CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo **#26-0151**
REGULAR MEETING

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: March 3, 2026

TITLE: Motion Approving Grant Application to the FY 2026 Florida Inland Navigation District Waterways Assistance Program - $460,770 - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a motion authorizing the submission of a grant application under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Waterways Assistance Program.

Background

The Waterways Assistance Program provides funding assistance to local governments to perform waterway improvement projects, facilitate safety programs and acquire marine equipment. The program will fund up to fifty percent (50%) of project costs, with a maximum FIND share of $125,000. The grant period is October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2028.

Funding is being requested to obtain a new vessel to expand Fort Lauderdale Police Department's (FLPD) Marine Unit fleet capacity which will enhance waterway patrols, emergency response, and public safety operational support. The FLPD Marine Unit is tasked with maintaining and promoting boating safety throughout the City's 165 miles of navigable waterways and 7 miles of coastline. Marine Unit officers accomplish this by providing boater safety information to residents and visitors; conducting area checks of key marine locations; performing vessel stops and/or conducting additional safety inspections of vessels; issuing warnings and citations for noted violations; and preventing boating accidents through high visibility patrol activities.

The FIND program application process requires all applicants to obtain approval from its governing board or commission via the submission of an official resolution. The total project cost is $460,770. As a result of the program's matching component, if awarded, the grant will fund $125,000 and the City's matching portion will be $335,770. The Department is requesting that funds for the required match be appropriated from the General Fund.

Resource Impact
The total project cost is $460,770. If awarded, there is an anticipated positive fiscal impact to the City in the amount of $125,000. Full implementation of the grant will require the City to appropriate $335,770 from the General Fund.

Strategic Connections
This item is a *2026 Commission* Priority, advancing the Public Safety initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Safety Focus Area, Goal 1: Be a safe community that is proactive and responsive to risks.

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.

Attachments
Exhibit 1 – FIND Grant Application
Exhibit 2 – Resolution for Assistance via FY 2026 FIND Waterways Assistance Program

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Prepared by: Dayna L. Bhaggan, Public Safety Grants Manager, Police Department

Department Director: William C. Schultz, Chief of Police