



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

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

DATE: May 20, 2014

TITLE: Resolution approving City Cemeteries General Price List and Veterans
Special Pricing List for the City cemeteries effective June 1, 2014.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution approving the General Price List and Veterans Special Pricing List for the City cemeteries effective June 1, 2014.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale Cemetery System consists of four cemeteries: Evergreen, Lauderdale Memorial Park, Sunset Memorial Gardens and Woodlawn Cemeteries. There is a General Price List for various property services and merchandise and a Veterans Special Price List for each of the cemeteries, with the exception of Woodlawn, which though closed to burial services, is still maintained under the same standards as the other cemeteries.

With regard to the price list, Section 10-29 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale (Code) provides the following:

The prices to be charged for plots, crypts, niches, merchandise and services within the municipal cemetery system shall be as established by the cemetery manager, subject to review by the cemetery system board of trustees and with the approval by resolution of the City Commission.

Attached as Exhibit 1 is a copy of the proposed General Price List (GPL) with an effective date of June 1, 2014 and a spreadsheet depicting current and proposed changes. The list includes the rates for the various property services and merchandise at each cemetery.

In accordance with the Code, 19% of the total amount received from the sale of each lot or plot, columbarium niche and mausoleum crypt goes into a trust created for the

perpetual care of the cemeteries. Income from the trust pays for a portion of the cost to maintain the cemeteries.

Since 1993 the maintenance and operation of the City's cemeteries has been contracted out to the private sector. Currently, the provider is CFS Funeral Services, Inc., known as Carriage Services. Each year there is a review of pricing in order to ensure that pricing is competitive within the local market and to guard against deep discounts or overpricing. The last price increase was in 2013.

The proposed General Price List reflects prices for both City residents, who receive a 25% discount, and for non-residents. The resident discount provides an incentive to purchase in the City cemeteries at a cost lower than those offered at other local cemeteries. All of the cemetery properties (Sunset Memorial Gardens, Lauderdale Memorial Park and Evergreen) including Veterans properties will increase by \$75 for residents and \$100 for non-residents. Ground burial services, mausoleum and niche entombments will increase between \$19-\$75 for residents and between \$25-\$100 for non-residents. These prices are competitive with other local cemeteries. Attached, as Exhibit 2, is a spreadsheet depicting a comparison of the proposed pricing with other local cemeteries for similar property services and merchandise.

The City also offers special pricing for veterans and their spouses at Lauderdale Memorial Park and Sunset Memorial Gardens. The proposed Veterans Special pricing is attached as Exhibit 3.

The Cemetery Board of Trustees discussed and approved the proposed General Price List and the proposed Veterans Special Price List at their March 13, 2014 meeting. The minutes are attached as Exhibit 4.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action

Attachments

- Exhibit 1 – Proposed General Price List
- Exhibit 2 – Comparison with Local Cemeteries
- Exhibit 3 – Veteran's Price List
- Exhibit 4 – CBOT 3/13/14 Minutes
- Exhibit 5 – Resolution

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