



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

#23-0780

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

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: September 19, 2023

TITLE: Resolution Approving the City's General Price List for City Cemeteries –
(Commission Districts 3 and 4)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a resolution approving the General Price List (GPL) for City cemeteries effective September 19, 2023.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale cemetery system consists of four cemeteries: 1) Evergreen, 2) Lauderdale Memorial Park, 3) Sunset Memorial Gardens, and 4) North Woodlawn Cemeteries.

Pursuant to Section 10-29, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the prices to be charged for plots, crypts, niches, merchandise and services within the municipal cemetery system shall be as established by the cemetery manager, subject to review by the Cemetery System Board of Trustees and with the approval by resolution of the City Commission.

Like most businesses in the current economy, we are experiencing significantly higher costs for cemetery merchandise and services than prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. Pricing adjustment initiatives are necessary to offset the sustaining increases in our real costs. As we continue to monitor our operational costs, we remain committed to maintaining best-in-class service to our customers.

The proposed GPL reflects prices for both City residents, who receive a 25% discount, and for non-residents (Exhibit 1). The resident discount provides an incentive to purchase in the City cemeteries at a cost lower than those offered at other local cemeteries. Attached hereto as Exhibit 2, is a spreadsheet depicting current and proposed changes in the pricing structure. Overall, these prices are competitive with other local cemeteries for similar property, services and merchandise.

The Cemetery System Board of Trustees conducts a review of the GPL to ensure pricing is competitive with the local market and to guard against deep discount pricing or overpricing that could threaten the viability of perpetual care trust fund. In addition, plot prices have not seen increases since 2015 and Interment services since 2019.

At their meeting of July 13, 2023, the Cemetery System Board of Trustees discussed and approved the proposed General Price List for Lauderdale Memorial Park Cemetery, Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery (Exhibit 3).

In accordance with Section 10-47 of the Code of Ordinances, nineteen (19%) of the total amount received from the sale of each lot or plot, columbarium niche and mausoleum crypt is set aside and deposited in the perpetual care trust. Income derived from the trust pays for a portion of the costs to maintain the cemeteries and capital improvement projects.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connection

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

- The Internal Support Focus Area.
- Goal 8: Build a leading government organization that manages all resources wisely and sustainably.

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

Attachments

- Exhibit 1 – Proposed General Price List
- Exhibit 2 – Current and Proposed Pricing GPL
- Exhibit 3 – CSBOT Minutes for July 13, 2023
- Exhibit 4 - Resolution

Prepared by: Stacy Spates, Program Manager, Parks and Recreation

Department Director: Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation