was virtually emptied during a tough primary win against Louis Granteed. Instead, Israel was put over the top by the unconventional tactics of outside interests whose actions lent weight to the old chestnut "The enemy of my enemy is my friend."

Broward County Commissioner Sue Gunzburger and Lamberti have long been political foes. In 2010, when Gunzburger was in a tough fight with former State Senator Steve Geller for her District 6 Commission seat, Lamberti launched a corruption investigation into her late husband's sweetheart contracts to supply outdoor furnishings in County Parks, citing conflict violations alleged to have transpired more than a decade earlier. Having watched Lamberti deepen the stress lines across his mother's face, her son Ron sharpened his teeth on tax cheats while working for Property Appraiser and family friend Lori Parrish. Gunzburger wove his mother's abuse into a description of his political objectives, explaining, "The bogus investigation of Mom, which was purely something he trumped up... to hurt her during her campaign showed me such an abuse of power and an arrogance that it motivated me to say we need a change at BSO." Gunzburger had blood in his eyes. He wanted his pound of flesh.

Proponent to the notion that "revenge is a dish best served cold," while awaiting the next Sheriff's race, Junior Gunzburger did some political networking. Reaching out to others alienated by Lamberti, he bonded with former Sheriff Ken Jenne - who Lamberti dethroned - and former Richard Nixon political operative and dirty tricks guru Roger Stone. Leaving the Property Appraiser's office to devote full time to deposing Lamberti, Ron Gunzburger teamed with Israel's Campaign Manager Amy Rose - trained in flesh eating by Broward Judgemaker Barbara Miller - and assembled a brigade of disaffected deputies who had been abused, reduced in rank, humiliated or fired by Lamberti.

Drawing on this near bottomless source of rumored infractions, ethical missteps and implied culpability, Gunzburger loosed his cauldron of damning anecdotes into the land of blogs, where potential penalties for campaign finance violations are trumped by First Amendment protections. Admittedly spinning numerous anonymous attack pieces, after cooking the tripe, Gunzburger would email it to blogs that scrambled Lamberti like an egg. These seemingly puerile albeit vicious tidbits weren't the work of some disenfranchised adolescent playing with his iPod, but carefully scripted torpedoes that repeatedly hit their mark. Gunzburger explains "When you have no money, you have to do guerilla tactics. The hyperbole sometimes was a little colorful, but the substance I think was correct." Since neither cost nor value are factors when sending emails to an online blog, Gunzburger's hijinks flew below the electioneering regulatory radar.

Israel promised that there would be no post-election political blood-bath among BSO's more than 6300 employees. However, the standard teambuilding fallout that accompanies any new administration began one week before Christmas. On December 18th, Israel sent 28 emails to high-ranking BSO employees, stating "Note, if you are still employed by BSO on January 8, 2013, you will receive formal written notice during that day setting forth that your employment with the agency is terminated." By replacing Lamberti's insiders with his own top staffers, Israel could reward those in the trenches with spots on the payroll. The next day (December 19), he issued a press release naming the new BSO Command Staff Leadership. Among them are key members of his election campaign team, former colleagues scavenged from the upper ranks of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) and BSO deputies who were demoted, abused or canned by Lamberti for reasons that were - at least in part - political.

The chief strategist of Israel's campaign and architect of the negative attacks against Lamberti, Ron Gunzburger, will replace Judith Levine as BSO's new general counsel. Campaign Manager Amy Rose will draw a paycheck for lobbying responsibilities in the BSO's governmental relations unit. Longtime Galt Mile residents will recall former District 4 County Commissioner Jim Scott and his aide Lisa Yagid-Castillo (who was previously Legislative Assistant to former New York City Mayor Ed Koch and married to Pembroke Pines City Commissioner Angelo Castillo). When Scott lost his seat to Ken Keechl, Castillo landed a job with Broward lobbyist and political meat grinder Judy Stern. While with Stern, she worked on Israel's failed 2008 campaign. Castillo will be Israel's chief of staff. Although the Sheriff-elect hasn't as yet defined a job title for him, husband Angelo will also land a high-ranking administrative post.

Filling the position of Israel's Executive Assistant will be Mary Jo Mastrodonato, who worked in the Fort Lauderdale Police Department for 11 years before following Israel to the North Bay Village Police Department where she served as his assistant. After swapping out Lamberti's nepots with his own, Israel still needed to hire some key law enforcement staffers. After all, it is the Sheriff's Office.

On May 27, 2010, when Miami Dolphins defensive end Phillip Merling was arrested for domestic battery after hitting his pregnant girlfriend, director of Miami Dolphins security Stuart Weinstein called BSO Commander Alvin Pollock to inquire about Merling's release status from the Main Jail. For more than 10 years, Pollock moonlighted for the Dolphin's Security Detail. When Merling was released, Pollock waited until he was off duty before picking him up at the Jail and driving him to the Dolphins training camp in Davie, a stone's throw from Pollock's home.

Verging on apoplexy, Lamberti dedicated a press conference to humiliating Pollock for driving the Dolphin player in a County vehicle. Despite a 35-year clean record, Pollock was stripped of his badge, gun, and squad car and reassigned to car wash duty in the fleet division while Lamberti launched an investigation.

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After the probe, Pollock was removed as commander in charge of the Broward County Courthouse complex and reassigned as a road patrol watch commander on the midnight shift. He was also given a 15-day suspension without pay, prohibited from working any off-duty details and banned from working or volunteering for the Miami Dolphins. Since he'd administered discrete wrist slaps to officers who committed far more egregious infractions than driving someone while off-duty, Lamberti's histrionics veiled an underlying political motive.

Predecessor Ken Jenne – long viewed by Lamberti as a political threat despite his public disgrace and incarceration – originally promoted Pollock to Commander in charge of the Courthouse, a position that had since earned him substantial credibility with Judges and attorneys in the Courthouse community. Since Israel had already announced his intention to take another run at BSO, Lamberti exploited an opportunity to neuter Pollock of the influence that accompanied his position. Jailhouse Politics 101.

What goes around comes around. Israel promoted Pollock to Colonel in charge of the BSO Department of Law Enforcement. One of the many deputies fired by Lamberti for supporting Israel in 2008, Russell Di Perna, will return to BSO once recertified. Prior to being pink-slipped, when Di Perna met with Lamberti's Executive Officer Lt. David Benjamin after the 2008 election, Benjamin named several deputies who supported Israel and said, "They had cushy positions, they shouldn't have gotten involved in the campaign, and now they're going to lose their cushy positions." Homing in on Di Perna, Benjamin admonished, "You made it personal, and now you're going to suffer the consequences." Di Perna got the boot.

In addition to aggressively purging BSO personnel perceived by Lamberti as a threat, Benjamin and Undersheriff Tom Wheeler were full partners in the Sheriff's less wholesome relationships. On Dec. 22, 2008, Lamberti wrote a letter to felon attorney Scott Rothstein on official BSO letterhead stating "If I may be of any assistance to you whatsoever, either professionally or personally, please feel free to call upon me." In response, Rothstein paid Benjamin, who also headed BSO Internal Affairs, \$50,000 for a litany of "STAT" personal BSO services and ongoing preferential treatment. Rothstein regularly used BSO patrol cars to transport large amounts of cash to and from clients as on-duty BSO personnel often provided security for the crooked lawyer's cash transactions. Rothstein also invested \$30,000 in DWB Consulting, a Sunrise corporation Benjamin first created in 2004 and revived in 2009-when former Rothstein firm attorney Christina Kitterman signed DWB's application to do business in Florida. When his Ponzi empire began imploding, Benjamin drove Scott Rothstein and a duffle bag stuffed with several \$million to his getaway plane at Executive Airport before escaping to Morocco; where he could negotiate surrender terms with Federal authorities. Apparently, they included a sting to serve Benjamin's head on a platter for acting as a bag man. When the story broke, Lamberti quietly shifted Benjamin to youth services in countywide operations with his \$106,000 annual salary intact.

Among the Christmas casualties at BSO was top staff at the Fire Division, including Fire Chief and Executive Director Neal de Jesus, fire marshal and Division Chief Robert Arrighetti, and Division Chief John Holgerson, who was in charge of fire and rescue training. De Jesus is being replaced by Margate Fire Chief Anthony Stravino, who had previously served as Fire Chief in Deerfield Beach and Longwood. Stravino and Israel were childhood friends while growing up in Long Island.

Israel tried to recruit Fort Lauderdale Police Chief Frank Adderley, who decided to stay with the City. Israel had better luck with FLPD Captain Jack Dale, who will head BSO Professional Standards Department, and FLPD Assistant Chief Steve Kinsey, who will run the BSO Department of Investigations. Retired FLPD Major Robert

Pusins, who addressed the GMCA Advisory Board several times prior to entering the private sector as a law enforcement consultant and expert witness, will become the BSO Executive Director of Community Outreach. At some point, Israel hopes that Pusins will be joined at Community Outreach by Elgin Jones, a reporter whose coverage of Lamberti was singularly scathing. A former City of Fort Lauderdale engineering inspector and union leader, after prevailing in a racial discrimination lawsuit against the city, Jones reinvented himself as a journalist, ultimately becoming a leading muckraker for the South Florida Times. Since he and Israel had worked together during their respective tenures with the City, Lamberti has long been one of Jones' favorite dartboards.

As exclaimed by Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, 1849 editor of *Le Figaro* in Paris, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." Lamberti's drones have been replaced by Israel's drones. As long as the officials charged with protecting the lives of Broward citizens are selected primarily for their political predilections instead of their Law Enforcement or Fire-Rescue credentials, the nation's largest Sheriff's Office will remain a behavioral slop sink. The truth is we have no business electing a Sheriff. Like any skilled professional, a Sheriff should be hired for his or her specialized capabilities, much like a Civil Engineer hired to run a municipal Public Works Department or a specialist in governmental finances is hired as a Director of Management and Budget. Fort Lauderdale residents are fortunate. Instead of BSO, their public safety is managed by a skilled and committed Police Chief. Frank Adderley is accountable to City Manager Lee Feldman, whose training and experience enable him to accurately measure FLPD's effectiveness, shield Adderley from politics and insure the adequacy of his resources. In turn, both Feldman and Adderley answer to a non-partisan City Commission that includes a former Police Chief.

In contrast, the Broward Sheriff's Office persists in a vacuum. During his term as Broward Sheriff, one man will unilaterally decide how to spend the \$700 million annually allocated to BSO, who will populate BSO's 6,300-employee roll, which vendors get lucrative contracts, what the public is and is not told – all while tailoring the limits of his own mandate to evolving circumstances. When evidence of wrongdoing is inadvertently exposed, he will investigate himself. BSO exists outside the checks and balances that ethically anchor most governmental entities. The Broward Sheriff is not answerable to the Broward County Commission. As a Constitutional Officer, he or she is only accountable to the Governor and Broward voters, who are largely clueless about what goes on inside BSO.

Every four years, voters are expected to choose a Sheriff – a task for which they are woefully ill equipped. As demonstrated by both campaign teams in the recent election, voters who don't party line their ballots select a Sheriff based on the ability to dodge or shed mud. The only reliable guidance otherwise available to voters heralds from the fallout of Federal or State investigations or the dwindling number of investigative reporters who still have a media voice. Competence and character rarely enter the equation. We'd do as well by flipping a coin.

As long as the Broward Sheriff remains a partisan Constitutional Officer, the culture at BSO will focus on politics, with reelection as its Holy Grail and public safety relegated to an afterthought. For every scandal, purge or rip-off uncovered by some media muckraker or governmental investigator, twenty will pass unnoticed. Until the people of Broward County demand a non-partisan appointed Sheriff, BSO will remain a self-governing fiefdom answerable to no one – not the most productive environment for an agency wherein everyone is strapped. •



Scott Israel and Al Lamberti:
Israel Announces New Leadership Team

COMMISSIONER BRUCE ROBERTS



"After opening with evidence of the City's improving economic outlook, Commissioner Bruce Roberts' January 2013 newsletter jumps to Beach Renourishment, summarizing progress of the City - County - State (FDOT) short term AIA recovery plan before concluding with a confirmation that resonates with every Galt Mile resident - exclaiming "that we are on schedule for the long overdue Phase II beach renourishment project, which is now set to start in November/December 2013." He then describes a lien amnesty program that will incentivize the rehabilitation of homes long frozen in disrepair by upside down mortgages and enable the sale of abandoned properties currently buried in code violations. A follow-up on State-wide efforts to criminalize the ever-changing chemistry of designer drugs bespeaks Attorney General Pam Bondi's December 11, 2012 emergency rule outlawing 22 new synthetic variants. Dwarfed by these well publicized, high profile updates is a less noteworthy item about a service to help drivers find parking spaces in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Actually, the nascent technology that enables this service could change the way cities worldwide operate in the immediate future.

Based in Foster City, California, a tech company called Streetline grabbed one of the top spots in the \$25 billion smart parking market by successfully delivering an industry-leading comprehensive and scalable parking solution. Anchored by the company's home grown sensor technology, it developed and patented its smart parking platform - called Parker - which detects the presence of a car in a parking space through an interred network of ultra-low power wireless sensors. Here's how it works.

Having evolved from research into "smart dust" conducted at Berkeley, networks of small, cheap, low-powered sensors that are buried in the street can run for more than five years on two AA batteries. Upon detecting a disturbance in the magnetic field from a large hunk of metal (like a car), the new data jumps from sensor to sensor en route to a gateway (a small box set on a street lamp or traffic signal). Traveling via the local mobile-phone network or municipal Wi-Fi, the data speeds off to a central database (and any device installed with

the Parker App). It won't be long before some 14-year old Geek's new tech start-up adapts the technology to monitor other toggled elements in the City's infrastructure, such as water mains, street lamps, sewer drains, traffic flows, etc.

When the collected data is transmitted to an end-user's smart phone, PDA, tablet, laptop or a dashboard computer fitted with the free Parker application, drivers receive a real-time, location-based map pinpointing the area's available parking spaces. By delivering a live, accurate picture of the location and pricing of open parking spaces across a city, airport, university, transit system or privately owned facility (parking lot or garage), it enables drivers to head directly for the available space that best serves their objective, saving time, reducing stress and eliminating the cost of randomly driving up and down neighborhood streets. Released on September 8, 2011, an IBM study conducted in 20 major international cities demonstrates that 30 to 45% of their urban traffic is a by-product of parking activity. By abating a huge source of unnecessary traffic, Parker significantly relieves its attendant carbon footprint.

Having resolved the problem of enabling drivers in a client jurisdiction to interactively communicate with individual parking spaces, Streetline sought partners experienced with online and telephone payment transactions. The software from two such providers, PayByPhone and Parkmobile, has been incorporated into the Parker App. A subsidiary of Paypoint, PayByPhone (formerly Verrus) operates across North America and Europe in over 180 cities and Parkmobile is deployed in 350 cities around the world. While each claims to be the leading provider of mobile payments in the parking industry, the City of Fort Lauderdale has selected PayByPhone as its service provider. When integrated with PayByPhone's payment options, the Parker software also provides drivers with information about parking session time limits, pricing, which types of payment are accepted and other features.

Streetline's Parker platform is already operating in 30 different cities and universities across the U.S. and it just launched internationally, with deployments in Braunschweig, Germany, and Birmingham, U.K. After five years of tweaking its sensor technology, the company evolved. Instead of remaining a one-trick pony wholly preoccupied with a single technical aspect of the traffic puzzle, it expanded its focus to creating a fully functional parking platform. What Streetline CEO Zia Yusuf refers to as controlling the "Internet of things", the company's new objective is to create "smart cities" by enabling a jurisdiction and its citizen end-users to interactively communicate with every variable element in the City's infrastructure.

As demonstrated with PayByPhone, Streetline plans to enhance functionality and fast-track expansion by partnering with players able to complement its platform. In late 2012, they partnered with Cisco in San Mateo and San Carlos, California, to pilot the wireless delivery of its data through Cisco's municipal Wi-Fi networks. Other big players that partnered with the company are IBM, Siemens and Xerox-owned ACS (formerly Affiliated Computer Services).

Since the Parker App resolves a problem that afflicts cities worldwide, its raw potential has attracted a bevy of high-end investment angels. After winning the IBM SmartCamp Global Finals in 2010 and being named IBM Global Entrepreneur of the Year, Streetline was vested with \$15 million in Series B funding from an investment coalition led by Fontinalis Partners (founded by Ford Motor's Executive Chairman William Ford) and included Sutter Hill Ventures in Palo Alto and Menlo Park-based RockPort Capital Partners.

The company's recent U.S. deployments span California, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Oregon, Virginia and Washington, DC. Privately held by the startup Geeks who developed its core technology, Streetline didn't have the deep pockets required to finance an initial outlay for cash-strapped client municipalities that lack the political cover to shoulder the investment. To preserve the momentum of Streetline's explosive expansion, Citi's municipal finance group equipped the company with the resources to offer set-up financing, providing Streetline with a \$25 million credit facility.

The Company is red hot. In a third round of financing on January 10, 2013, Streetline privately raised \$25 million in Series C funding. Led by early entry investment icon True Ventures, new investors Qualcomm Ventures and Citi joined past backers Sutter Hill, RockPort and Fontinalis and fleshed out the Company's coffers in preparation for the next round of expansion.

While the platform's benefit to drivers is self-evident, it is also an enormous asset to cities starved for reliable data about parking utilization. A real-time handle on where and when drivers need or use parking will enable municipalities to effectively tailor public transit schedules, accurately budget system investments, generate street maintenance schedules that don't interfere with traffic and measure demand for the planned number and location of parking spaces.

Continued on page 8

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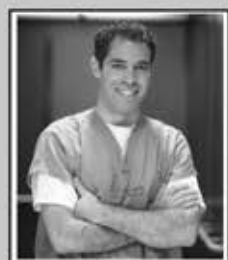
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By dynamically adapting rates to demand, it can also unlock the Holy Grail of pricing on-street parking (i.e. spaces can be priced based on their real-time block to block availability). Networking the entire city will produce added benefits. Fire-Rescue will know beforehand which hydrants are blocked by vehicles and traffic patrol can similarly preview illegally blocked pedestrian crosswalks. By comparison, the \$multi-million studies historically commissioned by municipalities to guide traffic policy might as well have been generated by Ouija Boards.

On November 12, 2012, Streetline launched Florida's first Parker App in the City of Fort Lauderdale, enabling residents and seasonal visitors to facilitate their search for parking in the downtown neighborhood. In preparation, transmitters were installed at 87 street parking spaces between Broward Boulevard and Las Olas Boulevard from Andrews Avenue east to Southeast Fifth Avenue. The Fort Lauderdale pilot project serviced areas that include the Main Library, the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art and the local campuses of Florida Atlantic University and Broward College. If Fort Lauderdale follows the lead of Streetline's other clients, the city's entire parking inventory will soon be included in the platform.

In addition to searching by area, the fleshed out version will allow users to search by parking type (i.e. metered space, garage/lot, ADA accessible, or electric vehicle charging stations). A hands-free adaptation will provide an audible "notice" when parking is nearby. To promote safety, functions like setting a "feed the meter" timer, locating your parked car, or transacting an online payment, are only available once the vehicle is parked. Since sensors affixed to the front gate of a garage or parking lot can track its inventory of available spaces, virtually every public parking venue will be accessible to Parker. Unfortunately, it is not unusual for newly released Apps to suffer from some bugs. The good news - IBM appears devoted to Streetline's success. IBM knows how to kill bugs.

Although admittedly intrigued by the expansion prospects of a startup that ameliorates parking dilemmas worldwide, IBM, Cisco, Citibank, Intel and Qualcomm have all proclaimed another motive for ground flooring Streetline's expansion - the company's ostensible commitment to a "smart cities" concept called the "Internet of Things". In what appears to be an example of life imitating art, some ten relatively successful tech outfits recently formed the "Internet of Things Consortium." While sounding like some tired Woodstock era Zeitgeist to drown the planet in a Zen soup, it's actually a business plan.

Most people use the internet to interact in a social or business context; the "Internet of Things" explores communicating with every element of our infrastructure, which entails installing devices that provide us with real-time data relative to their purpose as well as feedback about their operational sufficiency. Fueled by enlightened self-interest; we get to exert unprecedented control over our environment while these corporate behemoths get to sell, service or finance the limitless hardware and software required to actualize this objective. For example, in addition to the chipsets in every computer, cell phone, digital watch, microwave oven and other "smart" appliances and machines, the "Internet of Things" anticipates implanting low-power wireless devices in every pipe, brick and beam in our buildings and along our streets. Raw data is continuously pumped into a collecting site called a cloud, from which it can be extracted, analyzed and applied as required. Intoxicated by their prospective entry into a \$15 trillion market, these colossal conglomerates are shoveling venture capital into startups with any viable business model for vesting infrastructure with IQ. For those of you who regret having missed out on the Pet Rock or Hula Hoop, redemption may be at hand! Read on... - [editor]*

FROM VICE-MAYOR BRUCE G. ROBERTS JANUARY 2013

I hope everyone was able to spend time with family, friends and loved ones during the recent holiday season. We also wish you a happy and healthy New Year for 2013! We are looking forward to another great year for Fort Lauderdale and the opportunity to work with you.

After five years of difficult economic times, we believe we are witnessing Fort Lauderdale coming out of the recession. During those tough years, your Commission developed sound fiscal policies and directed their implementation to reduce spending, hold the line on taxes, and yet maintain vital City services. Now we see the local unemployment rate continue to decline; tourism has increased for the last thirty consecutive months; City infrastructure improvements have been undertaken along our Beach, Sistrunk Boulevard, Executive Airport and Downtown; County infrastructure improvements are progressing at Port Everglades and at Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport; infrastructure enhancements are planned to support multimodal transportation initiatives such as the FEC Railway fast track from Orlando to Miami with stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, the FEC commuter line connecting the East Coast downtowns from Jupiter to Miami, and our own Downtown WAVE. All of this activity has spurred private investment for redevelopment. Lastly, the residential market is on the upswing.

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A Sarasota Senator's Mercenary SQUEALER'S BRIGADE

On June 17, 2010, Broward County Property Appraiser Lori Parrish addressed the Galt Mile Community Association Advisory Board. As the two-hour meeting came to a close, GMCA President Pio Ieraci expressed concern about an official correspondence requesting that Galt Mile associations turn over to the Property Appraiser's office any information about unit owners that may have improperly applied for a Homestead Exemption. Pio said "I am disturbed by this request. Not only are we being asked to do your job, I believe that it's wrong to violate the confidentiality of our members' information."

When discussed at a prior meeting, Advisory Board members decided against cooperating with this request. While fraud costs everyone money, it was deemed inappropriate for associations to disclose confidential information about their members unless withholding that information exposes anyone to danger. To deter inappropriate compliance with this request by some unsuspecting association office employee, it was also suggested that each association should instruct their administrative personnel to pass such requests to the Board.

Parrish answered Ieraci, "I understand that that you may be hesitant to inform on your neighbors or reveal information you consider confidential. The letter is simply a request for your help. I hope you understand why I am so passionate about fraudulent exemptions. These people are increasing the tax bill for every other Broward property owner, not unlike those association members who default on their assessments and force their neighbors to assume their obligations." She emphasized that this type of fraud is often a strategically planned annual rip-off, not a desperate knee-jerk reaction to current financial pressures. Particularly irksome to Parrish is the fact that most violators can well afford the assessment. Parrish said "These crooks couldn't care less that they are hurting every one of their neighbors. When I see the pain suffered by taxpayers struggling to scrape by this tough economy, I don't have much patience for those who deliberately add to their burden - and yours - and mine!"

Hoping to better illustrate the moral dilemma precipitated by her request, Ieraci retorted, "Lori - we are all very grateful for the improvements you've engineered in the Property Appraiser's Office. We all support your efforts to stamp out the fraud that costs us \$millions every year. Although I personally agree that fraudulent exemptions are despicable, I believe that Board members are obligated to safeguard confidential information about the association's members." In what appeared to be a duel for the last word, the Property Appraiser leveled a response that was pure Parrish, "I understand, Pio - nobody likes a rat."

Two and a half years later, Sarasota Senator Nancy Detert (District 28) is looking for a few good rats. On January 7, 2013, she filed Senate Bill 182, legislation drafted to deter the abuse of Florida's homestead exemptions. The bill mobilizes two vehicles to thwart tax cheats. The opening section provides for placement of a bounty on scoundrels who improperly claim Homestead Exemptions. The local tax collector must pay whistleblowers a reward of up to 20 percent of the amount ultimately recovered in back taxes, interest, and penalties, not to exceed \$500. If two stoolies report the same scofflaw, whoever reported the violation first - using the reporting method included in the legislation - bags the booty.

Actually, it's not a bad concept. It costs us nothing and might serve as a reasonably effective deterrent. Any recovered funds are sure to be welcomed by cash-needy local jurisdictions. Trying to determine which of their nosy neighbors will drop the dime that ends their scam will drive nervous scofflaws crazy.

The vast majority of homestead cheats are double dippers, people with homes in several jurisdictions who simultaneously claim homestead status for two or more of these properties. Violations also accrue to exempted properties that are rented out for any portion of the year, with the exception of military homesteaders who are out-of-residence under orders.

Property Appraisers are less than enthusiastic about Detert's bill. According to Bay County Property Appraiser Dan Sowell, most Property Appraisers with legitimate fraud units already receive a steady stream of tips from anonymous sources, each of which must be researched and verified. The quality of reported tips seemingly varies by motive, with the best information coming from those morally irked by fraud or resentful of having to subsidize tax obligations dodged by scofflaws. Far less reliable is the huge volume of

accusations rooted in personal animosity. Sowell believes the new bill will disproportionately incentivize capricious reports in unprecedented numbers.

For every tax cheat they snag, tax collectors will have to research scores of questionable "tips" from snitches, many of who will view the payout as an added benefit to ratting out neighbors they simply don't like. Leery about the potential for false reporting by an army of mercenary squealers, Sowell fears that the legislation will bury tax collectors in dubious feedback that will unproductively consume a Property Appraiser's limited research and verification resources. Presumably, the applicable reporting requirements will preclude an enterprising octogenarian from grabbing the phone book and sending in one page of names each day.

Segue to Detert's two dilemmas. She had to prevent armchair canaries from automating their snitch service by mischaracterizing random lists of names and addresses as scurrilous tax cheats, condemning the Property Appraiser to an endless fool's errand. Secondly, when two or more squealers rat out the same poor slob, she needed some vehicle for determining who was first to pull the plug and win the jackpot. After myriad sleepless nights, she finally devised a methodology that nailed both birds with one stone.

SB 182 directs the Florida Department of Revenue to create a form that the snitch must complete and submit to the Property Appraiser for time and date stamping, thereby establishing each informant's relative eligibility for payment. Mandated to be downloadable from the Department's website and available on request from any local Property Appraiser, the form will contain "the name and address of the person reporting the suspected violation, the address of the property suspected of illegally or improperly receiving a homestead exemption, and the basis for suspecting that a homestead exemption violation has occurred." Here's the rub.

Informants with hard information about a tax cheat are rightfully adamant about preserving their anonymity, given the prospect for retribution from scofflaws who stand to lose a truckload of assets. Although a White Collar crime, among its perpetrators are knuckle busters, leg breakers and others capable of visiting vengeance on a suspected squealer. When Detert's whistleblowers submit their names and addresses to the Property Appraiser to claim the bounty, the forms become public records, available to anyone on request. WHOOPs!

The prospect of being identified as the stool pigeon is likely to induce the vast majority of reliable informants to forego the few dollars in tip money, leaving those solely motivated by the payoff to participate in Detert's vision. Remarking "I could certainly see some hard feelings," Sowell called the bill an "unnecessary incentive" and lamented its potential for abusive harassment while fomenting divisive feuds within communities. He concluded, "I would be against SB 182."

The second section of the bill houses a poison pill. It requires that every Condominium and Cooperative association submit to the County Property Appraiser by January 31 "a list of the units that were rented in the previous year rather than occupied by the owner." Notwithstanding anyone's sentiments about tax avoidance, drafting associations to work for the local Property Appraiser is fraught with sticky and dangerous pitfalls.

While forcing associations to generate uncompensated work product may fall short of indentured servitude - it is clearly an unfunded mandate. The annual cost of researching, compiling and forwarding this data to the local Property Appraiser will be added to every unit owner's maintenance obligation. In addition to the slippery slope created by requiring a specific class of homeowner to involuntarily finance the local Property Appraiser's responsibilities, the bill threatens unit owners and their associations with legal jeopardy.

Continued on page 13

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FEB/MAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
10 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166 GLBT Travel Expo in Miami Art Deco Welcome Center (1001 Ocean Dr., Miami Beach) Noon to 5 p.m. Info.: 718-622-5709	11	12 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	13 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
17 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166 ATA Marathon Starts at the Museum of Discovery/Science 6 a.m. Info.: atlamarathon.com	18 Alan Parsons Live Project Parker Playhouse, 7 p.m. Tix.: 954-462-0222 Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.	19 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268 Kids Expo War Memorial Auditorium Info.: 954-659-9100	20 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
24 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166 MS Walk Ft. Lauderdale Huizenga Plaza 9 a.m. Reg.: 954-731-4224	25 Pink BB&T Center Tix.: 800-745-3000	26 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.	27 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063 Taste of the Beach El Prado Tent (across from Town Hall) LBTS, 6 p.m. Info.: 954-776-1000
3 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	4 Commissioner Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.	5 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	6 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063
10 Urban Gourmet Market 1201 E. Las Olas Blvd. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info.: 954-462-4166 Daylight Saving Time Starts Jazz Picnic in the Park Ilene Lieberman Botanical Gardens, Lauderdale 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Info.: 954-730-3000	11	12 BINGO Galt Towers Social Room (4250 Galt Ocean Drive) 7:30 p.m. Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268	13 BINGO Regency South Party Room 7 p.m. Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY 14-18: 25th Annual Miami Yacht and Brokerage Show, Indian Creek Waterway, Collins Ave. in Miami, Info.: 1-800-940-7642
 FEBRUARY 16-17: Buckler's 23rd Annual Craft Fair, Americraft Expo Center in WPB, Info.: 386-860-0092
 FEBRUARY 16-17: 3rd Annual Palm Beach Marine Flea Market & Seafood Festival, South Florida Fairgrounds in WPB, Info.: 954-205-7813
 FEBRUARY 17: Steve Miller Band, Hard Rock Live, 7 p.m., Tix.: 954-797-5531
 FEBRUARY 21-23: Florida Grand Opera: The Magic Flute, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Tix.: 954-610-9100
 FEBRUARY 23: 5K For A Better Day, Chris Evert Children's Hospital, 7:30 a.m., Info.: 954-461-5515
 FEBRUARY 23-24: 6th Annual Ocean Adventure Expo 2013, Broward County Convention Center, Info.: 561-715-0247
 FEBRUARY 23-24: 17th Annual Butterfly and Garden Festival, 3750 S Flamingo Rd., Davie, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 954-473-2955



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UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR AREA

March 2

23rd Annual Walk For The Animals

Huizenga Plaza, 8 a.m. to Noon

Info.: 954-266-6817

March 8-10

International Orchid Festival

Fairchild Tropical Garden, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Info.: www.fairchildgarden.org

March 21

Concert Under the Stars

Bonnet House, 7. to 9 p.m.

Tix.: 954-703-2614

March 21

8th Annual Palm Beach International Boat Show

Evernia St./Flagler Dr. (waterfront) and North Clematis

St./Flagler Dr. (waterfront)

Tix.: 954-764-7642

March 23

13th Annual Riverwalk Run

Huizenga Plaza @ Las Olas Blvd. and Andrews Ave., 7 a.m.

Info.: 865-771-3718

March 23-24

Hatsume Fair

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Info.: www.morikami.org



**FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF
EVENTS, GO TO THE
CALENDAR AT
WWW.GALTMILE.COM**

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

Love In The Park
Huizenga Plaza (Bubier Park)
6 to 10 p.m.
Info.: 561-447-9123

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

Concerts Under the Stars
Bonnet House
Complimentary wine, dessert & coffee
7 to 9 p.m.
Tix.: 954-703-2614

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

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

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

2013 Dania Beach Marine Flea Market
(Through 3/17)
Dania Jai Alai
Info.: 954-920-7877

15 Jazz on the Square
El Mar Drive & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

22 Jazz on the Square
El Mar Drive & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

Big Cypress Shootout
(Through 2/24)
Billie Swamp Safari
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Info.: www.bcsShootout.com

1 Jazz on the Square
El Mar Drive & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

Southeast Florida Scottish Festival
& Highland Games
Snyder Park
8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Info.: 754-368-0614

8 Jazz on the Square
El Mar Drive & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-776-5092

International Orchid Festival
(Through 2/10)
Fairchild Tropical Garden
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Info.: www.fairchildgarden.org

15

16 Music-By-The-Sea
A1A & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-771-2900

2013 KID Duck Fest Derby
Esplanade Park, 1 to 4 p.m.
Info.: 954-390-7654

23 6th Annual
Ocean Adventure Expo
(Through 2/24)
Broward Convention Center
Info.: 561-715-0247

Ft. Lauderdale Secret Garden Tour
Tix.: 954-683-3271

2 Inaugural Galt Mile Wine
& Food Festival
Galt Ocean Mile Shoppes
4 to 8 p.m.
Info.: 561-338-7594

Las Olas Art Fair - Part II
Las Olas Blvd., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Info.: 954-472-3755

23rd Annual Walk for the Animals
Huizenga Plaza, 8 a.m. to Noon
Info.: 954-266-6817

9 Music-By-The-Sea
A1A & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-771-2900

St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival
Huizenga Plaza & along the Riverwalk
Festivities: Noon to 9 p.m., Parade: 2 p.m.

LBTs Arts and Crafts Festival
(Through 3/10), Anglin's Square
Info.: 954-776-1000

16 Music-By-The-Sea
A1A & Commercial Blvd
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Info.: 954-771-2900

Saturday Night Under the S. Florida Stars
(Also 3/23 & 3/30)
Fox Astronomical Observatory, Markham Pk.
Sunset to 12 Midnight
Info.: 954-384-0442

FEBRUARY 26: Russian National Orchestra, Broward Center, 8 p.m., Tix.: 954-462-0222

FEBRUARY 27: Tony Bennett, Broward Center, 8 p.m., Tix.: 954-462-0222

MARCH 1-3: Swim Fort Lauderdale Masters Challenge, Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 954-828-4580

First Saturday of every Month: Beach Cleanup, Commercial Blvd. & the Beach LBTs (Meet at pavilion), 9 to 9:30 a.m., Info.: 954-776-1000

Second Saturday of every Month: Beach Sweep, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Info.: 954-474-1835

Mondays and Wednesdays: Cardio Mix with Josh Hecht, Esplanade Park, 6:30 p.m., Info.: 954-732-0517

Sundays: Tour-the River Ghost Tour, Stranahan House & Water Taxi, 7:30 p.m., Tix.: 954-524-4736

Fridays: Gentle Yoga, North patio behind Tiki Bar (Ocean Manor Resort 4040 Galt Ocean Dr.), 9 a.m., Info.: 754-779-7519

Saturdays and Sundays: Power Pilates, North patio behind Tiki Bar, Sat @ 8 a.m. and Sun @ 9 a.m., Info.: 754-779-7519

Thursdays: Beginner Boat Camp, North patio behind Tiki Bar (Ocean Manor Resort 4040 Galt Ocean Dr.), 10 a.m., Info.: 754-779-7519

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Bruce...Continued

Beach Renourishment: I know everyone is aware of the damage Hurricane Sandy and subsequent high tides caused to our beach. As serious as that damage was, and not to diminish the impacts all the way through the Galt Mile, it is important to keep in perspective that the most severe damage was limited to a four-block stretch. Furthermore, I believe we finally have the opportunity to turn a negative into a long-term sustainable outcome. On December 10th, the City of Fort Lauderdale hosted a community meeting to present what had transpired, the current situation and potential solutions. After hearing from experts from several agencies, the forum was opened to public participation. Almost 300 attended the meeting and anyone who wished to speak was given that opportunity. Future concerns and recommendations were expressed. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was decided that the City Manager's office would remain open to collecting new ideas, which would be evaluated for implementation. Indeed, it was a very good meeting with a positive outcome:

- The working agency relationships developed during the emergency are continuing as we move through short, medium and long term remedies.
- A public consensus for a three lane greenway seemed to be a common thread.
- Ongoing public participation in problem resolution.

At the December 13th Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting, the funds were approved for the long-term greenway project. All of the voting MPO municipalities and County Commissioners understand the gravity of the situation and its potential regional impacts. There was overwhelming support for funding the \$8.3 million project. A contract for the work has been awarded and it is anticipated that the actual installation of the steel sheets will occur in mid February. In the meantime, pre-drilling will take place during the week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon-Sat, and from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sun. The long-term sustainability plan is more complex and it offers many potential technical solutions. This is where we have a great opportunity and must work with you and all of our agency partners to succeed. Please keep in mind that we are on schedule for the long overdue Phase II beach renourishment project, which is now set to start in November/December 2013. Working around turtle season, the project will take two years and will include Pompano, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea and Fort Lauderdale to Sebastian Street.

Lien Amnesty Program: At the October 16, 2012 Commission Meeting, a resolution was passed initiating a Code Enforcement Lien Amnesty Program that allows the City, for a limited period of time, to settle Code Enforcement Liens on real property for less than face value. It will also provide the City with a mechanism to clear many old and cumbersome liens from the books, which will give new and existing property owners the incentive to bring old, existing violations into compliance. In addition, this program could stimulate the sale of many abandoned properties that may have previously been thought to be unmarketable due to these encumbrances. Existing homeowners who are in foreclosure but still occupying these properties will be able to obtain clear title and renegotiate their mortgage with their lender. The resolution states that in order to qualify or participate in this program the following conditions must be met: all properties owned by the applicant must be free of any code violations as evidenced by a completed inspection; all repeat violators will not be able to participate in the program until all properties in violation are in full compliance; all direct City costs, and any liens including lot cleaning charges, board up charges, demolition charges, civil penalties, condemnation and legal fees, shall be paid in full prior to the expiration of the Amnesty Program. Also, reductions will be offered at the following rates: residential and non-residential properties: 15% of the total amount owned on fines/liens, not to exceed 5% of the Just Market Value as determined by the BC Property Appraiser's

Continued on page 14

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The real danger to associations posed by the bill is largely a by-product of its legislative omissions. When the Property Appraiser nails long-time scofflaws for \$millions in back taxes, penalties and interest, they can pay the tab, negotiate a more modest settlement or go to court. As the stakes increase on a case by case basis, so does the incentive to contest the assessment in a courtroom. The bill fails to mention that their mandated involvement threatens to place associations at ground zero in a legal maelstrom they would otherwise observe from the sidelines. Minor mistakes or typos by office staffers could threaten disastrous repercussions. For instance, when the Property Appraiser aggressively pursues the owner of a unit mistakenly identified by the association as having been rented, the bill's silence on the association's liability for damages is deafening.

Additionally, volunteers elected to serve on an association's governing board are vested by statute with a fiduciary responsibility to the association and its members. In requiring associations to violate their residents' confidentiality, it is unclear whether complying board members will also be violating that statutory obligation.

As currently drafted, SB 182 also equips boards with a dangerously intimidating weapon that carries a significant potential for abuse. A vindictive administration could apply some skewed standard to selectively report troublemakers, political opponents or anyone that "ticked off" the wrong board member. Implied retribution from an abusive board could have a chilling effect on association elections and the unobstructed exercise of members' rights.

One day after the bill was filed, acclaimed association Attorney Donna Berger, who serves as Executive Director of the Community Advocacy Network (CAN), stated her intention to meet with Senator Detert in hopes of revising the bill's poorly conceived association protocols or mitigating their potentially dangerous consequences. Hopefully, Berger will find a way to help Detert realize her bill's objectives, without shooting herself in the foot - or us in the neck. •



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Office for 2012. Many existing code violations will require extensive and often costly work, which may require the expertise of architects and contractors, resulting in the need to obtain and close out necessary building permits. This may result in the need for an extended amnesty program period. Public outreach to our neighbors and the real estate and banking communities will be necessary as staff also prepares for a successful roll out of the program. If you would like the full content of this resolution, please contact my office and we can email it to you.

Lauderdale Now Has Downtown Parking App: Need help finding a parking spot in and around downtown Ft. Lauderdale? Now there's an app for that. The City is now using technology from Streetline to let drivers know where and when parking spots open up. Sensors embedded in the pavement detect when spaces are available. "Parker," a free smart phone app, provides the location and general availability of spaces through the use of web-enabled devices such as smart phones, PCs and tablets. Once parked, drivers can use the app to pay for parking via PayByPhone, set a timer to track how much time is remaining on the meter, or access walking directions to help find their parking space when they need to return to their vehicle. The system is currently set up near the Florida Atlantic University and Broward College campuses. In addition to detecting spots with "Parker," drivers will be able to toggle between availability and price, including real-time updates as prices are changed or updated. There is also the option to enter an address within "Parker" and view parking options nearest to that destination. To download the free "Parker" app, please visit www.streetline.com/park. "Parker" is available as

Outlawing Additional Synthetic Drugs: A follow-up to the drug problem in Florida: Attorney General Pam Bondi (Tallahassee) filed an emergency rule outlawing 22 new synthetic drugs, commonly called "bath salts," "K2" or "Spice." Attorney General Bondi was joined by law enforcement officers and a health practitioner as she announced the emergency rule designating new synthetic drugs as **Schedule I** of controlled substances, making it a third-degree felony for an individual to "sell, manufacture, deliver or possess with intent to sell, manufacture or deliver" these drugs. Synthetic drugs can cause psychotic episodes, hallucinations, seizures, paranoia, tremors, and more. "Synthetic cannabinoids have been linked to thousands of emergency department visits across the country, and a majority of those visits are by patients ages 12-29," stated Attorney General Pam Bondi. She also stated that she was very grateful to our law enforcement partners and the health care community for their continued dedication to protecting Florida's youth from these horrible drugs. FDLE Commissioner Gerald Bailey also commented that these dangerous drugs are widely available in smoke shops, truck stops and convenience stores, and through the Internet. Retailers who stock these products have two options: surrender their inventory or face enforcement action. Attorney General Bondi will work with the Florida Legislature during the 2013 legislative session to ban these 22 additional drugs permanently.

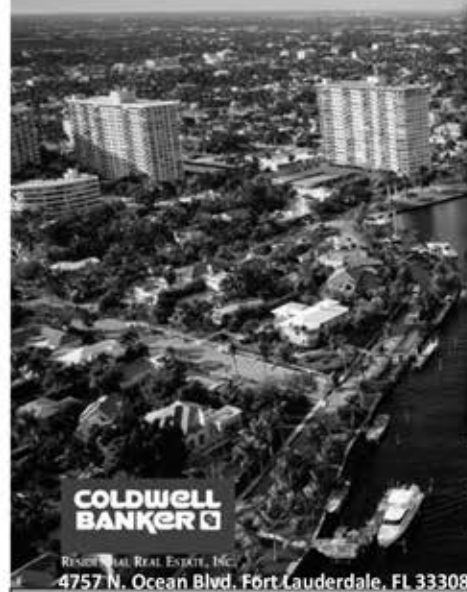
Did You Know?

- The most common code violations are the illegal parking of inoperable vehicles and failure to clean up junk and rubbish.
- Any structural repairs, new fences, most plumbing and electrical work, driveway installations, and even removal of certain trees, can require a permit from the City. Please call (954) 828-5191 for more information.
- The City can eliminate unsafe buildings or structures through demolition under the Florida Building Code.
- The City can board up vacant buildings that are open at the doors and windows after the required legal notification is made to the owner.
- The City can clean and clear vacant lots after the required legal notification is made to the owner.
- The City performs routine fire inspections.
- You can search for code violations and track code cases online by going to <http://gis.fortlauderdale.gov/cct/>

Office Contact: Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov •

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ACTIVE	3550 Galt Ocean Dr. # 1403	1/1/1	\$349,900	Renovated. South Facing.
SOLD	3430 Galt Ocean Dr. # 607	3/2	\$590,000*	SE Corner. Direct Ocean.
SOLD	3850 Galt Ocean Dr. # 1701	2/2	\$537,500*	SE Corner. Direct Ocean.
SOLD	3750 Galt Ocean Dr. # 511	3/2	\$470,000*	NE Corner. Original cond.
SOLD	3430 Galt Ocean Dr. # 612	2/2	\$397,000*	W Facing. Perfect. Updated.
SOLD	3430 Galt Ocean Dr. # 1701	2/2	\$358,000*	NW Corner. Updated.
SOLD	4300 N Ocean Blvd. # 16G	2/2	\$340,000*	Spacious Interior Unit.
SOLD	3430 Galt Ocean Dr. # 309	2/2	\$327,000*	South Facing. Spacious.
SOLD	3750 Galt Ocean Dr. # 307	2/2	\$318,000*	NW Corner. Interior Unit.
SOLD	4100 Galt Ocean Dr. # 1005	2/2	\$295,000*	South Facing. Original cond.

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