



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

#14-1423

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

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

DATE: January 6, 2015

TITLE: Amendment to the Backflow Prevention Ordinance

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve on first reading an ordinance amending various sections of the City's Code of Ordinances in order to update the municipal water system backflow prevention program.

Background

The City is updating the backflow prevention sections of the City's Code of Ordinances to align with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act and the Florida Administrative Code, Section 62-550.

Backflow prevention protects the public potable water supply from the possibility of contamination or pollution by isolating, within its customer's internal distribution system, such contaminants or pollutants which could backflow or back-siphon into the public water system. In addition, backflow prevention promotes the elimination of existing cross connections, and provides for the maintenance of a continuing backflow-prevention control program.

An extensive outreach program began in August 2014 to inform our neighbors of the program updates. Below is a bulleted list of activities:

- Flyer (Exhibit 2) for mailing and rack distribution;
- Dedicated webpage – <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments-/public-works-/sustainability-division/cross-connection-control-plan-cccp>;
- Memorandum to the Commission (October 2014);
- Advertisement in the Sun Sentinel;
- Posted on the City's Public Access Channel;
- Mentioned in the monthly Civic Newsletter;
- Advertised on the City's 'On Hold' message;
- Direct mailed post cards to impacted businesses;
- Included as a utility bill stuffer;

- Press release;
- Letter provided to the plumbing community to prepare for increased demand;
- Commission Conference presentation (November 2014).

Resource Impact

There will be a positive fiscal impact to the City in the event that a water consumer whose water service has been cut off for lack of backflow prevention assembly, inspection, testing or recertification, desires to have his water service reestablished. A twenty dollar \$20.00 service fee will be charged to disconnect the consumer's water supply and a twenty dollar \$20.00 service fee will be charged to reestablish water service. A forty five dollar \$45.00 recertification administrative fee will be charged for each backflow prevention assembly at each premise. The updated Backflow Prevention Ordinance will add 9,677 additional backflow prevention assemblies to the existing system and generate \$689,670 in fees each year to recover costs necessary to administer the backflow prevention and cross connection control program.

Strategic Connections:

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included with the Infrastructure Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- **Goal 2:** Be a sustainable and resilient community.
- **Objective 1:** Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, road, and bridge infrastructure.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We are Ready*

Attachment Exhibit 1 – Flyer
Exhibit 2 – Amended Ordinance

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