



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

**#24-0957**

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

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

**DATE:** October 1, 2024

**TITLE:** Second Reading – An Ordinance of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida,  
Enacting a New Subsection of the City’s Code of Ordinances, 16-32:  
Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping - **(Commission  
Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission consider enacting a new subsection of the City’s Code of Ordinances, 16-32: Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping.

**Background**

At the August 20, 2024, and the September 3, 2024, City Commission Conference Meetings the City Commission discussed a proposed ordinance to comply with Florida House Bill 1365. The House Bill, adopted by the 2024 Florida Legislature and signed into law by Governor DeSantis, compels local governments to prohibit unauthorized overnight camping and sleeping on public property. After receiving feedback on August 20<sup>th</sup>, staff brought a draft ordinance on September 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Commission’s consideration. The version of the ordinance for consideration considers feedback received from the Commission.

The subject ordinance will create a new section of the City of Fort Lauderdale’s Code of Ordinances. Section 16-32 prohibits camping or sleeping on public property except as may be specifically authorized by the appropriate government authority. It defines terms related to camping or sleeping, temporary shelter, and public property. The ordinance further provides for an enforcement procedure for law enforcement to take when encountering a violation of the ordinance and a process for the storage of an individual’s belongings if the situation warrants.

The ordinance will prohibit unauthorized public camping and sleeping on public property at all times of the day or night unless specifically authorized by the appropriate governing authority. This includes any street, alley, sidewalk, pedestrian pathway, bicycle lane, or any other area encompassed within the public right-of-way, recreation facility, or any other grounds, buildings, or other facilities owned by the City of Fort Lauderdale or any other governmental entity.

City parks are excluded from the proposed ordinance because City parks are governed by existing park rules which only allow the public to be present during operating hours. Fort Lauderdale beach falls within the City's park rules which do not allow camping or sleeping on the beach. Violation may be enforced by Section 16-26 of the City's Code of Ordinances.

The City Commission approved the ordinance on first reading. The ordinance is being brought back to the Commission on October 1, 2024, for adoption, with a few minor changes to clarify the definition of "Camping or Sleeping", revising the definition of "Public Property", and modifying the enforcement section by removing redundant language. The ordinance will become effective upon adoption.

The proposed ordinance is attached as Exhibit 2.

**Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**Strategic Connections**

This item supports the FY2024 Commission Priority – Homelessness Initiatives.

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

- The Public Safety Area, Goal 1: Be a safe community that is proactive and responsive to risks.

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Business Impact Statement

Exhibit 2 – Ordinance

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Prepared by: Christopher Cooper, AICP, Acting Assistant City Manager

City Manager: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager