



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

#18-0644

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

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

DATE: June 19, 2018

TITLE: Neighborhood Community Investment Program / Business Community
Investment Program (NCIP/BCIP) Maintenance Needs Analysis and
Ongoing Future Maintenance Responsibilities

The Neighborhood Community Investment Program (NCIP) is now entering its twenty-fourth year of operation and the Business Community Investment Program (BCIP) is entering its seventeenth year.

The City Commission established NCIP awarding grants up to \$35,000 annually to successful recognized neighborhood associations. The goal of NCIP is to provide matching grant funds for the construction of community investment projects within the City right-of-way that beautify neighborhoods and enhances the safety, security, and overall quality of life in our communities.

The BCIP provides matching grants of up to \$22,500 to business associations to fund community investment projects that enhance the appearance of business areas. The program seeks to stimulate business development by creating partnerships between the public and private sectors to encourage reinvestment in business areas and enhance the City's development, growth, and economic vitality.

Over 215 total community investment projects have been completed under these programs. Once completed, the maintenance of the enhancements is assigned to the recognized neighborhood or business entity. While construction of the initial projects have been highly successful with numerous projects receiving local and national recognition, the maintenance of the projects has been a reoccurring challenge since neighborhood and business associations are all voluntary. While some associations do an outstanding job at maintaining improvements, the majority of the enhancements are in need of immediate maintenance, repair or replacement.

Maintenance Needs Analysis

The City Commission asked staff to review the maintenance needs of the neighborhood projects and develop costs recommendations for the proper maintenance and repair of the improvements. In addition, staff was asked to develop projected annual maintenance

costs should the Commission decide to remove the maintenance responsibilities from neighbors and fund annually by the City.

During this past year, the NCIP/BCIP project records have been organized and inventoried, scanned and placed within a new electronic retrieval system under Geographic Information Systems (GIS). All neighborhood projects were also physically inspected in the community for a maintenance/repair assessment:

1. Immediate Maintenance Needs

Staff has determined that there is an immediate need for approximately \$700,000 in maintenance and repair operations of the entranceways and community improvements. A detailed breakdown of cost estimates is included as Exhibit 1 summarized by neighborhood and City Commission District. To carry out this initiative, it is recommended that a temporary full time position be hired to supervise the contracted repairs. The administration of the process would be under the Division of Neighbor Support – Office of the City Manager, which currently administers the NCIP/BCIP programs at a total cost of approximately \$800,000.

Should the City Commission wish to move forward with this initiative, sufficient funds are currently available in the Neighborhood and Community Investment Program to cover the immediate maintenance and repair needs including the hiring of the temporary position.

2. Ongoing Maintenance by the City

Should the City Commission consider assuming the normal maintenance of the neighborhood entranceways and improvements from the associations, the annual material and supply cost is projected to be approximately \$275,000. It is recommended that a new full time Parks crew (two maintenance workers, one painter, and one foreman) be dedicated to this initiative at an annual cost of approximately \$320,000 including equipment and supplies. The total costs annually for ongoing maintenance and repair, including new City staff, would be approximately \$595,000.

In addition, a onetime startup cost for three vehicles is projected to be \$130,000 bringing the first year total cost to approximately \$725,000.

The Parks and Recreation Department would establish a standard level of service provided to all communities. Those neighborhoods that wish to maintain a higher level of service would have the opportunity to work with the City to enhance and supplement the standard maintenance provided at an additional cost to the association.

Should the City Commission wish to move forward with this ongoing maintenance initiative, sufficient funds are currently available in the Neighborhood and Community Investment Program to cover the onetime

startup cost (\$130,000) for the three vehicles. Funding for this ongoing maintenance initiative would need to be considered under the Parks and Recreation Department 2019 budget discussions or can be considered as a mid-year budget amendment.

Following staff review of the NCIP / BCIP guidelines and numerous discussions with homeowner's associations (HOA's), moving forward with the above City maintenance initiatives would not eliminate existing and future partnerships with neighbors and City staff will continue to work closely with our HOA's regarding existing and future community investment projects under the neighborhood grants.

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 5: Be a community of strong, beautiful, and healthy neighborhoods.
Objective 2: Enhance the beauty, aesthetics, and environmental quality of neighborhoods.

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

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – NCIP/BCIP Maintenance Budget – Immediate and Future

Exhibit 2 – Examples of Maintenance Issues

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