CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo **#26-0232**
REGULAR MEETING

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: March 3, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Declaring the City's Official Intent to Reimburse Itself from the Proceeds of the Stormwater Utility System Special Assessment Revenue Bonds, Series 2026, for Stormwater Improvement Projects – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a resolution declaring the official intent of the City of Fort Lauderdale to reimburse itself from future bond proceeds of not to exceed $330 million for funds advanced by the City for certain capital expenditures for stormwater improvement expenses incurred with respect to the acquisition, construction, development, extension, enlargement, improvement, renovation, and equipping and furnishing of stormwater improvements.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale is implementing a stormwater management program to address chronic flooding and other stormwater management issues. On April 19, 2016, the City Commission awarded a contract for Stormwater Master Plan (Master Plan) Modeling and Design Implementation (CAM #16-0408). The program scope includes citywide stormwater modeling and utility data collection; watershed planning; design, permitting, and construction management services related to stormwater infrastructure; and community outreach services.

Fortify Lauderdale is a program aimed at improving infrastructure resilience and mitigating impacts associated with intense rainfall and high tidal conditions within the City's most vulnerable neighborhoods. Fort*ify* Lauderdale is planned and implemented in phases, with Phase I nearing completion. Fortify Lauderdale Phase II is scheduled to commence in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.

On March 15, 2022, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 22-58 (Master Bond Resolution) for the stormwater utility system as prepared by bond counsel and reviewed by the Finance Director, financial advisor, and City Attorney. The City determined that it was in its best interest to periodically issue special assessment revenue bonds for the stormwater utility system and incur other forms of indebtedness as described in the Master Bond

Resolution. These funds, along with other available monies, will finance or refinance necessary and desirable improvements to further the health, safety, and welfare of City inhabitants and benefit all properties within the City.

Before issuing any future series of bonds, the City Commission must adopt a series resolution detailing the specific terms of such bonds and authorizing related financing documents. All bonds issued under the Master Bond Resolution and subsequent series resolutions will be secured by, and payable from, stormwater assessment revenues collected by the City from levies on all properties within the City.

The next series of bonds expected to be issued under the Master Bond Resolution are the Stormwater Utility System Special Assessment Revenue Bonds, Series 2026, for an estimated amount of $330 million for Fort*ify* Lauderdale Phase II and an additional amount of up to $120 million to refinance the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan. Refinancing the WIFIA loan is estimated to result in $12.5 million in net present value savings to the Stormwater system. It is anticipated that the Stormwater Utility System Special Assessment Revenue Bonds, Series 2026 bond resolution will be brought to the City Commission for approval in spring 2026..

By approving this resolution, the City may begin to advance Fort*ify* Lauderdale Phase II projects, in anticipation of reimbursing project expenses once the bonds are issued. This resolution is being adopted to comply with certain requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, that govern the process for such reimbursements.

Resource Impact

There is no current fiscal impact associated with this item.

Strategic Connections

This item is a Fiscal Year (FY) *2026 Commission Priority*, advancing the Infrastructure and Resilience initiative.

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

- The Infrastructure and Resilience Focus Area, Goal 3: Be a sustainable and resilient community.

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

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

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Sanitary Sewer, Water, & Stormwater Element
- Goal 6: Ensure that all areas of the City are reasonably protected from flooding, giving due consideration to the City's natural and built environment.

Attachment
Exhibit 1 – Resolution

Prepared by: Linda Short, Director, Finance

Department Director: Linda Short, Finance