



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#25-0247

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

DATE: April 1, 2025

TITLE: First Reading - Ordinance Amending the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances Section 8-146.1, to Address Water Taxi Stops on Right-of-Ways and Other City Property Fronting a Waterway, Along with Delegation of Staff Authority to Declare Water Taxi Stops - (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission consider an ordinance amending the City's Code of Ordinances Section 8-146.1(f)(2) to address water taxi stops on right-of-ways and other city property fronting a waterway, along with delegation of staff authority.

Background

This is a proposed Code amendment that originated when City staff was reviewing the possibility of expanding water taxi stops on right-of-way street ends and other City property on the New River. In reviewing Section 8.146.1 of the Code of Ordinances, entitled Water taxi license, the City Attorney's Office noted that it is not explicitly clear under Sec. 8-146.1(f)(2) that the City has the ability to allow water taxi stops in these scenarios.

In addition, Section 8-146.1(f)(2) provides the "Supervisor of Marine Facilities" with the authority to designate a municipal dock as a water taxi stop. Staff is recommending that the Manager of Marine Facilities, who supervises "Supervisor of Marine Facilities", also be given the ability to designate water taxi stops in case either position is unavailable to designate.

The proposed ordinance offers small, simple "technical edits" to clarify:

- i. The City has the ability to designate water taxi stops on right-of-way ends and other City property on water.
- ii. The Manager of Marine Facilities has the ability to designate water taxi stops on behalf of the City in addition to the Supervisor of Marine Facilities.

At the March 6, 2025, Marine Advisory Board (MAB) meeting, the MAB recommended unanimous approval (8:0) of the proposed ordinance (Exhibit 3).

Resource Impact

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This is a FY 2025 Commission Priority, advancing Public Spaces and Community Initiatives.

This item supports the 2029 Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area, Goal 5: Build a beautiful and welcoming community.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Here*.

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area
- The Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Element
- Goal 1: Be a community where persons of all ages are able to partake in a fun and healthy lifestyle.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – March 6, 2025, Draft Marine Advisory Board Minutes

Exhibit 2 – Business Impact Statement

Exhibit 3 – Ordinance

Prepared by: Carolyn Bean, Asst. to the Director, Parks and Recreation

Department Director: Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation