



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#15-0448

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

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: April 7, 2015

TITLE: Pedestrian Lighting Issues on SR A1A

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide context and background to the lighting issues along SR A1A.

On Friday, March 20, staff convened to discuss the issues impacting the City's ability to increase pedestrian lighting along the SR A1A corridor between the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park and Sunrise Boulevard. Any lighting improvements would need to meet the standards set forth in the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances – Chapter 6, Article III, Division 2 - Beach Area Artificial Lighting Restrictions (Exhibit 1). In short, the criteria that the lights will need to meet are:

1. The point source or any reflective surface of the light shall not be directly visible from the beach;
2. Lighting shall not illuminate objects for decorative purposes (i.e. up-lights on trees and umbrellas); and
3. Low light wattage and long wavelength color that are regulated to meet the standard set forth in the ordinance.

History and Permits

The Beach Area Artificial Lighting Restrictions were developed in response to Broward County's modifications of its Land Use Plan in 2000 to conform with state and federal laws. As part of the County's modification, every coastal municipality within the County was required to enact and enforce a sea turtle protection/beach lighting ordinance that followed the Broward County Lighting Management Plan. The Broward County Lighting Management Plan provided municipal governments tools needed to effectively reduce beachfront lighting including guidelines and procedures for the development of effective coastal lighting regulations. To monitor the various cities' efforts to reduce the impact of beachfront lighting, the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program conducts beach lighting surveys at night, starting from March and ending in September, in order to list and track lighted properties by street address. These surveys include type of visibility (direct or indirect), location of lights on property, and photo documentation of

lights. All property lights visible from the beach are documented and provided to respective code enforcement officers. As of March 2015, every Broward County coastal city has implemented a sea turtle lighting ordinance in accordance with the Broward County Beach Lighting Management Plan.

There are two permits of consequence, both issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), that require the City of Fort Lauderdale to protect sea turtles by preventing unauthorized take of nesting marine turtles or their hatchlings. In its issuance of the Joint Coastal Permit, Broward County Segment II Beach Nourishment and Restoration (Exhibit 2), the FDEP placed increased importance in reducing the potential for loss of adult and hatchling sea turtles after sand placement. As such, all municipalities that sought to receive sand were required to have mechanisms in place, which the City currently has, to resolve any lights that become visible from the nourished berm. A local lighting ordinance that meets the minimum standards, as well as a comprehensive program for compliance and enforcement with those standards, were required of the municipalities requesting renourishment. In the issuance of the permit, FDEP made it a condition for lighting surveys to occur pre-nourishment and post-nourishment from the nourished berms, to determine lighting sources. Any documented lighting sources not in compliance with the City's current ordinance would require immediate corrective actions.

The Beach Cleaning Permit (Exhibit 3) requires the City to take certain actions to mitigate the loss of sea turtles by reducing disruption of their natural habitat. The permit requires the City to conduct all beach cleaning efforts during daylight hours between the sea turtle nesting season (March 1-October 31). During the nesting season, the beach cleaning permittee is responsible for conducting a daily marine turtle nest survey and monitoring program conducted throughout the permitted beach cleaning areas to ensure sea turtle protection.

Moving Forward

The City has recognized that lighting along SR A1A is insufficient in providing a sense of safety to our residents and visitors. It is with the desire to provide more lighting, while remaining in compliance with our ordinance, that staff will be persistent in looking into options to increase pedestrian lighting along SR A1A.

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Chapter 6, Article III, Division 2 – Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances
Exhibit 2 – Joint Coastal Permit Segment II Beach Renourishment
Exhibit 3 – Beach Cleaning Permit

Prepared by: Ryan Henderson, Senior Management Fellow
Donald Morris, AICP, Economic Reinvestment Administrator

Department Director: Jenni Morejon, Department of Sustainable Development