



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

#13-0931

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

FROM: Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM , City Manager

DATE: July 2, 2013

TITLE: Resolution Amendment – Code Enforcement Lien Amnesty Program

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission amend Resolution 12-210 to extend the Code Enforcement Lien Amnesty Program for three months to September 30, 2013, allowing the City settle Code Enforcement Liens on real property for less than face value.

Background

On November 6, 2012, the City Commission approved Resolution 12-210 (Exhibits 2 and 3) authorizing a Code Enforcement Lien Amnesty Program to be in effect for six months. The Program opened January 7, 2013 and closed on June 30, 2013.

As outlined in Commission Memo 13-117 (attached as Exhibit 1), the volume of settled liens has been dramatically lower than expected. Since January 7, 2013 the City has received 70 lien amnesty applications, with 46 approved, and 24 deemed ineligible. Details about the Lien Amnesty applications received are as follows:

	APPLICATIONS			LIENS		
	Received	Approved	Ineligible	Total Amount of Original Liens	Total Amount of Reduced Amnesty Liens	Total Amount of Reduced Lien Payments Received
January 7- April 12, 2013	42	31	11	\$6,492,350.00	\$156,416.50	\$28,177.25
April 13-June 14, 2013	28	15	13	\$755,380.00	\$69,413.75	\$27,554.67
Total:	70	46	24	\$7,247,730.00	\$225,830.25	\$55,731.92

Of the 24 ineligible applications received, which total \$556,266.26 in original lien amounts, the primary reason the applications were deemed ineligible is because not all property owned by the same property owner located in the City of Fort Lauderdale is in compliance with all code enforcement, building and fire codes.

Additionally, of the ineligible applications that have other non-code enforcement liens on the property such as water/utility liens, fire liens, and police alarm liens, most are being paid so applicants become qualified for the lien amnesty program.

Even though the volume of settled liens has been dramatically lower than expected, as a result of the lien amnesty program, we have received 16 requests for administrative reduction of liens under \$5,000.00.

Under 5K			
TOTAL Amount of Original Liens	\$31,876.82		
TOTAL Amount of Reduced Amnesty Lien	\$11,386.57	(36% of the Original Amount)	
TOTAL Amount of Payments Received	\$8,631.57	(27% of the Reduced Amount)	

To provide further lien amnesty opportunity for our neighbors, staff is recommending the City Commission extend the deadline for the Lien Amnesty Program to September 30, 2013.

Resource Impact

Program costs are being absorbed by existing staff. Staff will increase neighbor education and outreach through the Public Affairs and Neighbor Support offices. The resource impact continues to be logistics and staffing. There has been a significant increase in administrative duties to implement, researching each Lien Amnesty application and provide the appropriate services for this program. However, upon processing payments for the Lien Amnesty Program, revenue is placed in the General Fund, Index #DSD040101, Sub Object #M103.

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Memo to Commission 13-117

Exhibit 2 - Resolution 12-210

Exhibit 3 – CAM #12-2402

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Department Director: Greg Brewton, Sustainable Development