



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

**#23-0046**

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

**FROM:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager

**DATE:** January 24, 2023

**TITLE:** Resolution Approving an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority for Reimagining Huizenga Plaza - \$714,285.71 in Fiscal Year 2023 (\$5,800,000, eight-year total) - **(Commission District 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a resolution approving an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Downtown Development Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale ("DDA") for reimagining Huizenga Plaza in the amount of \$714,285.71 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, with a maximum seven-year contribution of \$5,000,000 for capital improvements, and pursuant to which the current Lease Agreement with the DDA will terminate when the DDA retakes possession of Huizenga Plaza from the City and the City will contribute \$100,000 per year to the DDA to be used for operation, maintenance, and programming, and authorizing execution of the Interlocal Agreement.

**Background**

The Downtown Development Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale built the Huizenga Plaza in 1996 on land owned by the DDA. The DDA operated and maintained the Plaza until entering into a lease agreement with the City on September 1, 2016. This agreement transferred the responsibility for operations and maintenance of the park to the City and provided the DDA with an annual payment from the City in the amount of \$100,000 (see Exhibit 1). At the June 15, 2021, City Commission Regular meeting, Commissioners approved the first amendment to the lease agreement for Huizenga Plaza to be effective from September 15, 2021, through September 15, 2026.

At the July 5, 2022, City Conference Meeting, Jenni Morejon, President and CEO of Fort Lauderdale DDA, presented the City Commission with an update on the reimagining of Huizenga Plaza (see Exhibit 2) and requested City participation in the DDA's effort to upgrade Huizenga Plaza.

On August 11, 2022, the Budget Advisory Board passed a motion recommending that the City fund the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Huizenga Park Improvement Project for up to 7 years, and \$5 million. Additionally, the board members recommended that City funds shall not exceed 33% of the total project for capital improvements excluding a restaurant, and to match the State for the number of years to be green space (see Exhibit 3). These recommendations have been incorporated into the Interlocal Agreement.

Pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement, the current lease agreement with the DDA will terminate when the DDA retakes possession of Huizenga Plaza from the City. The City will contribute \$100,000 per year to the DDA to be used for operating, maintaining, and programming the park.

Future year funding will be contingent upon City Commission appropriation during the annual budget process.

Contribution of City funds to the DDA will serve a municipal public purpose by facilitating physical upgrades to the Huizenga Plaza, Riverwalk, and adjacent rights-of-way, to improve access, connectivity, visibility, safety, and overall usability for the public.

It should also be noted that certain City property has been requested by the DDA to be included for the use of Huizenga Plaza, however those areas have yet to be identified with particularity. At this time there is a place holder in the exhibit attached to the Interlocal Agreement to acknowledge this request as part of the agreement. Once defined staff will add the area to the Interlocal Agreement through the exhibit.

### **Resource Impact**

There is a fiscal impact to the General Fund in the amount of \$714,285.71 in FY 2023. Funding is budgeted and available in the account below. Future year funding will be contingent upon City Commission appropriation during the annual budget process.

<b><i>Funds available as of January 17, 2023</i></b>					
<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>INDEX NAME (Program)</b>	<b>CHARACTER/ SUB-OBJECT NAME</b>	<b>AMENDED BUDGET (CHARACTER)</b>	<b>AVAILABLE BALANCE (CHARACTER)</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10-001-9002-519-40-4210	Other General Government – Social/Cultural	Other Operating Expense/ Social Contributions	\$3,215,804	\$2,583,591	\$714,285.71
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTION ►</b>					<b>\$714,285.71</b>

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a 2022 Top Commission Priority, advancing the Parks and Public Places 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 Here.

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

- The Public Places Focus Area
- The Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Element
- Goal 1: Be a community where persons of all ages are able to partake in a fun and healthy lifestyle.

### **Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Lease Agreement and First Amendment to the Lease Agreement

Exhibit 2 – DDA Presentation on Huizenga Park

Exhibit 3 – Budget Advisory Board Approved Meeting Minutes - August 11, 2022

Exhibit 4 – Interlocal Agreement

Exhibit 5 – Resolution

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