



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

**#13-1651**

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

**FROM:** Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** January 7, 2014

**TITLE:** MOTION– Motion to ratify the execution of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Voluntary Compliance Agreement (VCA)

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission ratify the execution of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Voluntary Compliance Agreement (VCA).

**Background**

This agenda item serves as follow up to Commission Memorandum 13-240, attached as Exhibit 1. During the week of June 11 – 15, 2012, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD), Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) conducted its Civil Rights Compliance Review of the City of Fort Lauderdale's HUD funded programs.

As explained in Exhibit 1, the Review included an Accessibility Report, which outlined concerns regarding the Mizell Center, the Sustainable Development Center, and City Hall, based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS).

Since the Mizell Center is no longer used to administer Federal grant programs, the City is not required to make any modifications to this facility. However, as part of the five-year CRA plan, the CRA will be funding renovations to the interior of the building.

The accessibility concerns that need to be addressed at the Sustainable Development Center are not considered to be major items, and it is anticipated that the Facilities Division can have these items completed by March 2014.

However, the ADA and UFAS accessibility items that need to be addressed at City Hall are more extensive and expensive. A complete review and walkthrough of City Hall was required to identify the estimated scope and cost of repairs for the remaining modifications. Following the walkthrough that occurred on December 4, 2013, staff determined it would be necessary to contract with a qualified professional who specializes in assessing and developing recommendations to address ADA and UFAS concerns.

Staff is currently awaiting a proposal for this work, and after notice to proceed, estimate that the assessment and cost estimates for the ADA and UFAS repairs would be provided within 30-45 days. A copy of the assessment and report will be provided to the City Commission thereafter.

As part of the Compliance Review, HUD provided a standard Voluntary Compliance Agreement (VCA) and requested that it be executed and submitted in November or early December 2013 at the latest. Staff advised HUD that this timeframe would not allow enough time to complete an assessment of the repair costs for City Hall. Additionally, because we anticipate the City Hall repairs to be extensive and expensive, staff would need to present the proposed modifications to the City Commission for discussion and approval before proceeding.

In this regard, HUD has agreed to accept a tentative VCA signed by the City Manager, and ratified by the City Commission in January 2014. Following the ratification of the VCA, staff will present the City Hall assessment to the City Commission and identify any potential VCA compliance issues as a result of the required modifications.

**Resource Impact**

To be determined.

**Strategic Connection**

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included in the Internal Support Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 12: Be a leading government organization, managing our resources wisely and sustainably.

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

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Commission Memo 13-240

Exhibit 2 – HUD Civil Rights Monitoring Report

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Prepared by: Jonathan Brown, Housing and Community Development Manager

Department Director: Greg Brewton, Department of Sustainable Development