



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#25-0396

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

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

DATE: April 1, 2025

TITLE: Resolution Delegating Authority to the City Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the Florida Inland Navigation District – Waterway Assistance Program for the International Swimming Hall of Fame Peninsula Seawall Replacement - \$8,041,538, Subject to Conditions – **(Commission District 2)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application, in substantially the form attached, for grant funding in the amount of \$8,041,538 to Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) – Waterways Assistance Program for seawall replacement, subject to conditions. This Grant requires a funding match of 50%.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale and Hall of Fame Partners LLC (HOFP) entered into a comprehensive agreement in 2023 for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the East and West Buildings at the International Swimming Hall of Fame Complex (the Project). The Project was split into four separate phases – the first focusing on the peninsula seawall and the construction of an Ocean Rescue Headquarters, the second on the West Building and the Promenade, the third for the East Building, and the fourth for dock work and general site improvements.

HOFP identified potential grant funding opportunities that would reduce the total Project cost, which will in turn reduce the City's financial exposure and ultimate annual lease payment upon Project commissioning. The comprehensive agreement and the master facilities lease currently limit the Project funding exclusively to private funding. City staff are working with HOFP on potential draft amendments to the comprehensive agreement for the City Commission to consider at a future meeting that would allow grant funds to be an eligible funding source.

FIND administers the Waterways Assistance Program. FIND provides funding assistance to local governments to provide public access to waterways through the installation of boat ramps and floating docks, as well as derelict vessel removal. This

phase of the Project will help preserve the peninsula at 501 Seabreeze Boulevard, home to the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center and the International Swimming Hall of Fame by replacing the existing seawall and cap that is over sixty years old. The proposed improvements will further stabilize the 1,424 linear feet of seawall with new sheet piles and a higher cap in accordance with updated base flood elevations for the area.

The City will be the grant applicant and if awarded, will be required to provide the grant match (through HOFP private funds) and oversee reporting and compliance requirements.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with the grant application. The Grant will be brought back to the City Commission for execution and appropriation if awarded. The funding source for the city match will be provided by Hall of Fame Partners LLC as part of the International Swimming Hall of Fame Comprehensive Agreement - Phase One project.

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2025 *Commission* Priority, advancing Infrastructure and Resilience and the Public Places and Community initiatives.

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

- The Public Places Focus Area, Goal 5: Build a beautiful and welcoming community.

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

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

- The Public Places Focus Area
- The Parks, Recreation & Open Space Element
- Goal 2: Be a community with high quality parks and recreational facilities that highlight the character of our City.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Grant Application Form

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Prepared by: Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager, City Manager's Office

Charter Officer: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager