



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#25-0632

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

FROM: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney

DATE: June 17, 2025

TITLE: First Reading - Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, to prohibit lobbying or lobbying activities by city board members or city committee members, specifically creating Section 2-265 entitled "Lobbying or Lobbying Activities by City Board Members and City Committee Members; Prohibition" and amending Section 2-261 entitled "Definitions" and Section 2-266 entitled "Penalties" of the Code of Ordinances, all relating to Regulating Lobbyist Appointments to Boards and Committees – (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4**)

Recommendation

The City Commission consider adoption of the attached proposed ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale creating a new Section 2-265 entitled "Lobbying or Lobbying Activities by City Board Members and City Committee Members; Prohibition" and amending Section 2-261 entitled "Definitions" and Section 2-266 entitled "Penalties".

Background

On May 6, 2025, at the City Commission Conference meeting, the City Commission discussed a draft ordinance that would amend the City of Fort Lauderdale's Code of Ordinances to include language that prohibits City of Fort Lauderdale advisory boards and committee members from engaging in lobbying or lobbying activities with the City Commission, City boards and committees, or City staff. After discussion, the City Commission directed the City Attorney's Office to revise the draft ordinance to include a prohibition against appointing lobbyists to serve on city boards or city committees and clarifying that the prohibition would not apply to authorities, special districts, and similar collegial bodies created by an act of the Florida Legislature.

During the drafting process, the City Attorney's Office identified the Citizen's Board of Recognition as a City Board with a unique composition that may warrant an exemption from this prohibition. Membership of this board consists of former mayors of the City of Fort Lauderdale, a former member of the City Commission, past honorees and the president of the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, or the president's

designee. A provision excluding this board has been incorporated in proposed ordinance.

The proposed ordinance provides as follows:

- Amending Section 2-261 entitled “Definitions” to include definitions for the terms “city board” and “city committee.”
- Creating Section 2-265 entitled “Restrictions on Lobbying by Appointed Board and Committee Members”
 - prohibits the appointment of lobbyists to city boards and city committees
 - prohibits members of city advisory boards and city committees from lobbying.
 - Excludes authorities, special districts, and similar collegial bodies created by an act of the Florida Legislature from the definition of City Board and City Committee.
 - Excludes the Citizens’ Committee of Recognition from the definition of City Board and City Committee.
 - Design professionals, such as architects, engineers and consultants who interpret plans, are excluded from these prohibitions.
- Amending Section 2.266 entitled “Penalties” has been amended to provide the City Commission with the authority to adopt a resolution to remove members for cause who violate provisions of Article VII of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances.

Resource Impact

The adoption of this Ordinance has no direct fiscal impact on the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance

Exhibit 2 – Business Impact Estimate

Prepared by: D’Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney

Charter Officer: D’Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney