



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

#18-1110

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

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

DATE: December 4, 2018

TITLE: Ordinance to Permit the City Manager to Amend the Nuisance Abatement
Non-Ad Valorem Tax Roll When a Property Owner Pays the City Directly

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt an amendment to Section 18-15, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, to allow the City Manager or designee to administratively modify the Nuisance Abatement Non-Ad Valorem Tax Roll when a neighbor directly pays the City the amount owed.

Background

On July 7, 2009, the City Commission enacted Ordinance C-09-18 and adopted a new Chapter 18 – Nuisances, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale (Code) to refine the characterization of a public nuisance and improve the effectiveness of nuisance abatement action.

Under the current ordinance when a nuisance violation remains uncorrected by the property owner, the City takes action to have the nuisance abated. To recover costs, the City sends the property owner a Statement of Assessed Costs and Expenses (SACE) and an invoice for administrative costs. If the property owner does not contest the amount and/or fails to remit payment to the City within 30 days from the date of the SACE, the matter is scheduled before the City Commission for consideration and adoption of a resolution assessing the expenses and administrative costs against the property.

If the City Commission approves the recommendation, the unpaid expenses and administrative costs will be recorded in the public records of Broward County. Pursuant to Section 18-15 of the Code, once the special assessment lien is recorded in the public records the assessed costs and liens may be foreclosed by the City.

By collecting these costs through a special assessment on the property tax roll the City has improved its collection rate. As a result, the City has been able to recover public funds spent to remedy nuisances; and neighborhoods have been protected from blight.

At times the property owner will pay their assessment directly to the City of Fort Lauderdale. Under the current ordinance, when this occurs, staff is required to secure approval from the City Commission in order to modify the non-ad valorem tax roll. Staff

requests a change in the ordinance to grant the City Manager or designee permission to administratively amend the nuisance abatement non-ad valorem tax roll when a property owner pays the City directly.

Resource Impact

Revising this ordinance does not alter overall revenues. Funds that are collected directly will offset the reduced special assessment.

Strategic Connections

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

- Goal 12: Be a leading government organization, managing our resources wisely and sustainably.
- Objective 1: Ensure sound fiscal management

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

Attachment

Exhibit 1 - Ordinance

Prepared by: Laura Reece, Budget Manager

Department Director: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager's Office