



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#25-0248

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: April 15, 2025

TITLE: Second 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 first reading of the ordinance amendment was held at the April 1, 2025, Commission Meeting. At that time, direction was provided to modify the ordinance replacing "supervisor" and "manager" with "City Manager or City Manager Designee".

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 City Manager or City Manager Designee has the ability to designate water taxi stops on behalf of the City.

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

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, Marine Advisory Board Minutes

Exhibit 2 – Ordinance

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

Department Director: Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation