



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

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: January 7, 2020

TITLE: Ordinance Amending Chapter 23, Article VI of the Code of Ordinances -
Street Performers and Street Artists (Buskers) - **(Commission Districts
1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 23, Article VI of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale regulating Street Performers and Street Artists, to encourage more street performing (busking) activity by removing the requirement to designate a location for each permit and changing the permit from a monthly permit to an annual one.

Background

At the December 17th meeting, staff presented the City Commission with an ordinance amendment that would remove the requirement for a permit and open the boundaries for busking to encourage more busking in the city. The Commission responded that they would like to maintain a permit system but change the designated location requirements. Under the codified ordinance, buskers select their location for the month and no other busker can use that location. The result is there are very few available desirable locations and very little busking activity in general. The revised ordinance amendment allows a busker to select any viable location and stay there for a maximum of two hours, allowing others to also busk in that location. This rotation allows for more activity, as space isn't reserved for someone who is not performing most of the time. The permit is good for one year. In addition, more prohibitive language regarding animals and weapons has been added.

Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale has agreed to act as a coordinator for busking in the Riverwalk District, which is where most of the busking activity is likely to take place. They will post rules, encourage and monitor activation, and act as a liaison with the busking community. Groups and organizations may contact our Nighttime Economy Manager, Sarah Hannah-Spurlock, with interest in coordinating the busking activity in their area of the city.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area
- Goal 3: Build a healthy and engaging community.
- Objective: Offer a diverse range of recreational and educational programming

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

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Proposed Ordinance

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