



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#23-0338

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

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: April 18, 2023

TITLE: First Reading - Ordinance Authorizing State and Federal Criminal History Screening Checks for Certain Prospective City Employees, Specified Present City Employees, Appointees, and Private Contractor or Vendors Who Have Access to Sensitive City Facilities; Providing for Severability; Providing for Conflicts and Repeal; Providing for Correction of Scrivener's Errors; and Providing for an Effective Date - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt an ordinance, on first reading, authorizing comprehensive and complete background checks for prospective City employees, specified present City employees, appointees, and private contractors and vendors, who work in or have access to sensitive City employment and facilities.

Background

Prior to 2019, all background checks, which included criminal records checks, were performed by the Fort Lauderdale Police Department under the authority of their own Originating Agency Identifier ("ORI"). Fire Rescue was required to obtain its own ORI in 2019 to remain compliant with Criminal Justice Information Systems ("CJIS") changes.

Effective May 1, 2023, Fire Rescue is required to also comply with amendments to F.S.S 166.0442, which requires the adoption of the attached ordinance.

This City Ordinance will not create any additional cost impact to Fire, Police, or City budgets. The background checks being outlined within the ordinance are already in practice and executed under existing licensing within our Police Department. The intent of the ordinance is to simply validate the need for the backgrounds with CJIS.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Strategic Connections

This item is a 2022 *Top Commission Priority*, advancing the Community Response and Safety initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Safety Focus Area
- Goal 6: Build a safe and well-prepared community.
- Objective: Provide quick and exceptional fire, medical, and emergency response and be the leading model in domestic preparedness

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 Public Safety Focus Area
- The Coastal Management, Community Health and Safety Element
- Goal 4: Coordinate with related partners and agencies (at city, local, county, regional, state, and federal levels) to plan for disaster and emergency management, further the resiliency of coastal areas, and ensure city-wide community health and safety.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance

Prepared by: Garrett Pingol, Executive Officer, Fire Rescue

Department Director: Stephen W. Gollan, Fire Chief