



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

#24-0501

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

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

DATE: July 2, 2024

TITLE: Resolution to Extend the Lien Amnesty Program (**Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a resolution to extend the Lien Amnesty Program which allows the City to administratively settle code enforcement liens on real property for 10% of the value, from October 1, 2024, until September 30, 2025.

Background

In September 2023, the City Commission approved a code enforcement lien amnesty program that allows those with outstanding code enforcement liens and no current code violations to apply for a 90% reduction of the amount owed. The Lien Amnesty program is administered by staff unlike the lien reduction program which is processed through the Special Magistrate. The current Lien Amnesty Program (Program) allows it to be made available through September 30, 2024. Due to the success of the Program meeting its goal of gaining compliance of outstanding code enforcement cases and collecting outstanding liens, staff recommends extending the Program another year, through September 30, 2025.

Since the inception of the Lien Amnesty Program in October 2023, the Development Services Department has approved 92 lien amnesty applications. As of June 4, 2024, the City has collected \$552,220 of the \$900,081 in approved lien amnesty reductions revenue for liens that totaled \$7,430,878 before reduction. The Lien Amnesty Program has demonstrated a 140% increase in revenue in comparison to the previous year's revenue collected through the City's Lien Reduction program administered by the Special Magistrate. The Lien Amnesty program has also decreased the expenditures of the Community Enhancement and Compliance Division by \$8,000 for Special Magistrate fees. By the close of Fiscal Year 24, the Lien Amnesty Program is expected to generate a projected revenue of \$1.1 million. If the Lien Amnesty Program continues at its current rate of success, the City can anticipate collecting approximately \$2 million and reducing the fines and liens owed to the City by \$15 million.

DSD staff is continuously collaborating with Strategic Communications to increase outreach and maximize application submittals which will in turn increase compliance of

old code enforcement cases and the revenue generated through this Program.

Strategic Connections

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

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

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Housing Element
- Goal 2: Be a community of strong, beautiful, and healthy neighborhood

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Lien Amnesty Program Report

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Prepared by: Porshia L. Garcia, Development Services Department

Department Director: Christopher Cooper, AICP, Development Services Department