



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

**#16-0178**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

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

**DATE:** February 2, 2016

**TITLE:** Broward County's Civil Citation Program for Individuals Found in Possession of Twenty Grams or Less of Cannabis

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On November 10, 2015, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners adopted an Ordinance that allows law enforcement officers to issue civil citations to individuals found in possession of 20 grams or less of cannabis and give offenders the option to pay a fine, provide community service or complete a treatment program.

It is recommended that the City Commission, at a subsequent Regular Meeting, adopt a resolution formally electing not to participate in Broward County's Civil Citation Program, and that the City develop an Adult Civil Citation Program, subject to review by the City Attorney, that would include all non-violent misdemeanor offenders. Individuals participating in the Adult Civil Citation Program would complete an educational or treatment program as opposed to being criminally prosecuted. Currently the Police Department has a mandatory juvenile civil citation program that includes all non-violent misdemeanor offenders. It is estimated that less than two hundred adult first time non-violent misdemeanor offenders were arrested in 2015. The first time offenders would have been eligible to participate in an adult civil citation program if there was one available. An adult civil citation program would be administered by expanding the current juvenile civil citation program. With an additional 200 participants, the Police Department can manage the increased number without additional resources.

**Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact.

**Strategic Connections**

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Public Safety Cylinders of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 9: Be the safest urban coastal City in South Florida through preventative and responsive police and fire protection.
- Objective 1: Prevent and solve crime in all neighborhoods.

This item advances the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We are Community.

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**Attachment:**

Exhibit 1: Memorandum dated January 15, 2016, from Dina Kaizen, Assistant City Attorney

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Department Director: Franklin C. Adderley, Chief of Police