



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

#21-0250

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

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: May 4, 2021

TITLE: Neighbor Volunteer Office Program Update - (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

Since its inception in 2013, the Neighbor Volunteer Office under the direction of Neighbor Support has created meaningful, low cost – high impact service opportunities to address our overall goals and objectives while building goodwill and enhancing the City's quality of life. This volunteer program inspires and successfully engages civic associations and volunteers in creating and managing an impressive series of quality service projects.

The number of events and programs currently held on an annual basis is quite extensive and includes thousands of community volunteers giving back to our City. The areas of focus include:

1. Sustainability and Blight Remediation Projects
 - a. Four major events per year including: Fort Lauderdale Cares Day, Ready Day, Make a Difference Day and United Day
 - b. Twice monthly beach sweeps
 - c. Waterway cleanups
 - d. Adopt-A-Neighbor program
2. Early Literacy and Youth Empowerment Projects
 - a. Fort Lauderdale Lending Libraries
 - b. Quarterly Read-A-Thons at YMCA
 - c. Partnerships with Reading Pals and Take Stock in Children programs
3. Community Engagement Projects
 - a. Thirty-five-member Volunteer Leadership Council
 - b. Art13 event on NE 13th Street / Lending Libraries
 - c. MSD Memorial remembrance ceremony
 - d. Find Your Passion Within workshops
4. Covid-19 Relief and Homeless Initiatives
 - a. Weekly food distribution event at Mills Pond Park

- b. Personalized comfort packages to homebound elderly neighbors and veterans
- c. Pop-Up Resource events to benefit homeless children and their families who attend Fort Lauderdale schools

The City currently allocates approximately \$187,000 toward our volunteer initiatives. This amount includes one full time permanent position in Neighbor Support (Chief Service Officer), materials and supplies for the various City sponsored events, and the volunteer database management software.

Following a brief presentation by the City's Chief Service Officer, several volunteer leaders from our community will be available to provide additional information and answer any questions.

Strategic Connections

This item is a 2021 Top Commission Priority, advancing the Parks and Public Places initiative.

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

- The Public Places Focus area
- Goal 3: Build a Healthy and Engaging Community
- Objective: Improve access to our beach, waterways, parks and open spaces for everyone

Attachment

Exhibit 1 - Neighbor Volunteer Office Program and Services Overview

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Charter Office: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager