



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

#20-0403

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

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: July 7, 2020

TITLE: Initial Assessment Resolution Declaring the City of Fort Lauderdale a Stormwater Management System Benefit Area, Imposing a Stormwater Assessment, and Setting a Public Hearing Date for the Proposed FY 2021 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment – Stormwater Program Management - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution declaring the City of Fort Lauderdale a Stormwater Management System Benefit Area, imposing a stormwater special assessment and to set a date of Monday, September 14, 2020, at 5:01 p.m. at City Hall, 100 North Andrews Avenue to hold a public hearing to consider comments for the Proposed FY 2021 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment for Stormwater Program Management.

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.

On June 2, 2020, the City Commission approved an Ordinance on first reading (CAM 20-0382) 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. On June 16, 2020, the Commission approved the Ordinance on second reading (CAM 20-0383).

If the City Commission approves the recommendation, the Stormwater Program Management assessment will be collected by Broward County's Records, Taxes, and Treasury Division.

Section 28-211 (A) provides that the Stormwater Program Management assessments may be collected pursuant to the uniform method provided in the Uniform Assessment Collection Act, and the City shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Assessment Collection Act. Pursuant to Section 197.3632(4)(a), Florida Statutes, a local government shall adopt a non-ad valorem assessment roll at a public hearing held between January 1 and September 15, if levying the non-ad valorem assessment for the first time. The City approved the resolution on May 5, 2020 and entered into the required agreements with the Broward County Property Appraiser and the Tax Collector to collect the assessment using this method.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

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 – Resolution

Exhibit 2 – Stormwater Assessment Roll (Draft)

Prepared by: Jason Snifeld, Public Works

Department Director: Raj Verma, Director – Public Works