



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#23-1044

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

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: December 5, 2023

TITLE: First Reading – Ordinance Amending the City of Fort Lauderdale Unified
Land Development Regulations (ULDR) Article IX, Administration and
Boards, to Revise the Terms of Appointment on the Planning and Zoning
Board and Historic Preservation Board – Case No. UDP-T23008
(**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission consider an amendment to the City of Fort Lauderdale Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR) Article IX, Administration and Boards to revise terms of appointment on the Planning and Zoning Board and Historic Preservation Board.

Background

On June 6, 2023, the City Commission directed staff to process an amendment to the ULDR regarding the length members shall serve on the Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) from three (3) years to four (4) years. Staff is also proposing to amend the length of the term of appointment for the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) from three (3) years to four (4) years given both PZB and HPB are quasi-judicial boards. The City Commission expressed the desire to align board member term lengths with term lengths of the Mayor and City Commissioners, which is four years.

On September 20, 2023, PZB, acting as the local planning agency (“LPA”), reviewed the application and recommended approval (by a vote of 8-1), finding the proposed change consistent with the City of Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan. The September 20, 2023, PZB Staff Report and meeting minutes are attached as Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 respectively. The proposed ordinance amendment is attached as Exhibit 3.

During the final drafting of the ordinance, additional changes were identified as necessary to implement the intent of aligning board members’ terms of appointment with the terms of office of the City’s elected officials. Those changes include:

- Clarifying that the PZB and HPB board appointees are subject to Section 2-219 of the Code of Ordinances, Rules governing board and committee appointments.

- Deletion of a provision declaring June 1 as the beginning of all of PZB terms of office. A June 1 start date would cause a circumstance in which individuals appointed for a term beginning on June 1 would potentially be removed from office within less than a year of their term of appointment due to an election.
- Changing the election date for the Chair of the respective boards from June to December of each year.

Please note that the ordinance does not address the current terms of appointment. There are 6 members of the PZB whose terms of office end on May 31, 2024, 5 members of the HPB and 1 member of the PZB whose terms end in 2025, and 3 members of HPB and 2 members of the PZB with terms ending in 2026.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2024, specifically advancing:

- The Business Development Focus Area.
- Goal 5: Build a sustainable and resilient community.

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

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – September 20, 2023, PZB Staff Report
 Exhibit 2 – September 20, 2023, PZB Meeting Minutes
 Exhibit 3 – Ordinance 1st Reading
 Exhibit 4 – Ordinance City Attorney's Office Version

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