



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

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

DATE: December 17, 2014

TITLE: Amendment of Code of Ordinances Relating To Transferring the
Responsibility of Construction of Sewer Laterals To Property Owners

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve an ordinance on second reading relating to transferring the responsibility of construction of sewer laterals to property owners.

Background

At its regular meeting on December 2, 2014, the City Commission approved an ordinance amendment to the City's Code of Ordinances relating to transferring the responsibility of construction of sewer laterals to property owners.

Construction of sewer laterals is usually a deep excavation from the middle of the road to the property line to connect the building sewer to the City's gravity sewer main. This requires significant construction, pavement restoration, and dewatering equipment that is beyond the scope of City crews. Under the existing provisions of the City Code, the City charges \$3,500 for this connection. Because the requests are often beyond the scope of City crews, the work is contracted out, resulting in significant costs to the City beyond the revenues realized from permitting fees. The average contractor cost to the City per lateral is approximately \$16,750 representing only a 20% cost recovery.

This proposed ordinance change will transfer responsibility of providing this service from the City to the property owner as it relates to installing the sewer lines and making connections to the sewer system. Staff will still review and approve all proposed plans and provide inspection services to ensure that all connections are made in accordance with established regulations.

City crews that currently install small depth laterals will be redirected to address the backlog of the installation of lateral cleanouts.

The ordinance at second reading contains a typographical correction in Section 28-58(b) and corrects nomenclature in Section 28-51(d) from “ERC” to “Lateral” to meet the intent of the ordinance.

Resource Impact

The engineering permit fees are projected to generate revenue averaging \$103,000 per year (plan review fees of \$15,000 and inspection fees of \$87,000) that will offset staff expenses as a result of the proposed changes to the Code.

Strategic Connections:

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

- Goal 2: Be a sustainable and resilient community.
- Objective 1: Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, road, and bridge infrastructure.

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

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance

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