



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

**#21-1093**

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

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

**DATE:** November 16, 2021

**TITLE:** Second Reading – Ordinance Amending the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances Sec. 28-1B, Relating to Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve an ordinance, on second reading, amending Sec. 28-1B, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale relating to year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures.

**Background**

The intent of mandatory Year-Round Irrigation Ordinances is to implement procedures to protect water resources and promote water conservation through the efficient use of landscape irrigation and consistency with the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Chapter 40E-24, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). These ordinances also increase water use efficiency, prevent and curtail wasteful irrigation practices, and prohibit the operation of irrigation systems in a manner causing water to be wasted. It also supports the water conservation program within the water use permit.

The City adopted a Water Conservation Ordinance (Sec. 28-1B) in 2009 and can attest to the benefits of such an ordinance by the year after year decrease of water consumption per capita.

The SFWMD in performing a district-wide review of municipal Year-Round Irrigation Ordinances is requesting the City of Fort Lauderdale amend their current ordinance to align with Chapter 40E-24 (F.A.C) and Broward County Sec. 36-55, which are applicable to municipalities within Broward County.

The following changes are being made to be consistent with SFWMD and Broward County Ordinances:

- Updated definition section for consistent terminology
- Updated landscape irrigation restrictions

- Although the City as a practice promotes two days a week irrigation, the City Ordinance allows three days a week irrigation which is not consistent with Broward County's ordinance allowing only two days a week irrigation.
- Inclusion of a variance section required by SFWMD that is absent from our current ordinance

At first reading, the City Commission requested the addition of limitations on watering time. Staff consulted with SFWMD staff and was advised that a one size fits all approach to watering running times does not achieve the desired conservation effects due to differences in irrigation systems' configurations and designs. The SFWMD does provide suggested sprinkler runtimes for residential homes derived from the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Services recommendations on home irrigation for water conservation in Florida. The following table illustrates the suggested runtimes for residential sprinklers system proposed in version 2 of the ordinance as adapted from the SFWMD recommendations.

	May – September (maximum per zone)	October – April (maximum per zone)
Rotor Heads & Rotary Nozzle	60 minutes	40 minutes
Spray Heads	30 minutes	20 minutes

\*Source: UF/IFAS Extension ABE 355 – 'Home Irrigation and Landscape Combinations for Water Conservation in Florida' Table 1: Seasonal irrigation run times for spray and rotor zones

In making these changes, the City's ordinance will now be compliant with Chapter 40E-24 (F.A.C) and Broward County Code Sec. 36-55.

### **Resource Impact**

Restricting irrigation from three to two days per week has the potential to save up to one billion gallons of water annually. Water conservation measures will impact water consumption revenues. The level of public compliance and behavior modification will dictate the actual change in revenue.

### **Strategic Connections**

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

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

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan* specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Sanitary Sewer, Water & Stormwater Element
- Goal 4: Continue to support water conservation efforts to support sustainability and extend existing water resources.

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance C-21-34 (no changes between readings)

Exhibit 2 – Ordinance C-21-34 (with proposed changes between readings)

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Prepared by: Todd Hiteshew, Environmental Compliance Manager

Department Director: Alan Dodd, P.E., Public Works