



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

**#25-0616**

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

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** June 3, 2025

**TITLE:** Motion Authorizing the City Attorney's Office to File a Small Claims Action for the *City of Fort Lauderdale v. Steven Reyes Moreno* in the amount of \$4,843.41 in the County Court of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission authorize the City Attorney's Office, as provided for by Sec. 4.12, Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to file a Small Claims Action for *City of Fort Lauderdale v. Steven Moreno* in the amount of \$4,843.41 in the County Court of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida.

**Background**

On May 16, 2022, a City fire hydrant was damaged in a traffic collision at the intersection of SW 20<sup>th</sup> Street & SW 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This accident did not involve a City vehicle or employee. Steven Moreno was driving a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado eastbound on SW 20<sup>th</sup> Street and was stopped at the stop sign to turn right onto southbound SW 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. At this time, another vehicle, a 2005 Lincoln LS, was traveling southbound on SW 35<sup>th</sup> Ave and did not have a stop sign or any other traffic control device and proceeded straight through the intersection. Moreno, failing to yield the right-of-way, proceeded through the stop sign into the intersection where the front-end of his vehicle struck the rear, passenger side of the other vehicle.

This collision caused both vehicles to spin and, as a result, the Lincoln LS struck a City fire hydrant. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department responded to handle the accident and had both vehicles, which suffered disabling damage, towed from the scene. The responding officer found Mr. Moreno at fault for this collision for failing to yield the right-of-way due to having a stop sign.

The City's Public Works Department conducted repairs and replaced the damaged fire hydrant at a cost of \$4,843.41. On June 13, 2022, the City sent a subrogation demand to Moreno's insurance carrier, Star Casualty Insurance Company, to recover these costs. The carrier responded by denying the City's claim as they were unable to locate a current policy for Mr. Moreno. The City's Risk Management Division also reached out to the

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to request insurance information based on the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on Moreno's Silverado, but no active insurance information was found.

Subsequent to the insurance carrier's denial, demands were sent to Mr. Moreno, who has been unresponsive.

Staff's evaluation is that securing a civil judgment against Mr. Moreno for the damage of \$4,843.41 best serves the interests of the City, based upon the four-year statute of limitations to pursue a claim.

### **Resource Impact**

There will be a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$370 for costs related to the filing fee, issuance on summons and service of the lawsuit.

<i>Funds available as of May 20, 2025</i>			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
10-543-9050-519-50-5104	Self-Insurance Claims	Non-Operating Expenses / Auto Liability Claims	\$370
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ►</b>			<b>\$370</b>

### **Strategic Connections**

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

- Guiding Principles, Fiscal Responsibility

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

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

- The Internal Support Focus Area
- Implementation Element
- Goal 1: The Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan shall accomplish the City's Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan regarding the City's future growth and the six Cylinders of Excellence and shall be the City's primary policy document to guide all of its activities and development.

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Prepared by: Ryan Blakeslee, Claims Adjuster, Human Resources  
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