



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

#22-0216

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

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: April 5, 2022

TITLE: First Reading – Ordinance Amending Division 2, Water Safety Rules, of Article V, Boats and Waterways, of Chapter 8, Boats, Docks, Slips etc., Section 8-166, Speed Limits on Waterways of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale Providing for the Rezoning of a Portion of the Seminole River Canal from a Slow Speed Minimum Wake Area to an Idle Speed No Wake Area – (**Commission District 4**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve amending Section 8-166 (Speed Limits on Waterways) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale to provide for the rezoning of a portion of the Seminole River canal located by the Lauderdale Marine fuel docks and the Cox's Landing city boat ramps from a slow speed minimum wake area to an idle speed no wake area and to authorize the City Manager or his designee to apply for such designation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Background

The Seminole River is designated as a slow speed minimum wake area. City staff have received numerous complaints indicating vessel wakes produced by vessels travelling at a slow speed minimum wake are causing a safety hazard to persons using the Cox's Landing boat ramps and the fuel docks located on the Seminole River. The vessel wakes are also causing damage to docks and vessels moored thereto. Members of the Fort Lauderdale Police Marine Unit have also observed these safety hazards firsthand.

Florida Statute 327.46(1)(b)1 authorizes the City to establish, by ordinance, an idle speed no wake area within specified distances from boat ramps and/or fuel pumps or dispensers located at a licensed terminal facility that sells fuel to the general boating public. The Cox's Landing Boat ramp and the fuel dispensary, which are located at the mouth of the Seminole River, qualify as facilities in which an idle speed no wake zone is authorized.

In accordance with F.S. 327.46(1)(c)3, if the City Commission determines that the idle speed no wake area is appropriate, the City would then submit the amended ordinance to FWC for their review to determine if there is competent evidence that the speed restriction is necessary to protect public safety.

Resource Impact

This project and related ordinance change will be covered through existing budgeted resources included in the funding box below.

<i>Funds available as of March 3, 2022</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	CHARACTER CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
001-POL020401-3999	Police/Staff Support	Services/Materials /Other Supplies	\$2,841,630	\$1,302,625	\$3,000
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$3,000

Strategic Connections

This item is a *2022 Commission Priority*, advancing the Community Response and Safety initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area
- Goal 3: Build a healthy and engaging community.
- Objective: Improve access to and enjoyment of our beach, waterways, parks, and open spaces for everyone.

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

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Amended Ordinance

Prepared by: Dana Swisher, Assistant Chief

Department Director: Patrick Lynn, Chief of Police