



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

#25-0164

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

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

DATE: February 18, 2025

TITLE: Resolution Amending Resolution No. 23-179, as Amended, to Allow the City Manager discretion in Approving Further Reduction of the Original Reduced Lien Amnesty Amount for Property Owners with Qualifying Extenuating Circumstances – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager the discretion to grant a further reduction of the original reduced lien amnesty amount to property owners with qualifying extenuating circumstances.

Background

In September 2023, the City Commission approved a code enforcement lien amnesty program that allows those with outstanding code enforcement liens and no current code violations to apply for a 90% reduction of the amount owed. In July 2024, the lien amnesty program was extended through September 2025.

Since the program's inception, numerous applicants have requested further reductions. This includes cases where properties were purchased without adequate due diligence and remain underwater despite the amnesty reduction, and instances where lien remediation by a new owner is rendered ineffective by the standard 10% reduction, making the property unmarketable. There is no recourse available to assist property owners in these instances.

If adopted, this resolution will allow property owners to submit a written request to the Development Services Department to request further reduction. The City Manager will have the discretion to approve such reductions in cases where either:

- (a) the lien or fine exceeds the property's Just Market Value, as documented by the Broward County Property Appraiser or through an appraisal provided by the property owner; or
- (b) the amnesty amount imposes an undue hardship due to documented financial challenges or extenuating circumstances.

In addition, this resolution will provide additional relief to qualifying property owners but also serve as an opportunity to promote community revitalization and address longstanding liens.

Resource Impact

There is no resource impact associated with this item.

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2025 Commission Priority, advancing the Affordable Housing and Economic Development initiative.

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

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Housing Element

Goal 2: Be a community of strong, beautiful and healthy neighborhoods.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

Prepared by: Katrina Johnson, Code Compliance Manager, Development Services Department

Department Director: Alfred G. Battle, Jr, Acting Director, Development Services Department