



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

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

DATE: October 21, 2014

TITLE: Second Reading of Ordinance – Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Case
T14003 - To Incorporate Adaptation Action Areas in the Comprehensive
Plan

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve on second reading an ordinance amending the Coastal Management Element and Administration and Implementation Element of the City of Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan to incorporate Adaptation Action Areas (AAAs).

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale executed an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) in 2013 commencing a pilot project of special merit to explore the options available to local governments that wish to incorporate Adaptation Action Areas (AAAs) into their local comprehensive plans. According to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) an adaptation action area is “an optional comprehensive plan designation for areas that experience coastal flooding and are vulnerable to the related impacts of rising sea levels for the purpose of prioritizing funding for infrastructure needs and adaptation planning. Local governments that adopt an adaptation action area may consider policies within the coastal management element to improve resilience to coastal flooding.”

The City of Fort Lauderdale, in collaboration with the SFRPC and Broward County, is serving as the pilot community to test the development and advancement of adaptation policy options, including its integration into the City’s Comprehensive Plan as a text amendment.

As shown in the *Proposed Goal, Objective and Policies Text: Adaptation Action Areas*, the proposed amendment adds a new *Goal 3, Objective 3.1, and Policies 3.1.1 – 3.1.14* to the Coastal Management Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The intent of this amendment is to increase the City’s resiliency to the impacts of climate change and rising sea levels by developing and implementing adaptation strategies and measures

to protect human life, natural systems and resources and adapt public infrastructure, services, and public and private property. The fourteen policies address identification of vulnerable infrastructure, development of adaptation strategies and optional mechanisms for AAAs designation. Also, revisions are proposed to add five new definitions in the Administration and Implementation Element Section VII. Definitions, including the following terms: Priority Planning Areas for Sea Level Rise Map, Broward County; Protection; Accommodation; Managed Retreat; and Avoidance.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan text amendment is consistent with the City's current Comprehensive Plan Coastal Management Element in that it plans for, encourages and manages development and redevelopment activities in the coastal area to maximize aesthetic, environmental, recreational and economic values of coastal areas of the City, while taking measures to protect the City's natural and historic resources, human life and public and private property from harm by natural disasters (Goal 1, Coastal Management Element). It also reduces the exposure of human life and property to natural hazards in the coastal high hazard area (Goal 1, Objective 1, Coastal Management Element).

The City's Planning and Zoning Board (PZB), acting as the Local Planning Agency, recommended by a vote of 9-0 on May 21, 2014 that the City Commission transmit the amendment to the Florida DEO. The PZB staff report, which includes the proposed Comprehensive Plan text changes and Comprehensive Plan amendment report, is attached as **Exhibit 1**. The PZB meeting record is attached as **Exhibit 2**, respectively.

Public outreach included a public forum hosted by the City on January 21, 2014 to discuss long-term sustainability in light of climate change, as well as the receipt of public comments that were sent by mail or posted to the City's website through February 21, 2014.

On June 17, 2014, the City Commission passed the proposed amendment on first reading and authorized staff to transmit the amendment to the FDEO and other applicable reviewing agencies by a vote of 5-0. The Commission Agenda Memo (CAM) and meeting record are available as **Exhibits 3** and **4**, respectively. The proposed amendment was transmitted to the applicable agencies for review and comment and all applicable agencies have commented that there are no adverse impacts associated with the proposed amendment. Two agencies, the FDEO and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), offered suggestions for the City's consideration. As a result, two minor text additions to the proposed amendment have been incorporated, including a clarification to Policy 3.1.5 that considerations for designation of AAAs may include areas which experience tidal and/or storm surge flooding, and a clarification to Policy 3.1.7 that if the City's Comprehensive Plan were amended in the future as a result of AAA designation or removal, that amendment would be made in accordance with applicable Florida Statutes. (See **Exhibit 5** for agency review comments and **Exhibit 6** for proposed revised amendment language.)

The City Commission shall now hold a public hearing to consider the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment and the record and recommendations forwarded by the Department of Sustainable Development, PZB, FDEO and other reviewing agencies.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

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

- **Goal 2:** Be a sustainable and resilient community.
- **Objective 2:** Reduce flooding and adapt to sea level rise.
- **Strategic Initiative 5:** Identify potential Adaptation Action Areas (AAAs) and develop AAA policies.

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

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 - Staff report from the May 21, 2014 PZB meeting
- Exhibit 2 - Minutes from the May 21, 2014 PZB meeting
- Exhibit 3 - CAM from the June 17, 2014 City Commission meeting
- Exhibit 4 - Minutes from the June 17, 2014 City Commission meeting
- Exhibit 5 - Agency review comments
- Exhibit 6 - Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment
- Exhibit 7 - Comprehensive Plan Ordinance

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