



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 25-255

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: December 4, 2025
SUBJECT: **Waterways Update – December 2025**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide the City Commission with an update on the waterway initiatives in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

- **Slow Speed Zone:** On November 6, 2025, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) voted to approve the speed zone change in the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) between Sunrise Boulevard and Oakland Park Boulevard. The change is not yet in effect, but FWC anticipates changing the signage in mid-January 2026 and implementing a thirty (30)-day educational period where violations will result in warnings.
- **Sewage Pumpout Vessel:** An Invitation to Bid (ITB) for a pumpout vessel was issued on November 14, 2025. The solicitation closed on December 1, 2025. Three (3) responses were received, and staff are currently reviewing the submissions. After the evaluation review is completed an agenda item will be brought forward for City Commission consideration.
- **Adopt-A-Shore (previously titled Adopt-A-Waterway):** A potential pilot program structure to promote waterway cleanliness is currently being drafted and reviewed by City staff. The pilot program would utilize established resources and no additional funding requirements are needed for the pilot period.
- **Living Seawall Permit Fee Rebate Program:** City staff are working on creating a living seawall permit fee rebate program to incentivize living seawall adoption by private property owners. City staff are tentatively scheduled to present at the December 16, 2025, City Commission Conference meeting.
- **Grant Opportunity:** The City and Nova Southeastern University plan to submit a grant pre-application to study the newly planted mangroves and conduct annual testing to determine the substances the trees are absorbing from the City's waterways.

- **Real Time Tide Stations:** The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is currently expanding its network of tide stations that collect and share real-time data regarding tide height. The first location has been identified in the Middle River adjacent to George English Park. City staff are collaborating with FDEP on the placement of four (4) additional locations throughout the city. Attached is an example of a tide station.

For further information, please contact Marco Aguilera, Chief Waterways Officer, at 954-828-4564 or maguilera@fortlauderdale.gov.

Attachment:

1. Real Time Tide Station

c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Managers Office
Department Directors

