



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

**#18-0411**

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

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

**DATE:** May 1, 2018

**TITLE:** Motion for Approval of a Single Private Mausoleum Crypt at Lauderdale  
Memorial Park Cemetery

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission approve the site of a single private mausoleum crypt in the cremation garden at Lauderdale Memorial Park Cemetery.

**Background**

The City of Fort Lauderdale Cemetery System consists of four cemeteries, Lauderdale Memorial Park Cemetery (LMP), Historic Evergreen Cemetery, Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery and Woodlawn Cemetery. Lauderdale Memorial Park offers multiple options for the final disposition and memorialization of family members. These options range from ground burials, inurnments, community mausoleum entombments/inurnments, and private mausoleum estates.

On July 7, 2009, the City Commission approved the median as the location for seven additional private mausoleum estates, totaling twelve (12) estate sites at LMP (Exhibit 1). Section 11.6 of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations, provides that a private family estate may be used as the final resting place of deceased human beings only in City Commission approved designated areas within Lauderdale Memorial Park, Sunset Memorial Gardens and Evergreen Cemetery.

On May 31, 2017, CFS Funeral Services, Inc. ("CFS"), entered into a property contract for the burial of Felix Thomas (Exhibit 2). Prior to Mr. Thomas' death, CFS informed Mr. Thomas and his family that a private estate crypt could be constructed in the cremation area within forty-five (45) days after final payment is made. Thereafter, Mr. Thomas instructed his family to use insurance proceeds to pay for the private estate crypt upon his death.

Based on statements made by the family, CFS promised the delivery of a private estate crypt on an existing double platform, or the construction of a private estate crypt on a single platform in the cremation garden. However, the cremation garden area was never intended to be a designated site for private estates.

Therefore, CFS knowingly entered into this contract in advance of the City's decision to grant or deny the request of the private estate. After hearing from the family of the late Mr. Thomas, the Cemetery Board passed a motion, 4 to 3, to approve the location of a single private mausoleum crypt in the cremation garden of Lauderdale Memorial Park, pending City Commission approval (Exhibit 3).

Mr. Thomas passed away on May 22, 2017, and continues to reside in the mausoleum, meant only as a transitional resting place.

If approved by the City Commission, CFS would be required to obtain the proper building permits to place the crypt on the single foundation.

### **Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan* 2018 initiative, included with in the Public Places Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 3: Be a community that finds opportunities and leverages partnerships to create unique, inviting, and connected gathering places that highlight our beaches, waterways, urban areas, and parks.
- Objective 1: Improve access to and enjoyment of our beach, Riverwalk, waterways, parks, and open spaces for everyone.

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

### **Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – CAM 09-0404

Exhibit 2 – Cemetery Retail Contract for Felix Thomas

Exhibit 3 – Cemetery System Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes 10/05/2017

Exhibit 4 – Proposed Location of Single Private Crypt

Exhibit 5 – Private Mausoleum Crypt Rendering

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Prepared by: Stacy Spates, Parks and Recreation

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