



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

**#17-0239**

---

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

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

**DATE:** March 21, 2017

**TITLE:** Ordinance Creating Section 28-174, Code of Ordinances of the City of  
Fort Lauderdale, Authorizing the City Manager or the City Manager's  
Designee to Grant a One-Time Billing Adjustment for Unexplained Water  
Consumption on an Account with Water, Wastewater, or Sprinkling  
Service

---

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt an ordinance creating Section 28-174, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, authorizing the City Manager or the City Manager's designee to grant a one-time billing adjustment for unexplained water consumption on an account with water, wastewater, or sprinkling service.

**Background**

The proposed ordinance amendment, Section 28-174, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, authorizes the City Manager or City Manager's designee to grant a one-time billing adjustment to an account holder (customer) who does not qualify for relief under Section 28-173. An account that experiences unexplained water consumption will undergo an eligibility assessment which could result in a billing adjustment. Unexplained circumstances include situations in which a customer's bill exceeds the prior twelve month average usage and is not attributable to a leak, concealed or visible, and high consumption cannot otherwise be explained.

In addition to the assessment, the account must be current and in good standing meaning it has not been delinquent in the prior twelve months. Once eligibility has been established, an unexplained high bill may be adjusted by averaging the prior twelve-months' usage and applying a credit of one-half over the prior twelve-month average.

**Resource Impact**

The assessment will be done on a case-by-case basis; the adjustment will apply only to accounts that are currently not eligible for relief under Section 28-173.

Subsequently, the Water and Sewer Fund will be debited, with each adjustment for half over the prior twelve month average consumption on water, wastewater and sprinkler accounts. The estimated amount will be charged against revenue as a statement credit from the account listed below.

<i>Funds available as of March 9, 2017</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	OBJECT CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AMOUNT RECEIVED (Character)	AMOUNT
450.PBS010501.J276	FINANCE SERVICES SUPPORT	WATER SALES/CHARGES FOR SERVICE	\$107,567,858	\$47,670,023	(\$25,000)
450.PBS010501.J280	FINANCE SERVICES SUPPORT	SEWER SERVICE CHAR/CHARGES FOR SERVICE	\$107,567,858	\$47,670,023	(\$50,000)
				<b>TOTAL ►</b>	(\$75,000)

### **Strategic Connections**

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

- Goal 12: Be a leading government organization, managing resources wisely and sustainably.
- Objective 2: Routinely examine and improve procurement and payment processes.

This item also furthers the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We are United*.

### **Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance No. C-17-

---

Prepared by: Arnette Torrence, Finance  
Linda Blanco, Finance

Department Director: Kirk W. Buffington, Finance