

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
BROWARD COUNTY PLANNING COUNCIL  
August 28, 2025**

**Members Present:** Thomas H. DiGiorgio, Jr., Chair  
City of Pembroke Pines Mayor Angelo Castillo, Vice Chair  
City of Tamarac Mayor Michelle J. Gomez, Secretary  
Ms. Jessica Abramson  
City of West Park Mayor Felicia Brunson (via CMT)  
Dr. Mireidy Fernandez  
Broward County Commissioner Lamar P. Fisher (via CMT)  
Mr. Adam M. Geller  
Ms. Ryann Greenberg  
City of Pompano Beach Mayor Rex Hardin  
City of Plantation Councilmember Denise Appleby Horland  
City of Hollywood Mayor Josh Levy  
City of Oakland Park Commissioner Letitia Newbold (via CMT)  
City of Coconut Creek Vice Mayor Jackie Railey  
Mr. David Rosenof  
City of Sunrise Mayor Michael J. Ryan (via CMT)  
School Board Member Dr. Allen Zeman

**Members  
Absent:**

**Also Present:** Barbara Blake Boy, Executive Director  
Andy Maurodis, Legal Counsel  
Karen Pannell, Real Time Reporter

A meeting of the Broward County Planning Council was held on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 422 of the Broward County Governmental Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The meeting quorum and format were consistent with Section 1-233 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances regarding advisory boards utilizing communications media technology in the form of telephonic conferencing.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair DiGiorgio called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

School Board Member Zeman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL**

Following the Roll Call by the Real Time Reporter, Chair DiGiorgio declared that a quorum was present.

## **OATH OF OFFICE**

Dr. Mireidy Fernandez was installed as the newest member to the Planning Council. She thanked the Planning Council members for the opportunity to serve the community and this Council.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- C 1 APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA FOR AUGUST 28, 2025**
- C 2 AUGUST 2025 PLAT REVIEWS FOR TRAFFICWAYS PLAN COMPLIANCE**
- C 3 APPROVAL OF SUMMARY MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2025**
- C 4 ATTENDANCE RECORD/EXCUSED ABSENCE REQUESTS**

(None.)

**Mayor Hardin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Gomez seconded the motion. Without objection, the motion passed unanimously.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

- R 1 PRESENTATION: Resilient Broward Website Presentation (Jennifer Jurado, Ph.D., Chief Resilience Officer, Broward Resilient Environment Department)**

Ms. Boy introduced Dr. Jurado and stated that the presentation slides will be provided to the Planning Council members at the conclusion of the meeting.

Dr. Jurado provided background of the development of the countywide resilience plan and strategy. She explained that the website is a tool that was intentionally developed for use by local governments and planning agencies to monitor sea level rise and future conditions of vulnerable areas which is relevant when discussing land use policy planning and infrastructure needs.

Dr. Jurado explained several differences between the Tier 1 and Tier 2 scenarios, which include sea level rise, sea wall height, pumping, and financial information. She noted that the website captures economic benefits and considerations through the entirety of the plan. Dr. Jurado announced that an estimated \$9 billion will be needed in the way of public infrastructure investments and private property improvements at the time of site development. She noted improvements to water storage, water management, and preservation of green and open space. She stated that the return

on investment estimates for Tier 1 and Tier 2 can be explored on the website at: [resilientbroward.com](http://resilientbroward.com). Referring to the presentation, Dr. Jurado showed how to access and view the plan. She noted that it is available in three different formats.

Dr. Jurado explained that selections can be made within the website to show Tier 1, Tier 2, or no adaptation strategies and compare different scenarios. She detailed various tools throughout the website that can be used to research potential improvements and details of the plan with regards to adaptation costs, infrastructure considerations, economics, and census tracking.

Dr. Jurado spoke on the web-based project tracker, which went live after the meeting, that will bring adaptation improvements to help satisfy the flood risk reductions that the plan proposes. She discussed the benefits of the model that is publicly shared which include communication with FEMA, floodwater production benefits through infrastructure improvements, and the return on investment.

Dr. Jurado reiterated the importance of planning for heat, flood, and maintaining green infrastructure while gaining additional water storage while working on the future planning. She indicated that with the Tier 2 investments it is estimated to reduce damages in the community by 83% relative to no adaptations.

Chair DiGiorgio acknowledged and thanked Dr. Jurado for all the work she does.

Dr. Zeman pointed out that the gross domestic product of Broward County is \$163 billion which could be at risk noting that the \$28 billion investment to build resilience is to protect the \$163 billion per year of economic might in Broward County. He stated that these investments are critical and manageable.

Discussion ensued regarding shared consideration of planning for risk.

Mayor Levy stated that the City of Hollywood Commission had approved \$20 million for the South Lake North Lake seawall construction and elevation of existing walls with total project costs of over \$40 million. He acknowledged that the \$20 million is coming from Resilient Florida. He expressed hope that additional funding and support of Broward County will come from Resilient Florida and DEP at the state level. Dr. Jurado spoke on the importance of utilizing funding noting that Broward County has not been receiving an appropriate allocation over the last several years.

Dr. Jurado answered several questions from the Planning Council members. The Planning Council members showed much appreciation and support to Dr. Jurado.

## **R 2 COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Mr. Maurodis provided an update on SB180, which is an amendment to the Florida statute that was adopted on the last day of the legislative session. He explained that it is a 48-page bill that has positive provisions with regard to hurricane preparation and response. Mr. Maurodis spoke on a provision of the bill that could affect the whole State of Florida. He explained that the bill precludes local governments from adopting anything in the comprehensive plan that is considered restrictive or burdensome to October 1, 2027, with the chance that it can be extended and is also retroactive. He spoke about challenges and conflicts that this bill could create. Ms. Boy discussed how SB180 could affect BrowardNext moving forward.

## **R 3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**Ms. Boy:**

- Welcomed new member, Dr. Mireidy Fernandez to the Planning Council.
- Provided a brief update on BrowardNext. She is hoping to make recommendations to the Steering Committee in October on how to move forward and the possibility of focusing on incentive-based policies. Ms. Boy requested that the text amendment related to environmentally sensitive lands be expedited to move forward in October.
- Requested the cancellation of the September meeting. She recommended that the October 23, 2025, Planning Council meeting begin at 11:00 a.m. to accommodate Read for the Record Day. Without objection, the September meeting was cancelled, and the October meeting start time was approved.
- Announced that the combined November/December meeting will be held on December 4, 2025. Without objection, the December 4<sup>th</sup> date was approved.
- Stated that the Waste Management Settlement Agreement between Broward County, Coconut Creek, and Deerfield has concluded.

Much discussion ensued regarding SB180 and its potential effects on Broward County if it is not overturned.

Councilmember Horland stated that Florida League of Cities was fighting many of the provisions of this bill. She noted that several legislators who voted on the bill did not realize the unintended consequences of the bill. Councilmember Horland encouraged the Council to speak to delegation members before the session starts and express how it is affecting the municipalities and Broward County.

## **R 4 CORRESPONDENCE**

(None.)

## **PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

Ms. Boy stated that there were no members of the public signed up to speak on items PH 1 through PH 4 other than applicants, agents, and local governments. Ms. Boy provided a brief overview of the items, noting that staff recommended approval of each of the items.

### ***QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING - Waived***

#### **PH 1 RECERTIFICATION PCR 25-9**

**Public Hearing on Recertification of the City of Tamarac Future Land Use Element – Map Amendment**

#### **PH 2 RECERTIFICATION PCR 25-10**

**Public Hearing on Recertification of the City of Fort Lauderdale Future Land Use Element - Map Amendment**

### ***END OF QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING***

#### **PH 3 AMENDMENT PCR 25-1**

**Public Hearing on Amendment to the Broward County Land Use Plan – Town of Southwest Ranches**

**Vice Chair Castillo made a motion to approve items PH 1 through PH 3. Councilmember Horland seconded the motion. Without objection, the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **PH 4 AMENDMENT PC 24-1**

**Public Hearing on Amendment to the Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL) Map of the Broward County Land Use Plan Natural Resource Map Series – Site 66 / Map Label 83 – City of Fort Lauderdale**

Dr. Zeman requested further discussion on this item. Ms. Boy explained that this item is an amendment to the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Map located in the City of Fort Lauderdale. Referencing the map, Ms. Boy showed the locations of both the ESL site to be removed and the ESL site to be restored as a part of a conservation easement.

Ms. Boy reviewed the application process and the potential conflicts between the reviewing agency and the applicant. She spoke on the licensing, permitting, and

code requirements that the reviewing agency considers during the planning process. Ms. Boy stated that staff is not objecting to the amendment, noting that county environmental staff is in support of resequencing text amendment previously discussed under the Executive Director's report. (Mayor Levy left the meeting at 10:46 a.m.)

Ms. Barbara Hall, from Greenberg Traurig, presented two slides and discussed several reasons that the site should be removed from the ESL map. Ms. Hall explained that the site no longer meets the criteria as an LPC because it is not self-sustaining, it does not have adequate hydrology to maintain the native vegetation. She stated that the requirements to develop the site have been met, noting that an Environmental Resource Permit was issued and the mitigation requests were completed. Ms. Hall indicated that the site does not contribute anything to the surrounding area.

Ms. Hall explained that if the amendment is approved, it will be residentially developed to include 63 affordable units. She acknowledged that the development of the site will have sufficient lakes and that the acquired permit will address drainage issues.

Dr. Zeman spoke on his concerns regarding the process and the current rules as they pertain to environmentally sensitive lands. He discussed the importance of addressing the ecosystem, resiliency, and protecting wildlife. Dr. Zeman noted that Broward County and developers need to do better than just the minimum standards.

Mayor Ryan stated that there was some confusion related to the backup material. He explained that the Broward County Environmental Permitting Division issued a permit allowing the ESL to be removed then objected to the application.

Ms. Boy explained the conflict within the current process which statutorily requires the Broward County Environmental Permitting Division to accept the permit applications, but with the ESL designation, they can choose not to support the application.

Mayor Gomez stated that the applicant and the community should not have to suffer consequences of the procedural conflicts. She noted that the applicant complied with the requirements.

Dr. Zeman expressed frustration that the Broward County staff who object to the release of the ESL were not present to explain their stance after approving the mitigation. Much discussion ensued.

Mayor Hardin made a motion to approve item PH 4. Mayor Gomez seconded the motion. The motion passed 14 in favor, 2 opposed (Mayor Ryan and Dr. Zeman) and Mayor Levy was not present for the vote.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **PLANNING COUNCIL COMMENTS**

(None.)

### **NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Planning Council meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., in Room 422 of the Broward County Governmental Center.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Without objection Chair DiGiorgio adjourned this day's meeting at 11:09 a.m.