

Commissioner Romney Rogers, District IV



I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter and Passover and that time was well spent with family and friends. In my last article I touched on the Commission's task to address the city's budget and we had the opportunity to do that at our April 7th Commission Meeting.

Before that, however, our first pre-agenda meeting was held on April 6th, 2009 at City Hall. We had 45 neighborhood folks in attendance. We met for over 2 hours going over the next day's commission agenda, which incidentally, took the commission 10 hours to discuss! It was a productive meeting and I appreciate your input and discussion.

Commission Day – the hot topic was the budget. The Commission discussed the \$15million 2008-2009 Capital Improvement Projects which included bridge repairs, park improvements, marine facility improvements, NCIP and BCIP projects, capital maintenance, sidewalk improvements and in-car police digital video cameras. We also discussed discretionary spending, July 4th fireworks and red light camera systems.

After much debate the commission agreed to put the police in-car video cameras on hold for more discussion until we get a report back from the vendor on the feasibility of a pilot program. We also agreed to freeze hiring except in Public Safety, halt bridge painting, and reduce travel spending. We agreed to move forward with the revenue generating red light cameras and have asked staff to go back to the contractor to negotiate a reduction in the cost of the July 4th fireworks.

I am pleased to report that the Commission agreed to the renaming of Civic Peoples Park to the "Dr. Elizabeth Hays Civic Park." A ceremony to rename the Park is set for Saturday, April 25th at 9:00am. Dr. Hays was a tireless advocate for District IV and for the entire city. She will be greatly missed by us all.

Also being honored, and deservedly so, is one of our own District IV Rio Vista residents, Frederic Stresau – the Commission will recognize Fred as Distinguished Citizen of the Year on Tuesday, April 21st at 11:30am at City Hall in the Commission Chambers.

All in all, it has been a very busy and exciting first month for me as your city commissioner. Please feel free to contact me at 954-828-5004 or by email at rrogers@fortlauderdale.gov.

Don't forget my pre-agenda meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Mondays {prior to Commission} at 5:30pm at City Hall on the 8th Floor. I encourage your attendance and welcome your input.

Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you.