



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#13-1238

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

FROM: Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: September 17, 2013

TITLE: Ordinance (Second Reading) - Florida Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban
Landscapes

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve, on second reading, an Ordinance amending Chapter 28, Article 1 to provide for adopting standards for Florida Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes.

Background

The first reading of this Ordinance was on the September 3, 2013, City Commission agenda.

In 2009 the State of Florida adopted several statutes to address fertilizer use on urban landscapes. Section 403.9337, Florida Statutes encourages municipal governments to adopt the Model Ordinance for Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes as a mechanism to protecting local surface and groundwater quality. Section 403.9338, Florida Statutes mandates the State to develop training and testing programs in urban landscape best management practices. Section 482.1562, Florida Statutes requires certification of commercial fertilizer applicators by January 1, 2014.

The City is required to adopt an ordinance for Florida Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes to comply with the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP),

The FDEP implements the stormwater element of the federal NPDES by issuing a State of Florida Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4). The stormwater element of the federal NPDES program is mandated by the Clean Water Act (CWA), and is implemented through the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The City's most recent permit was issued on September 1, 2011 and expires on August 31, 2016.

The ordinance regulates the following and is based on the approved state model ordinance:

- The proper use of fertilizers by applicators
- Requires proper training of Commercial and Institutional Fertilizer Applicators
- Establishes training and licensing requirements
- Establishes a prohibited application period
- Specifies allowable fertilizer application rates and methods
- Fertilizer-free zones
- Low maintenance zones
- Exemptions
- Use of Best Management Practices

The City currently provides information on fertilizer best management practices through various outlets and will incorporate elements of the ordinance into the outreach material for distribution. This ordinance will help us fast forward in protection of our natural resources.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the City associated with this action.

Related CAM: #13-1096 (First Reading)

Attachment: Exhibit 1 – Ordinance
Exhibit 2 – State Model Ordinance

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