



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK LUNCH BUNCH MEETING MINUTES

**Coconut Creek Community Center
1100 Lyons Road
Coconut Creek, Florida**

**Date: October 9, 2023
Time: 12:00 p.m.**

Present:

City of Coconut Creek Elected Officials and Staff

Sandra L. Welch	Vice Mayor
Jacqueline Railey	Commissioner
John A. Brodie	Commissioner
Karen M. Brooks	City Manager
Kathy Mehaffey	Deputy City Attorney
Jeff Gary	Fire Chief
Lori Choat	Fire Rescue Department Division Chief
Dan Eberly	Sergeant, School Resource Officer Supervisor
Jenna Kriplean	Captain, Police Support Services Division
Albert "Butch" Arenal	Police Chief
Wayne Tobey	Parks & Recreation Director
Yvonne Lopez	Community Relations Director
Maureen DeLaunay	Executive Administrative Assistant
Amber Venzal	Administrative Assistant
Danielle Nowak	Administrative Coordinator

School Officials

Vicky LaPorte	Atlantic Technical College and Magnet High School
Neeta Rancourt	Atlantic Technical College
Dr. Jamoinca Rolle	Broward College
Bardetta Haygood	College Academy at Broward College
Jenny Thelwell	College Academy at Broward College
Dr. Bree Miron	Coconut Creek Elementary School
Nicole Nearor	Coconut Creek High School
Synithia Crawford	Dave Thomas Education Center
Vernicca Wynter	Lyons Creek Middle School
Sabine Phillips	Margate Middle School
James Cecil	Monarch High School
Michael Preslo	North Broward Preparatory School
Jon Volpi	North Broward Preparatory School

Other Officials

Rep. Christine Hunschofsky	State House of Representatives
Linda Beauport	State Rep. Christine Hunschofsky's Office

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Dr. Jermaine V. Fleming
Debra Hixon
Nora Rupert
Megan Turetsky
Ricardo Santana
Shernette Grant
Susan Whiting

Broward County Schools North Region Superintendent
Broward County School Board Member
Broward County School Board Member
Broward County Public Schools
Broward County Public Schools
Junior Achievement of South Florida, Inc.
Seminole Coconut Creek Education Foundation

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER / WELCOME

Vice Mayor Sandra Welch called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. She acknowledged the impact of educators on the community in Coconut Creek and commented that the path of students had an impact on the economic success of Coconut Creek.

2. AGENDA ITEMS

a. City Update

City Manager Karen Brooks provided a brief City update. She shared that the new Fiscal Year had just begun, and the City had been able to balance the budget without a tax increase. She reviewed budget highlights, including an update of the City website, capital improvements at Lakeside Park, and playground replacement at the Recreation Complex. She stated that work on the MainStreet development continued, and the Cheesecake Factory was slated to open around November 10. She noted permits for Sprouts Grocery Store and Cali Coffee had been submitted and construction was expected in early 2024.

b. Police Department Update

Police Chief Albert "Butch" Arenal and Sergeant Dan Eberly provided a Police Department update. Police Chief Arenal shared that Captain Fred Hofer had been named Deputy Police Chief, and School Services had been moved under Captain Jenna Kriplean. He stated a vulnerability assessment of Jewish locations in the community was being undertaken as the situation in the Middle East became more volatile and asked that school officials pass on anything the Police Department should be aware of. Police Chief Arenal thanked those who had attended the Do The Right Thing season-opening award ceremony held on September 28 and stated the next event would be held on October 26. He distributed a letter that included the program dates and noted nominations were needed.

Sergeant Eberly introduced Captain Kriplean to share her contact information and then discussed threat assessments at Monarch and Coconut Creek High Schools. He noted training was planned for January to support administrators handling lower-end issues without involving law enforcement. He briefly addressed recent discussion at the School Board level regarding having their own law enforcement. He provided an update on training for new School Resource Officers (SROs) and shared that the

basketball game between the Police Department and Foundation for Independent Living would be taking place later that week.

c. Fire Rescue Update

Fire Chief Jeff Gary introduced Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division Chief Lori Choat. He shared that this week was Fire Prevention Week and discussed programming planned for the month of October. He stated the Fire Rescue Department would be visiting every pre-school, daycare, and elementary school to engage young people and introduce them to firefighters and fire safety.

Fire Chief Gary explained the Fire Marshall had been unable to schedule all of the fire inspections with the Broward County Public Schools Safety Department prior to the start of the school year. He stated that, as a result, the Fire Rescue Department would be reaching out to the individual schools to schedule inspections at their convenience. He noted there had been an issue with some fire alarms going off, and asked administrators to reach out if assistance was needed.

Division Chief Choat shared details regarding the Fire Cadet Program, which had begun the previous week. She stated the program would meet every other Saturday through the school year and was open to enrolled high school students ages 14-20.

d. Teen Political Forum/Government Week

Community Relations Director Yvonne Lopez commented that staff was excited to kick off the Teen Political Forum for the year. She noted the first meeting would be held on October 10 with eight (8) returning students, followed by a meeting of the full program on October 11. She shared that thirty-nine (39) students had registered. She discussed the opportunity briefly and thanked those present, who had participated in past programs. She encouraged the School Administrators to support their students taking part.

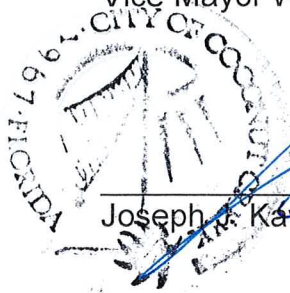
Ms. Lopez shared that the following week was Local Government Week and stated there would be a campaign of information on social media to learn more about local government. She explained there was also an opportunity for City Commissioners and staff to visit the local schools to talk to students and asked those interested to speak with staff for scheduling.

3. SELF INTRODUCTIONS AND SCHOOL INPUT

Students Yasmin Forneck and Sahara Apollonio from Monarch High School shared the details of their Make Our School Safe (MOSS) Club and its programs. There was round table input from each of the attendees regarding school activities along with self-introductions.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Welch thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.





Joseph P. Kavanagh, City Clerk



Date