



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

**#26-0074**

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

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** January 6, 2026

**TITLE:** Sewer Lateral Connections Presentation - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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At the October 22, 2025, City Commission Conference Meeting, the City Commission inquired about the responsibility for maintenance, repair, and relocation of sewer laterals in the City's wastewater collection system. City staff responded to the City Commission's concerns and committed to reviewing the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale (City Code) regarding sewer laterals and identifying potential recommendations.

Chapter 28 of the City Code, titled Water Wastewater and Stormwater, contains language regarding the maintenance, repair and relocation of the sewer laterals. City staff are seeking City Commission feedback on the potential ordinance amendments. Once feedback is provided, City staff, with support from the City Attorney's Office, will draft ordinance amendments for City Commission consideration at a future City Commission Regular Meeting.

The areas of Chapter 28 being considered for updating are:

1. Create a new definition for "House Sewer(s)/Connection(s)" - A sewer which is owned and controlled by the private property owner. This includes plumbing within the structure, pipelines and appurtenances on private property. This house connection is responsibility of the property owner to construct and maintain.
2. Modify the existing definition of the term "Public Sewer" - A sewer which is owned or controlled by the City, or both. This includes all sewer pipelines and appurtenances within City owned property of public right-of-way unless otherwise transferred through an agreement. The City is responsible for constructing and maintaining these facilities. Where a service lateral in the public right-of-way does not exist, the City will construct this lateral and the cost will be passed to the owner as a service connection fee.

3. Modify portions of the Sewer Maintenance section including but not limited to:

- A. Extent of City maintenance - The City shall not be responsible for the repair and maintenance of house sewers nor for privately owned pumping stations, force mains and sewers. The City shall be responsible only for the repair and maintenance of all public sewers, pumping stations, and force mains in the City's public right-of-way, and shall make a diligent effort to inspect and keep these facilities in good repair.
- B. Customer maintenance - The customer shall be responsible for the maintenance of the plumbing from the house sewer into and including the house plumbing. The customer shall be responsible for keeping the house sewer, in addition to the plumbing, free from obstructions. The City shall have the right to inspect the service connection and plumbing and to discontinue water service to any customer or property owner who fails to maintain the plumbing to the extent that it may or does cause harm to the sewer facilities.
- C. Clarify it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain the sanitary sewer service upon (house connection) on their property to the City main sewer in the adjacent public right-of-way.
- D. Where connections are to be made to existing House Sewer(s)/Connection(s), this House Sewer/Connections shall be carefully examined by televising equipment and inspected and certified by a licensed plumber in the State of Florida. Any plumber performing the required inspections shall be experienced in National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO) standards for content and terminology. Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) survey files shall be provided in Pipe Assessment & Certification Program (PACP) file format. The inspection report and CCTV video must be supplied to the City's Development Services Department (DSD), Public Works Department, and Utility Services Department prior to issuance of a building permit. If the existing service lateral is found in good condition and free from infiltration, it may be connected to the House Sewer(s)/Connection(s). If the existing House sewer(s)/Connection(s) is not in good condition or free from infiltration, it shall be repaired/replaced by City. Should no lateral exist or relocation is requested/required, the property owner shall bear the expense to install.

**Strategic Connections**

This item is a FY 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the Infrastructure and Resiliency initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area, Goal 3: Be a sustainable and resilient community

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

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

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Sanitary Sewer, Water & Stormwater Element
- Goal 6: Ensure that all areas of the City are reasonably protected from flooding giving due consideration to the City's natural and built environment.

### **Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Presentation

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Prepared by: Albert Carbon, Director, Utility Services

Department Director: Albert Carbon, Utility Services