



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#26-0708

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

FROM: Christopher Cooper, Acting City Manager

DATE: August 18, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Florida Legislature's Honorary Designation of State Road 5 between Northeast 38 Street and East Commercial Boulevard as "Phil Smith Memorial Highway" - **(Commission District 1)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a resolution supporting the Florida Legislature's honorary designation of the portion of State Road 5 (US 1/Federal Highway) between Northeast 38 Street and East Commercial Boulevard as "Phil Smith Memorial Highway."

Background

In its 2026 session, the Florida Legislature passed version S of Senate Bill 628, which was approved by Governor Ron DeSantis on April 14, 2026. The bill, with an effective date of July 1, 2026, provides honorary designations for various streets, roadways, and highway interchanges throughout the state, as well as one airport, and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers.

As a basis the designation the Florida House of Representative' Final Bill Analysis prepared by the nonpartisan committee staff cited Holy Cross Health's Neurosciences website, <https://www.holy-cross.com/services/neurosciences> which states:

"Philip P. 'Phil' Smith was an auto dealer and philanthropist who passed away at the age of 70 in 2016 after a battle with ALS, known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Under the Phil Smith Management Co., he led an auto dealership and property management company with 780 employees and some \$500 million in annual revenue. Smith once owned as many as 17 auto dealerships in Florida and North Carolina. He also owned the Coral Ridge Country Club in Fort Lauderdale. Among their many charitable contributions, he and his wife donated a \$5 million gift to Florida Atlantic University's College of Business in Boca Raton and a \$7 million gift in [dollars] to Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale to create the Phil Smith Neuroscience Institute at Holy Cross Hospital."

Subsection 334.071(3), Florida Statutes (2025), provides, in part, that "erection of markers shall be contingent on the appropriate city or county commission passing a

resolution in support of the particular honorary designation.” Upon receipt of the City’s resolution, FDOT will procure and install no less than two designation markers including at the end points of the designated segment of roadway.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 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 Community.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Historic Preservation Element
- Goal 2: Provide educational and incentive opportunities to further the City’s historic preservation goals.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Senate Bill 628

Exhibit 2 – Florida State Statute 334.071

Exhibit 3 – Location Map

Exhibit 4 – Resolution

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