



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

**#26-0102**

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

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** May 19, 2026

**TITLE:** First Reading - Ordinance Amending Chapter 24 - Solid Waste, Article II - Municipal Collection and Disposal Services, Section 24-27(b), to Eliminate the Fee for Relocation of Solid Waste Containers and Establish Improper Container Placement as a Citable Offense Enforced Pursuant to Chapter 11 - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve an ordinance amending Section 24-27(b) of the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances to remove the fee associated with City staff relocating solid waste containers and instead establish improper solid waste container placement as a citable offense enforced under Chapter 11 of the Code of Ordinances.

**Background**

Section 24-27(b) of the City's Solid Waste Ordinance requires customers to remove solid waste containers from the roadside following collection and store them on their property behind the street-facing building line, unless screened from public view. Containers must be removed the same day as collection and may not be left at the roadside overnight. The existing ordinance directs City staff to relocate containers that remain roadside or forward of the street facing building line beyond the day of collection and to assess a five-dollar (\$5.00) fee as established in Section 24-47.

While the existing ordinance establishes clear standards for container placement, the fee-based enforcement model has proven ineffective in achieving sustained compliance. The five-dollar (\$5.00) fee is minimal, difficult to collect because it cannot be added to a utility bill, and the cost to pursue lien-based collection would exceed the amount of the five-dollar (\$5.00) fee. As a result, the fee does not provide a meaningful deterrent, leading to repeated violations and continued City intervention.

Improper trash cart placement is one of the most frequent quality-of-life concerns reported citywide and currently ranks as the fifth highest violation cited by Code Enforcement, as reflected in the Community Enhancement & Compliance Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Top Violations Report (Exhibit 1). These violations contribute to visual blight, obstruction of sidewalks and rights-of-way, and resident dissatisfaction.

Given the frequency and recurring nature of this violation, the City's current enforcement framework does not provide a sufficient deterrent to promote sustained compliance. As a result, staff is proposing to align improper trash cart placement with the City's existing civil citation structure under Chapter 11.

The proposed amendment would enforce improper solid waste container placement under Chapter 11 of the Code of Ordinances through a graduated civil citation structure intended to promote voluntary compliance while providing a meaningful enforcement tool for repeat violations. To implement this enforcement structure, the ordinance would amend the Chart of Civil Penalties set forth in Section 11-25 of the Code of Ordinances to add improper solid waste container placement, as defined in Section 24-27(b), with the corresponding penalty amounts.

This approach provides a progressive enforcement structure that emphasizes education and compliance for initial violations through a warning citation while establishing escalating penalties for repeated noncompliance.

Commission Agenda Memo (CAM) 26-0452 on the May 19, 2026, City Commission Regular Agenda is related to this action. If approved, it will establish improper solid waste container placement as a citable offense enforced under Chapter 11 of the Code of Ordinances and establish a tiered civil penalty for violations related to improper solid waste container placement.

### **Community Outreach**

Following City Commission approval, City staff will implement a sixty (60)-day community outreach and education period prior to full enforcement of the amended ordinance. Outreach efforts will focus on informing residents of the updated enforcement approach, proper solid waste container placement requirements, and compliance expectations.

The outreach strategy will include coordination with the Strategic Communications Department to develop and disseminate clear, consistent messaging through social media, attendance at homeowner association (HOA) and civic association meetings, and written correspondence distributed to HOA and civic association presidents and community leaders. Staff will also coordinate with the City's Customer Support Division to ensure consistent messaging across all public-facing channels. This proactive outreach period is intended to promote awareness, encourage voluntary compliance, and provide residents with sufficient notice before citation-based enforcement begins.

### **Resource Impact**

There is an anticipated positive fiscal impact to the City associated with this item. The actual impact is contingent on the number of civil citations issued.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the Public Safety and Community Initiatives.

This item advances the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community

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

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Housing Element
- Goal 2: Be a community of strong, beautiful, and healthy neighborhoods.

**Related CAM**

26-0452

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Community Enhancement & Compliance FY25 Top Violations Report

Exhibit 2 – Business Impact Estimate

Exhibit 3 – Ordinance

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