



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

**#15-0102**

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

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

**DATE:** April 7, 2015

**TITLE:** Ordinance Updating Municipal Water System Backflow Prevention  
Program

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt an ordinance amending the City's Code of Ordinances in order to update the municipal water system backflow prevention program.

**Background**

The City is updating the backflow prevention sections of the City's Code of Ordinances to align with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act and the Florida Administrative Code, (F.A.C.) Section 62-555.

Backflow prevention protects the public potable water supply from the possibility of contamination or pollution by isolating, within its customer's internal distribution system, such contaminants or pollutants which could backflow or back-siphon into the public water system. In addition, backflow prevention promotes the elimination of existing cross connections, and provides for the maintenance of a continuing backflow-prevention control program. Single-family residential dwelling units are exempt from the provisions of this program; however, single-family dwelling units with dedicated irrigation lines are required to place and maintain a backflow prevention device on the irrigation line.

An extensive outreach program began in August 2014 to inform our neighbors of the program updates. Below is a bulleted list of activities:

- Developed flyer (Exhibit 1) for mailing and rack distribution;
- Dedicated a webpage – <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments-/public-works-/sustainability-division/cross-connection-control-plan-cccp>;
- Delivered Commission Memorandum #14-207 (October 20, 2014);
- Advertised in the Sun Sentinel newspaper;
- Posted on the City's Public Access Channel;
- Mentioned in the monthly Civic Newsletter;

- Advertised on the City's 'On Hold' message;
- Direct mailed post cards to impacted businesses;
- Included as a utility bill stuffer;
- Transmitted a press release;
- Provided letter to the plumbing community to prepare for increased demand; and
- Presented at Commission Conference #14-1369 (November 4, 2014).

The proposed amendments update the existing ordinance that was adopted in 1993 to be more aligned with recent 2014 changes to the Florida Administrative Code. Backflow requirements and the enforcement provisions are more clearly defined. The proposed changes also contain a fee structure to cover the program cost of administering an additional estimated 8,000 backflow assemblies.

**Resource Impact**

There will be a positive fiscal impact to the City in the event that a water consumer whose water service has been cut off for lack of backflow prevention assembly, inspection, testing or recertification, desires to have his water service reestablished. A \$20.00 service fee will be charged to disconnect the consumer's water supply and a \$20.00 service fee will be charged to re-connect water service. A \$45.00 annual recertification administrative fee will be charged for each backflow prevention assembly at each premise. The updated Backflow Prevention Ordinance will add an estimated 8,000 additional backflow prevention assemblies to the existing system and generate an estimated \$360,000 in fees each year to recover costs necessary to administer the backflow prevention and cross connection control program.

**Strategic Connections:**

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

- **Goal 2:** Be a sustainable and resilient community.
- **Objective 1:** Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, road, and bridge infrastructure.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We are Ready*

**Attachment** Exhibit 1 – Flyer  
 Exhibit 2 – Amended Ordinance  
 Exhibit 3 – FAC Section 62-555

Prepared by: Todd Hiteshew, Environmental Services Manager  
 Talal Abi-Karam, P.E., Assistant Public Works Director, Utilities

Department Director: Hardeep Anand, P.E., Public Works