



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

#17-0711

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

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

DATE: June 20, 2017

TITLE: Ordinance Amending Section 28-209 of the Code of Ordinances
Pertaining to Sewer Pretreatment Facility Requirements

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve an ordinance to amend Section 28-209 of the Code of Ordinances Pretreatment Facilities Requirements to mandate the frequency of grease trap clean outs and changing compliance.

Background

From December 2014 through October 2016, over 40% of sanitary sewer overflows in the City of Fort Lauderdale were caused by blockages. Since grease is a contributing factor in blockages in pipes and at lift stations, the Public Works Sustainability Division Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Program conducted a pilot project to determine the level of compliance with the existing ordinance and if there was a need for a grease trap permitting and inspection program. Of the 30 facility grease traps inspected in the fall 2016, eighty-seven percent (87%) were rated as good or fair and thirteen (13%) were rated poor. A survey completed by a representative of the facility inspected revealed that most businesses were not experiencing problems with their grease traps and more than 70% were pumping them out at least three times per year. When asked about a regulatory modification, the majority of respondents would be most supportive of a mandated frequency for the pump out or an annual reporting requirement.

Based on the results of the inspection pilot project and the survey results, staff recommends changing the compliance metric and further defining the acceptable level of maintenance. The proposed ordinance mandates that all grease traps be pumped out a minimum of three times per year. In addition, it changes the compliance metric from a percentage of the retention capacity of the grease trap to an absence of grease in the cleanout leading to the City sewer collection system.

This amendment was approved on first reading on June 6, 2017 (CAM# 17-0669).

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

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 2: Be a sustainable and resilient community.
- Objective 1: Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, road and bridge infrastructure.

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

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Proposed Ordinance

Prepared by: Nancy J. Gassman, Ph.D. Assistant Public Works Director

Department Director: Paul A. Berg, ICMA-CM, Public Works Director