



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#26-0497

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: July 2, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Setting the Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Millage Rate and Debt Service Rate for the City of Fort Lauderdale, Setting the Millage Rate for the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District, and Acknowledging the Receipt of the City Manager's Budget Message and Proposed Budget - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a resolution acknowledging receipt of the City Manager's budget message, estimates and recommendations, together with a Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027, setting the proposed millage rate for the FY 2027 Budget at 4.1193 per \$1,000 of taxable value and the debt service rate at 0.2216 per \$1,000 of taxable value, setting the FY 2027 proposed millage rate for the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District at 1.0000 per \$1,000 of taxable value, and authorizing the City Manager to compute the rolled back rate and execute all appropriate instruments in order to advise the Broward County Property Appraiser of such millage rates and rolled-back rates.

Background

Pursuant to Section 9.02 of the City Charter, the City Manager is required to submit to the City Commission a budget message, estimates and recommendations, together with a proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026.

The proposed budget and community investment plan documents can be found on the City's website at: www.fortlauderdale.gov/budget.

The FY 2027 Proposed Budget includes a millage rate of 4.1193 per \$1,000 of taxable value. This millage supports the FY 2027 Proposed General Fund Operating Budget of \$560,101,332. The total proposed (tentative) budget for the City of Fort Lauderdale is \$1,294,789,951.

In addition, the proposed operating budget includes a debt service millage rate of 0.2216. This debt service millage covers the following: 0.0165 per \$1,000 of taxable value for debt service on the General Obligation Bonds Series 2015, 0.0168 per \$1,000 of taxable value for debt service on the General Obligation Bonds Series 2011A and the associated 2023

Refunding of that debt, 0.0745 per \$1,000 of taxable value for debt service on the Public Safety General Obligation Bonds, and 0.1138 per \$1,000 of taxable value for debt service on the Parks General Obligation Bonds.

The Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District board met on May 26, 2026 and approved a proposed millage rate of 1.0000 per \$1,000 of taxable value. This revenue supports the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District's proposed expenditure budget of \$219,300. Pursuant to Section 163.5151, Florida Statutes, the City Commission may approve, disapprove, or modify the budget or millage rate submitted by the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District.

Millage Rate Adjustment Alternatives

At the June 16, 2026 Joint Meeting with the Budget Advisory Board, the City Commission requested that staff provided options for increasing or decreasing the millage rate by 0.1000 mill for FY 2027.

Based upon the June 1, 2026 estimated taxable value provided by the Broward County Property Appraiser, 0.1000 mill equates to approximately \$6.5 million in revenue for the General Fund.

Increase Options

Given the uncertainty surrounding the proposed property tax reform, as well as projected future-year deficits, if an increase in the millage rate was recommended by the City Commission, staff would propose allocating the additional revenue to one-time capital needs – such as addressing Parks Bond project shortfalls or a major capital improvement initiative – rather than funding new programs or personnel that would create ongoing financial commitments.

Decrease Options

If a decrease in the millage rate is recommended by the City Commission, in the first year staff would propose decreasing the \$5.0 million currently proposed to be allocated to support Parks Bond project shortfalls as well as utilizing \$1.5 million of the funds that are being allocated to offset Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) inflationary impacts.

To maintain a structurally balanced budget with minimal impacts on current service levels, in future years ongoing expenditure reductions or alternative revenue enhancements would be built into the budget to offset the revenue decrease.

Potential areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Reducing annually recurring capital investments (e.g., roadways, sidewalks, streetlights, and facilities);
- Increasing the return on investment (ROI) from the Parking Fund;
- Decreasing the sanitation franchise fee transfer;
- Reducing enhanced professional development funds; and
- Reducing cultural affairs and public art programming.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

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

- Guiding Principle: Fiscal Responsibility

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

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District Board Meeting Minutes

Exhibit 2 - Resolution

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