



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

#26-0425

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: May 19, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Approving the Renaming of the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport Administration Building at 6000 NW 21st Avenue to “William H. Crouch Jr. Airport Administration Building” – **(Commission District 1)**

Recommendation

City Staff recommends the City Commission approve a resolution for the renaming of the Fort Lauderdale Executive (FXE) Airport Administration Building at 6000 NW 21st Avenue to the “William H. Crouch Jr. Airport Administration Building” in recognition of William H Crouch Jr.’s extraordinary service and contributions to FXE and the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Background

William H. “Bill” Crouch Jr., a lifelong Florida resident, dedicated his life to public service, aviation excellence, and community leadership. After graduating from Stranahan High School in 1962, Bill earned a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship and completed a Bachelor of Science in Physics at Tulane University. He then served as a United States Navy Naval Aviator, ranking first in his flight training class of 572 pilots.

During his military career, Bill flew critical missions over Southeast Asia and the Mediterranean as Aircraft Commander in the Lockheed L 188/P 3 Orion aircraft. He was twice awarded the Combat Strike Flight Air Medal and the Meritorious Unit Commendation for aircrew excellence.

Following Bill’s honorable discharge in 1973, he joined the City of Fort Lauderdale in 1974 as the Airport Operations Supervisor. Over three (3) decades, he rose to Airport Manager, overseeing operations, development, and strategic growth. His leadership secured over twelve (12) million dollars in federal and state grants, advanced the Industrial Airpark, developed Foreign-Trade Zone 241, and established the Downtown Helistop. The Downtown Helistop project earned Bill the Helicopter Association International Achievement Award in 1992. Bill also served as President of the Florida Airport Managers Association (now Florida Airports Council) and received the Federal Aviation

Administration's (FAA) Southern Region Award (1987) for outstanding contributions to aviation.

Bill retired in 2004 after shaping the future of the City of Fort Lauderdale's Executive Airport and mentoring countless professionals. William H "Bill" Crouch Jr. passed away on May 7, 2026, and the naming of the Airport Administration Building will honor his visionary leadership and lifelong dedication to aviation.

This tribute will serve as a lasting reminder of his commitment to the City of Fort Lauderdale, Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, the aviation industry, and the values of excellence and service.

On March 24, 2026, FXE staff reached out the presidents of the homeowners' associations in District 1 to request their support for the proposed building renaming. On April 9, 2026, a second letter was sent reminding the associations to respond. Letters of support from several of these associations are attached as Exhibit 1.

At its meeting of February 26, 2026, the Aviation Advisory Board supported staff's recommendation to approve the renaming of the Airport Administration Building the "William H. Crouch Jr. Airport Administration Building" in recognition of Mr. Crouch's extraordinary service and contributions.

Resource Impact

There will be no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *FY 2026 Commission Priority*, advancing the Infrastructure and Resilience initiatives.

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

- The Infrastructure and Resilience Focus Area, Goal 4: Facilitate an efficient, multimodal transportation network.
- The Business Growth and Support Focus Area, Goal 6: Build a diverse and attractive economy

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

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

- The Business Development Focus Area
- The Economic Development Area
- Goal 3: Recognize and include in economic development planning the role of Port Everglades and the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and Fort Lauderdale Executive Airports.

- The Internal Support Focus Area
- The Capital Improvements Element
- Goal 1: The City will strive to provide infrastructure as appropriate to meet the standards set forth within the comprehensive plan elements, by preserving, modifying and replacing existing infrastructure and providing new infrastructure related to growth and resiliency.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Letters of Support

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Prepared by: Rufus A. James, Airport Director, Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport

Department Director: Rufus A. James, Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport