



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#19-0439

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: May 7, 2019

TITLE: Discussion on Corporate Contributions to Municipal Campaigns -
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Pursuant to Florida Statute Chapter 106, which regulates Campaign Financing, a corporation is considered a “person” and can contribute to a candidate, political committee, or political party. Contributions are limited to \$1,000.00 for municipal campaigns. In 2002, the City of Fort Lauderdale City Commission amended Chapter 12 “Elections” of the Code of Ordinances by limiting campaign contribution and specifying entities prohibited from making contributions in municipal campaigns (Exhibit 1). According to City of Fort Lauderdale Ordinance C-02-09, limitations include:

- Contributions not to exceed \$250.00 in aggregate by any natural person.
- Prohibits any corporation, corporation not for profit, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, association cooperative, joint venture, business trust, limited liability company, professional service corporation, or sole proprietorship to contribute to any candidate to any election for the office of mayor-commissioner or city commissioner.
- Prohibits any contribution from any bank, financial institution, labor organization or union, political committee, political action committee, unincorporated association, or committee of continuous existence.

To identify how other municipalities manage corporate contributions across Broward County, Miami-Dade County, and Palm Beach County staff reached out to neighboring cities. Three out of the 17 identified municipalities do not allow corporate contributions. These include: 1) The City of Miami Gardens limits individual contributions to \$1,000.00, 2) The City of Hollywood limits individual contributions to \$500.00, and 3) The City of Dania Beach prohibits contributions from corporations and sets the limitation at \$250.00. See table breakdown below.

<i>Q: Does your municipality allow corporate contributions for municipal campaigns?</i>	
Municipality	Answer
Coral Springs	Yes, according to Campaign Treasurer Reports

<i>Dania Beach</i>	<i>No, according to Article II, Div 1, Sec. 2-30 (d)</i>
Davie	Yes, follow the State's Campaign Board of Elections
Hialeah	Yes, follow the State's Campaign Board of Elections
<i>Hollywood</i>	<i>No, according to Sec. 3.12 (4c)</i>
Lauderdale-by-the-Sea	Yes, follow the State's Campaign Board of Elections. Contribution by Town vendors are prohibited
Lauderhill	Yes, follow the State's Campaign Board of Elections
Miami	Yes, according to Campaign Treasurer Reports
<i>Miami Gardens</i>	<i>No, per Ordinance No. 2005-15-53, Section 4</i>
Miramar	Yes, according to Campaign Treasurer Reports
Oakland Park	Yes, follow the State's Campaign Board of Elections
Pembroke Pines	Yes, according to Campaign Treasurer Reports
Plantation	Yes, follow the State's Campaign Board of Elections
Pompano Beach	Yes, follow the State's Campaign Board of Elections
Tamarac	Yes, follow the State's Campaign Board of Elections
West Palm Beach	Yes, according to Campaign Treasurer Reports
Wilton Manors	Yes, follow the State's Campaign Board of Elections

Staff is looking for the City Commission's direction to continue with the established ordinance, amend it, or make minor modifications.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the city associated with this item.

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 12: Be a leading government organization, managing resources wisely and sustainably
- Objective 1: Ensure sound fiscal management
- Initiative 1: Achieve a structurally balanced budget through viable revenue sources, smart financial management, comprehensive financial forecasting, and results-oriented and efficient services

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We are United*.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Fort Lauderdale Ordinance

Exhibit 2 – Dania Beach Ordinance

Exhibit 3 – Hollywood Beach Charter

Exhibit 4 – Miami Gardens Ordinance

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