



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

**#17-0378**

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

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

**DATE:** March 21, 2017

**TITLE:** Resolution Declaring the City of Fort Lauderdale a Broward Reads City

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution declaring the City of Fort Lauderdale a Broward Reads City.

**Background**

The Broward Reads campaign is a county-wide, collaborative approach to ensure our children are all reading at grade level by third grade. Children are generally learning to read until third grade and by the fourth grade they should be reading to learn. Students who do not read at grade level by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school. As a Broward City Partner, the City of Fort Lauderdale aims to double the percentage of students who read at or above third grade levels at targeted schools in the 33311 zip code within the next three years.

**Action Plan**

Under the leadership of the City Commission and the Neighbor Support Volunteer Office, the City will support the Broward Reads City campaign through six initiatives:

1. United Way - ReadingPal's: Fort Lauderdale volunteers read for one hour to first and second graders at five local elementary schools: North Side, Sunland, Walker, Croissant, and Dillard.
2. Broward County School and Innovations for Learning - TutorMate: Volunteers are paired with a first grade student for a 30 minute online tutoring session once a week throughout the school year.
3. Fort Lauderdale Kids Book Exchange: Volunteer teams will staff a station for parents to read a book with their child on-site and receive a free book in exchange for a gently used one.
4. Little Free Libraries: Volunteer teams will build small, outdoor boxes in the shape of houses and stock them with books to start Little Free Libraries for children to enjoy reading throughout the City.
5. Broward County School - Take Stock in Children: Fort Lauderdale volunteers mentor students for 30 minutes per week at three Fort Lauderdale high schools:

Fort Lauderdale, Stranahan, and Dillard.

6. Business and Church Engagement: The City will encourage local businesses and church groups to support early literacy by creating reading corners, hosting reading parties, adopting a school, or creating fundraisers to purchase books.

All of our six strategies in collaboration with other Broward Reads partners will help address school readiness, chronic absenteeism, preventing the summer slide and promoting family engagement. As a Broward Reads City partner, the City of Fort Lauderdale affirms grade level reading to be a priority for our community.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Neighborhood Enhancement Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 8: Be known for educational excellence.
- Objective 1: Create a call to action with our partners to elevate our focus on excellent pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade quality and private education.
- Initiative 1: Work within the existing network of government, civic, alumni, and business partners to develop a strategy and action plan to mentor and sponsor schools and students to achieve educational excellence.

### **Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Resolution in Support of the Broward Cities Literacy Partnership Proposal

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