



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

**#25-0133**

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

**FROM:** Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

**DATE:** February 18, 2025

**TITLE:** Resolution Authorizing a State Historical Marker at the Entrance to the  
Jimmy Evert Tennis Center in Holiday Park to Honor Christine Marie “Chris”  
Evert - **(Commission District 2)**

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**Recommendation**

City Staff recommends that the City Commission approve a resolution authorizing a State Historical Marker at the entrance to the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center in Holiday Park to Honor Christine Marie “Chris” Evert.

**Background**

The Florida Historical Marker Program, managed by the Division of Historical Resources, is designed to inform the public about Florida's cultural heritage. It marks significant historical sites and individuals across the state, including churches, schools, archaeological sites, and battlefields.

Chris Evert is notable for her achievements in tennis. Her accomplishments include:

- The number one tennis player in the world from 1975 to 1987.
- Trained by her father Jimmy Evert starting at the age of five at Holiday Park's tennis courts.
- By 1969, she had become the No. 1 ranked under-14 girl in the United States.
- She won 18 Grand Slam Women's titles, including a record seven French Open titles, a joint record of six US Open titles.
- Named the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year four times.

The Florida Women's Historical Marker Initiative is requesting this marker and will fund its purchase. This marker furthers one of their missions to promote and highlight significant contributions that women have made to the history of the state of Florida.

Text for the proposed Florida State Historical Marker reads:

*Christine Marie “Chris” Evert born in Fort Lauderdale on December 21, 1954, was known as the number one tennis player in the world from 1975 to 1987. Chris was trained starting at the age of five, by her father Jimmy Evert at these tennis courts in Holiday Park, re-*

*named the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center in 1997. He taught each of his five children to play at this venue with a sawn-off wooden racket. They remember him saying, "I am not trying to turn my kids into champions, just to keep them off the streets." By 1969, Evert became the number one ranked under 14-year-old girl in the United States. That same year Evert played her first senior tournament at Holiday Park. She developed a double handed backhand and impressive self-control on the courts. At 16, Evert was known as "The Ice Maiden" for being cool under fire when other players melted under pressure. American television sportscaster, "Bud" Collins Junior famously said, "Chrissie Evert cares not for the score, the situation, the drama—She just hits winners!" She went on to win 18 Grand Slam Women's titles, including a record seven French Open titles, a joint record of six US Open titles, and was named the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year four times.*

Should the City Commission authorize the placement of the State Historical Marker at the entrance to the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center (Exhibit 1), this action would allow the Florida Women's Historical Marker Initiative to submit an application requesting this marker to the Florida Historical Marker Program. Renovations to the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center are currently underway and exact placement will be determined once this project is complete. Placement of the State Historical Marker is also contingent upon State and City approvals.

### **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

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

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

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Historic Preservation Element
- Goal 1: The City shall prepare and adopt a long-term approach to historic preservation which identifies and evaluates the City's historic resources.
- Objective HP 2.2: Educational Tools. Educate the public about archaeological and historic preservation programs.

### **Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Location Map

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

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