



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

#23-0527

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

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: June 6, 2023

TITLE: Resolution Approving 2023 Flood Building Permit Fee Assistance -
Pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes (2022) - (**Commission
Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission consider a Resolution authorizing the payment of building permit fees and exemption from other fees on behalf of property owners for properties requiring renovation and repairs due to the 2023 Flash Flood event.

Background

On April 12, 2023, the City of Fort Lauderdale was affected by a severe weather event that can be characterized as having a 1 in 1000 or .1% chance of happening in any given year. The event placed almost 26 inches of rainfall largely on Fort Lauderdale and immediate surrounding areas. The aftermath left many residential and commercial properties within our City with significant damage from flooding or water intrusion. As people recover, permanent repairs to restore structures to pre-storm condition will be completed by licensed contractors who are familiar with compliance with the Florida Building Code, local codes, obtaining permits, and scheduling inspections.

To assist property owners, the City Commission may consider paying building permit fees for renovation and repairs on behalf of applicants, pursuant to Section 252.28, Florida Statutes (2022). To do so, the City must identify a funding source to offset the revenue allocation to the Building Fund. Permit applicants will continue to be responsible for additional fees collected for County and State assessments.

Permit fees that involve general fund activities such as zoning and landscaping reviews and inspections are recommended to be exempted to reduce expenses associated with repair and restoration.

The City conducted a damage assessment in the aftermath of the flood and found approximately 700 structures received major damage and 400 received minor damage. Based upon the expected average building permit fee of \$355, staff recommends \$400,000 from the General Fund to offset the cost to property owners. Permit types

included with restoration and repair activities may involve air conditioning and heating systems, roof replacement and repair, plumbing, electrical system replacement or repairs as well as general site work related to landscaping and drainage. To provide further relief, the Building Official will not require building permits for items such as removal of affected equipment and other items if they are not structural in nature as well as temporary measures to prevent further intrusion of rain or other elements.

If building fee assistance is approved, property owners may contact the Building Services Division directly for more information on the fee program and how to apply for a building permit by calling 954-828-6520 and selecting Option 1.

Resource Impact

There will be fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$400,000 from the General Fund to cover building permit fees for renovations and repairs needed in response to Flash Flood 2023. This item is contingent upon the approval of the Consolidated Budget Amendment CAM 23-0215.

Source:

Funds available as of May 22, 2023					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	ACCOUNT/ ACTIVITY NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABL E BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-001-0000-000-399-999	General Fund	Balances & Reserves/ Appropriated Fund Balance	NA	NA	\$400,000
APPROPRIATION TOTAL					\$400,000

Use:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABL E BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-001-220-000-001100042	DSD-Flood Bldg Permit Assistance	NA	NA	NA	\$400,000
APPROPRIATION TOTAL					\$400,000

Strategic Connections

This item is a *2022 Top Commission Priority*, advancing the Infrastructure and Resiliency initiative.

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

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Area
- Goal 4: Build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods.

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

Community

Related CAM

#23-0215

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

Prepared by: Al Battle Jr. Deputy Director – Development Services Department

Department Director: Christopher Cooper, AICP, Development Services Department