



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

**#19-0213**

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

**FROM:** Chris Lagerbloom, City Manager

**DATE:** March 5, 2019

**TITLE:** Motion to Approve the Donation of a Granite Base including Installation  
for the Marker of Private Gregory Carter

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission approve the donation of a granite base for the grave marker of Private Gregory Carter interred at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

**Background**

On October 12, 1969, PFC Gregory Carter, an African-American Marine was killed in a battle with North Vietnamese Army forces in Quang Ngai Province in South Vietnam. At the time of his death, PFC Carter was with a Civic Action Platoon (CAP) Marine Security Force. CAP Units were small groups, usually an infantry squad assigned to work with units of the South Vietnamese Popular Forces to provide counterinsurgency operations.

PFC Carter's body returned home to Fort Lauderdale where he was interred at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery. For reasons unknown, his body lay in an unmarked grave for the past 49 years.

Over the past year, a group from the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) worked to find photographs of all US Servicemen/women who were killed in Vietnam for the Wall of Faces, in Washington, DC. As the genealogical research was conducted, the VVA found that PFC Carter's grave remained unmarked. The VVA worked with cemetery staff to order the bronze grave marker from the Department of Veterans Affairs for placement on PVC Carter's gravesite at no cost.

The cost of purchase and installation of the granite base is \$395.00 in accordance with the City of Fort Lauderdale's Veterans Special Pricing List approved by the City Commission in 2016. The granite base will provide support for the bronze marker to prevent the marker from sinking over time. The VVA is requesting that the City Commission donate the granite base.

At its January 10, 2019 meeting, the Cemetery Board of Trustees approved a recommendation to the City Commission that the donation of the granite base be granted. A dedication ceremony is planned for Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 11:00 am at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

PFC Carter was the son of Annie Carter Owens and Wesley Carter, who were residents of Fort Lauderdale and graduated from Dillard High School.

### **Resource Impact**

There will be a current fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$395.00.

<b><i>Funds available as of January 31, 2019</i></b>					
<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>INDEX NAME (Program)</b>	<b>CHARACTER CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME</b>	<b>AMENDED BUDGET (Character)</b>	<b>AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
430-PKR062202-3299	Cemetery System Administration	Other Services	\$ 131,263	127,252	\$395.00
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ►</b>					<b>\$395.00</b>

### **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 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

### **Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Cemetery System Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for 1/10/2019

Exhibit 2 – Email Correspondence from Volunteers with VVA

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Prepared by: Stacy Spates, Parks & Recreation Department

Department Director: Phil Thornburg, Parks & Recreation Department