



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

**#20-0383**

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

**FROM:** Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** June 16, 2020

**TITLE:** Ordinance Amending Chapter 28 of the City's Code of Ordinances to  
provide for a Stormwater Management Program Assessment -  
**(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission approve on second reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 28 of the City's Code of Ordinances to establish procedures and standards for the imposition of assessments for the funding of the stormwater management program.

**Background**

Due to its unique geography, varied infrastructure conditions, and the need for an increased level of service due to sea level rise and more extreme storm events, the City has identified significant investment needs in its stormwater infrastructure.

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec) conducted a rate study for the City, which was presented to the Infrastructure Task Force on October 2, 2017, to the Budget Advisory Board (BAB) at their meeting on June 12, 2018, and to the City Commission during the June 19, 2018 Commission Conference Meeting. The scope of the study allowed for the development of an alternative rate structure that would equitably recover the costs of the stormwater system from properties throughout the City in proportion to the benefit that each property receives from the stormwater system. Acknowledging the volume of stormwater infrastructure work necessary throughout the City and the limited available resources, the City Commission and BAB voiced their support of pursuing a hybrid Stormwater Utility fee methodology, which incorporates both total square footage and trip generation rates.

Stantec developed the requested methodology and presented their initial findings during the November 19, 2019 Commission Conference Meeting. Stantec's initial findings included a recommendation to move the Stormwater Fee from the Utility Bill to the property tax as a non-ad valorem assessment. At the Commission's request, Stantec presented the Hybrid Rate Methodology to the Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) on December 2, 2019 and the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations on January 14,

2020. Both the ITF and Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations voiced their support of the Hybrid Methodology.

This Amendment will provide a process for the imposition of assessments to fund the Stormwater Management Program. The adoption of these procedures is necessary to allow a special assessment to be imposed by the City to fund the capital costs to construct, reconstruct, repair, improve, and extend Stormwater Management Systems within the City of Fort Lauderdale. Additionally, it allows for the implementation of the Hybrid Rate Methodology, which accounts for both the total square footage of a parcel and the number of trips the property generates.

On June 2, 2020 the City Commission approved this item on first reading.

### **Resource Impact**

The new rate structure is designed to be revenue neutral for FY 2020.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a *Fiscal Year 2020 Commission Annual Action Plan* priority, included within the Stormwater Management Master Plan: Implementation.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community
- Objective: Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, stormwater, road, and bridge infrastructure
- Objective: Reduce flooding and adapt to sea level rise

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

### **Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – FY2021 Stormwater Fee Study

Exhibit 2 – Ordinance

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