



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

**#26-0229**

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

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** March 3, 2026

**TITLE:** Motion Approving *Fortify* Lauderdale Phase II Project Prioritization -  
**(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve the quantitative rankings, as presented by the City's consultant, Hazen and Sawyer, at the September 3, 2025, City Commission Conference meeting, for the *Fortify* Lauderdale Phase II projects (CAM #25-0551).

**Background**

*Fortify* Lauderdale is a program focused on improving infrastructure resilience and mitigating impacts associated with intense rainfall and high tidal conditions within the City of Fort Lauderdale's (City) most vulnerable neighborhoods. *Fortify* Lauderdale is planned and implemented in phases, with Phase I nearing completion.

*Fortify* Lauderdale Phase II was first introduced at the November 7, 2023, City Commission Conference meeting, with an intent to deliver twelve (12) stormwater improvement projects (CAM #23-0978). City staff provided subsequent program updates to the City Commission:

- October 1, 2024, City Commission Conference meeting (CAM #24-0788) – City staff gave a presentation to identify seventeen (17) neighborhood characteristics, vulnerabilities, and potential improvement strategies. The presentation provided an update highlighting the modeling criteria including extreme rainfall change factors, future groundwater conditions, and consideration of regional water management operations.
- April 15, 2025, City Commission Conference meeting (CAM #25-0188) – City staff gave a presentation to discuss the methodologies including the data collection of flood-prone areas and the level of service analysis. The presentation sought City Commission feedback on the scoring criteria to finalize the initial ranking for consideration. The City Commission requested that more emphasis be placed on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) repetitive loss data and the number of flooded structures.

- September 3, 2025, City Commission Conference meeting (CAM #25-0551) – City staff gave a presentation identifying the proposed project priority rankings based on the quantitative rankings. The City Commission provided feedback and requested to include qualitative considerations, and how they may affect the rankings of the projects.
- November 18, 2025, City Commission Conference meeting (CAM #25-1066) – City staff gave a presentation with recommendations to modify the quantitative rankings based on qualitative criteria. The City Commission provided feedback to base the program on the quantitative rankings presented at the September 3, 2025, City Commission Conference meeting (Exhibit 1).

Below is the prioritization of the order in which the projects will be designed and constructed. Note that projects may be designed and constructed concurrently based on various factors including funding availability, project scope, and project schedule, among others.

1. Melrose Park
2. Middle River Terrace
3. Lauderdale Isles, Oak River, River Landings and Adjoining Areas
4. Riverland Village, Chula Vista, and Adjoining Areas
5. Poinsettia Heights and Lake Ridge
6. Shady Banks
7. Tarpon River and Croissant Park
8. Sailboat Bend and Riverside Park
9. South Middle River
10. Flagler Village
11. Harbor Inlet / Isles and Adjoining Areas
12. Imperial Point

This motion memorializes the recommendation of the City Commission to proceed with the project prioritization based on the quantitative rankings.

**Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action

**Strategic Connections**

This item is a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 *Commission Priority*, advancing the Infrastructure and Resilience initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure and Resilience Focus Area, Goal 3: Be a sustainable and resilient community.

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 6: Ensure that all areas of the City are reasonably protected from flooding, giving due consideration to the City's natural and built environment.

**Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Project Rankings

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Prepared by: Roberto Betancourt, P.E., City Engineer, Public Works  
Otniel Rodriguez, Assistant Director, Public Works

Department Director: Brad Kaine, Public Works