



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

#14-1521

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

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

DATE: January 6, 2015

TITLE: Ordinance Amendment for Increase of Lien Search Fees

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission amend Section 2-150, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, to increase the fees associated with services provided for furnishing information on unpaid utility bills, special assessments, and code enforcement actions from twenty five dollars (\$25) to seventy five dollars (\$75) for standard service (within 3 business days) and from fifty dollars(\$50) to one hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) for expedited service (within 1 business day).

Background

Section 2-150 of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Fort Lauderdale provides for services to furnish information regarding unpaid utility bills, special assessments and any unpaid revenues due to the City with regard to any real property located in the City.

With the increase of property sales in the City, there has been an increase in requests for the lien search service, thereby increasing the overall cost to provide the service. In an effort to handle the increased requests, employees were diverted from other tasks to complete the lien search requests and then given overtime to complete regular duties as needed. Other municipalities surveyed (Exhibit 2) are charging \$50 to \$100 for standard service with 5 to 10 days for the completion of the request compared to the City's current charge of \$25. The same municipalities are charging \$100 to \$125 for expedited service allowing up to 24 hours for the completion of the request compared to the City's current charge of \$50. Expedited requests make up 95% of the lien search requests submitted to the City. Increasing the time allowed for expedited searches will ensure a more professional service.

Resource Impact

There will be a positive fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$375,000 based on five thousand expedited searches per year at the increased \$75 per search fee. Expedited requests make up 95% of the lien search requests submitted to the City.

Strategic Connections:

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

- Goal 12: Be a leading government organization, managing resources wisely and sustainably.
- Objective 1: Ensure sound fiscal management

This item also furthers the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We are United.*

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance No. C-14-

Exhibit 2 - Municipal Survey

Prepared by: Arnette Torrence, Revenue Collection Supervisor
Elizabeth Cohen, Administrative Assistant I

Department Director: Kirk W. Buffington, Finance