



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**City Commission Agenda Memo**  
**COMMISSION WORKSHOP**

**#22-0102**

---

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

**FROM:** Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** February 15, 2022

**TITLE:** City Habitat Conservation Plan Discussion - **(Commission District 1, 2,  
and 4)**

---

Since 2016, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) has expressed concerns to the City regarding the impact of special events to nesting sea turtles on the beach. In response to USFWS concerns, City staff alongside the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (“FWC”), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (“FDEP”), and Ecological Associates Inc. (“EAI”) worked together to develop a comprehensive Habitat Conservation Plan (“HCP”). On July 9, 2019, the City accepted a subgrant from FWC for the development of the HCP. In collaboration with federal, state, and local stakeholders City staff has developed a customized HCP with two primary goals: 1) Align the City’s special event process with FWC requirements to avoid impacts to sea turtles and their habitat, and 2) Obtain an Incidental Take Permit (“ITP”) for incidental take of sea turtles.

If approved the HCP will provide the City with an initial term of twenty-five (25) years ITP coverage. The ITP will protect special event coordinators and the City from incidental take. As proposed the HCP will provide the following benefits:

- Coverage under an issued USFWS Incidental Take Permit relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- Alignment of City special event processes with FWC requirements to avoid impacts to sea turtles and their habitat.
- Protect the natural habitat for endangered species.
- Finance habitat rehabilitation and educational programs which will allow the City to measure minimization and mitigation performance.

The proposed HCP has the flexibility to improve processes, provide liability coverages, and simultaneously improve a safe habitat for local endangered species (Exhibit 2). The City is responsible for providing an ongoing annual report. After the first five years, FWC, USFWS, and the City will assess for HCP effectiveness, compliance, and adjust the plan as need it. It is ultimately the USFWS decision to issue or deny the ITP predicated on a determination of whether the City’s proposed implementation of its HCP meets the

requirements of the Endangered Species Act and other regulations.

**Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – City of Fort Lauderdale Habitat Conservation Plan for Special Events

---

Prepared by Luisa Agathon and Angela Salmon, City Manager's Office

Charter Officer: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager