



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

**#26-0090**

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

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** March 19, 2026

**TITLE:** Motion Approving an Affiliation Agreement with Miami Marlins Foundation, Inc. for the 2026 Marlins Youth Academy Nike Jr. Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities League at Joseph C. Carter Park - **(Commission District 3)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a youth baseball program Affiliation Agreement with the Miami Marlins Foundation, Inc. for the 2026 Marlins Youth Academy Nike Jr. Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (Nike Jr. RBI) League, in substantially the form attached, and authorize execution of the agreement by the City Manager or the City Manager's designee.

**Background**

Nike Jr. RBI is an invitational sports-based youth program designed to promote interest in baseball, softball, academic achievement, and social responsibility in underserved areas of South Florida.

The Miami Marlins Foundation supplies uniforms, umpires, and equipment to more than 650 children in South Florida annually. The program offers various league options ranging from t-ball, coach pitch, kid patch, and softball with participants from ages five (5) through twelve (12). In addition to the league, the Nike Jr. RBI offers clinics hosted by Marlins players and alumni. Participants can also take part in the Marlins Nike RBI Winter Development Clinics at the Marlins Youth Academy at Babcock Park (651 E 4 Avenue, Hialeah, FL), an on-field recognition ceremony during RBI Night, and have access to scholarship opportunities. Through Nike Jr. RBI, participants can apply for the RBI Legacy Scholarship (\$2,500) and National RBI for RBI Legacy Scholarship recipients (\$20,000).

The City has partnered with Marlins Jr. RBI since 2019. Since February 2026, the City has been conducting baseball practices as part of the Club Youth Development League (YDL) programs. Currently, there are 212 participants registered in the YDL programs. The league includes three divisions with four (4) teams in each division: t-ball (ages 4–6), coach pitch (ages 7–9), and minors (ages 10–12).

Approximately eight (8) regular-season games, plus playoffs, are scheduled for the season. Games will be played at Carter Park on weekdays (Monday through Thursday) and Saturday mornings. League games are expected to begin in spring 2026, pending approval of the proposed agreement.

To promote the program, the Miami Marlins will also post information about the City's baseball program on its website.

The Affiliation Agreement outlines the commitment and responsibilities of the Miami Marlins Foundation, Inc. and the City such as meeting player and team recruitment criteria, adhering to league conduct and sportsmanship standards, and compliance with player safety and child protection guidelines. City staff recommend that the City Commission approve the Affiliation Agreement to pursue resources and opportunities available through Nike Jr. RBI to expand community youth outreach in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

### **Resource Impact**

There is a positive impact related to this agreement as the Miami Marlins Foundation supplies uniforms, umpires, and equipment for the program.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item supports the 2029 Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area, Goal 5: Build a beautiful and welcoming community.

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

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

- The Public Places Focus Area Principle
- Goal 1: Be a community where persons of all ages are able to partake in a fun and healthy lifestyle.
- Goal 2: Be a community with high quality parks and recreational facilities that highlight the character of our city.

### **Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – 2026 Marlins Youth Academy Nike Jr. RBI Affiliation Agreement

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Prepared by: Lester Alexander, Community Program Manager, Parks and Recreation

Department Director: Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation