

# City of Lauderdale

*City Commission Chambers at City Hall  
5581 W. Oakland Park Blvd.  
Lauderhill, FL, 33313  
www.lauderhill-fl.gov*



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

**Wednesday, July 14, 2021**

**9:55 AM**

**Attend via phone: Dial 1-312-626-6799 & Meeting ID: 923 2127  
8679**

**Attend via Computer: <https://www.colvcm.com>**

### **Emergency City Commission Meeting**

#### **LAUDERHILL CITY COMMISSION**

***Mayor Ken Thurston  
Vice Mayor Denise D. Grant  
Commissioner Melissa P. Dunn  
Commissioner Lawrence Martin  
Commissioner Sarai Martin***

***Desorae Giles-Smith, City Manager  
Andrea M. Anderson, City Clerk  
Earl Hall, City Attorney***

## I CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thurston called to order the Emergency City Commission Meeting at 9:55 AM.

Mayor Thurston explained, though Governor DeSantis suspended certain restrictions, the City remained under a state of emergency due to the COVID 19 virus pandemic. Due to the challenges of the virus, the City of Lauderhill would continue to hold hybrid, virtual governmental meetings to allow the public to continue participating remotely. The City Commission would have a quorum physically present at its meetings at City Hall, along with staff, following the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for facial coverings, social distancing, and public gatherings. Anyone experiencing issues viewing and/or participating in Commission meetings should contact IT Director Douglas Downs. The City Commission and staff appreciated the public's patience and cooperation during such difficult and ever-changing times.

## II ROLL CALL

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Melissa P. Dunn, Vice Mayor Denise D. Grant, Commissioner Lawrence Martin, Commissioner Sarai Martin, and Mayor Ken Thurston

Vice Mayor D. Grant attended this meeting via Communications Media Technology.

## ALSO PRESENT:

Desorae Giles-Smith, City Manager  
Earl Hall, City Attorney  
Constance Stanley, Police Chief  
Andrea M. Anderson, City Clerk

## III THIS WILL BE A LIMITED AGENDA MEETING. THE ONLY ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED WILL BE:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 21R-07-157: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL APPROVING WEEKLY EXTENSIONS OF THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL REGARDING COVID-19 PROSPECTIVELY ON A WEEKLY BASIS TO BE DEEMED EFFECTIVE EACH WEEK THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021 WHILE THE CITY COMMISSION IS ON RECESS FOR SUMMER BREAK; PROVIDING THAT EACH WEEKLY EXTENSION SHALL ONLY BE VALID AND TAKE EFFECT SO LONG AS THE STATE OF FLORIDA REMAINS UNDER A DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY REGARDING COVID-19; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY CITY MANAGER DESORAE GILES-SMITH).

**Attachments:** [RES-21R-07-157-Emergency Declaration Approvals-Summer Recess](#)  
[AR 21R-07-157](#)

City Attorney Earl Hall explained during the State of Florida's last legislative session, there were a number of changes regarding the regulation of States of Emergency. Prior to those changes, the City Manager had the authority to sign a Declaration of a State of Emergency, as City Manager Desorae Giles-Smith had done regarding COVID-19, however the law had now changed and moving forward any time a local government needed to declare a State of Emergency, it must be done by the public body. As the City Commission was going to be in recess, it would be necessary to provide authorization in advance for the State of Emergency to be extended, week by week, until the return from recess.

Commissioner S. Martin requested information regarding the financial impact of a State of Emergency, specifically asking if it cost more money or if there were refunds the City might become eligible for.

City Manager Giles-Smith explained that during a State of Emergency, such as in a natural disaster or, in this case, a pandemic, the City was allowed to recoup funds from FEMA so that some costs related to the emergency at hand were reimbursed. In order to be able to do that the City must be under a declared State of Emergency. In addition, declaring a State of Emergency was an opportunity to let the public know what the circumstances were within the City and to set forth any necessary protocol being asked of residents.

Commissioner S. Martin asked if, when a State of Emergency was declared, were there people on call or working over time as a result?

City Manager Giles-Smith explained that, normally declaring a State of Emergency would allow for that but this pandemic and this State of Emergency specifically had been different. Usually when there was a State of Emergency it lasted for a few weeks at most, the current State of Emergency had lasted over 1 year and that was unusual, which may be a part of why the legislature had enacted this new policy. She noted that, while a State of Emergency could put people on call and, initially during the pandemic it did, that is not the case any longer.

Commissioner S. Martin questioned if anyone was being paid double due to the State of Emergency, which City Manager Giles-Smith said was not the case.

Commissioner L. Martin reiterated that due to the laws from Tallahassee, they as a Commission were authorizing the City Manager to extend the current State of Emergency on a weekly basis, if needed, up to another 4 weeks, after which time the Commission will have returned from recess and will have exhausted what the state authorizes. He continued that the hope was that the State of Emergency would not have to extend beyond that time.

**A motion was made by L. Martin, seconded by S. Martin, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner M. Dunn, Vice Mayor D. Grant, Commissioner L. Martin, Commissioner S. Martin, and Mayor K. Thurston

Abstain: 0

#### **IV COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

#### **V ADJOURNMENT - 10:03 AM**