



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#25-0617

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: June 3, 2025

TITLE: Motion Authorizing the City Attorney's Office to File a Small Claims Action for the *City of Fort Lauderdale v. Joshua Bernard Jenkins* in the amount of \$7,835 in the County Court of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission authorize the City Attorney's Office, as provided for by Sec. 4.12, Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to file a Small Claims Action for *City of Fort Lauderdale v. Joshua Bernard Jenkins* in the amount of \$7,835 in the County Court of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida.

Background

On January 29, 2023, a City light pole was damaged in a traffic collision at the intersection of SE 17th Street & Eisenhower Boulevard. This accident did not involve a City vehicle or employee. Joshua Jenkins was driving a 2013 Volkswagen Passat westbound on SE 17th Street approaching the traffic light at Eisenhower Boulevard. A witness, Michael Haun, advised responding Fort Lauderdale police officers that he observed Jenkins' vehicle coming over the bridge too fast and not slowing down. Huan stated he moved his vehicle into another lane and watched Jenkins approach the light without hitting the brakes where he struck another vehicle in the rear. Huan stated that Jenkins then swerved right and ran off the roadway where he struck the City's light pole. The other vehicle, which had been rear-ended by Jenkins, then fled the scene. Jenkins was transported to Broward Health Medical Center for injuries. Based on Haun's account of the accident, officers determined Jenkins to be at fault for this collision.

The City's Parks & Recreation Department conducted repairs and replaced the damaged light pole at a cost to the City of \$7,835. As the police report did not list any insurance information for Jenkins, the City's Risk Management Division sent a request to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to request any insurance information based on the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on Jenkins' vehicle. However, no active insurance information was found. As a result, subrogation demands were sent directly to Mr. Jenkins, who has been unresponsive to date.

Staff's evaluation is that securing a civil judgment against Mr. Jenkins for the damage of \$7,835 best serves the interests of the City, based upon the four-year statute of limitations to pursue a claim.

Resource Impact

There will be a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$370 for costs related to the filing fee, issuance on summons and service of the lawsuit.

<i>Funds available as of May 20, 2025</i>			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
10-543-9050-519-50-5104	Self-Insurance Claims	Non-Operating Expenses / Auto Liability Claims	\$370
TOTAL AMOUNT ►			\$370

Strategic Connections

This item supports the Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- Guiding Principles, Fiscal Responsibility

This item advances the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are United

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

- The Internal Support Focus Area
- Implementation Element
- Goal 1: The Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan shall accomplish the City's Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan regarding the City's future growth and the six Cylinders of Excellence and shall be the City's primary policy document to guide all of its activities and development.

Prepared by: Ryan Blakeslee, Claims Adjuster, Human Resources
Guy Hine, Risk Manager, Human Resources

Department Director: Jerome Post, Human Resources