



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-037

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

DATE: February 10, 2026

SUBJECT: Property Resiliency Outreach Program

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide the City Commission with an update on the Property Resiliency Outreach Program, a planned component of Fortify Lauderdale. This program will focus on encouraging home and business owners to improve resilience on their properties through increasing public understanding and awareness of practical actions and available resources.

On November 7, 2023, the City Commission received a presentation on the Fortify Lauderdale Initiative which identified the need to complement public investment in resilience with private investment to improve citywide resilience (CAM #23-0578). The presentation proposed encouraging private investment in resiliency through a Resilient Home Improvements Education campaign which promoted property improvements to reduce flood risk, grant and funding opportunities for those improvements, and increased adoption of flood insurance policies. These efforts would contribute to improving the City's Community Rating System (CRS) score which, in turn, could result in discounts towards flood insurance premiums citywide.

Subsequently, the City's stormwater consultant, Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., developed two (2) guidance documents for private property resilience; one (1) focused on residential properties and one (1) on commercial properties. To further directly address this need for increased private resilience, the City Commission approved a request in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget process establishing a new Sustainability Coordinator position in the Parks and Recreation Department Sustainability and Special Projects Division focused on private resiliency outreach. The coordinator is responsible for organizing campaigns to improve private property resilience, which includes increasing awareness of flood insurance, addressing community concerns, developing educational programs, conducting outreach, and identifying additional funding opportunities.

The Private Property Resiliency Outreach Program is also aligned with LTC No. 25-268, published on December 29, 2025, regarding the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Community Rating System (CRS), and the Program for Public Information (PPI).

The Sustainability Coordinator through the Private Property Resilience Outreach Program will support and align outreach activities with the PPI to maximize CRS credit opportunities and ensure consistency across public communications related to flood risk and preparedness.

The Private Property Resilience Outreach Program (the Program) is a structured, multi-year effort designed to increase awareness, preparedness, and action to climate-related risks on private property, with an initial focus on flooding and a secondary focus on extreme heat as the Program evolves. This program focuses on encouraging homeowners and business owners alike to improve resilience on their properties through increasing public understanding and awareness of practical actions and available resources.

The first phase of implementation is for calendar year 2026 and emphasizes residential outreach. Homeowners Associations (HOAs) are the primary audience, recognizing their role in managing large portions of the built environment and serving as key communication hubs within neighborhoods. Early coordination will seek input from the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) and the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations (CFLCA) to ensure alignment and consistency.

The core goals of the Program are to:

- Improve understanding of neighborhood-specific flood and heat risks;
- Increase awareness of private mitigation and preparedness actions;
- Clarify roles and responsibilities between the City and private property owners;
- Strengthen trust, transparency, and communication between the City and residents;
- Encourage everyone to have flood insurance; and
- Support Community Rating System (CRS) Public Information activities and scoring

The Program will deliver education and outreach through a combination of in-person engagement, printed materials, and digital resources. Primary activities include targeted presentations to HOAs which will address flood risk drivers, relevant city projects, preparedness actions before, during, and after storm events, flood insurance basics, and available resources.

The Program will also develop and distribute supporting materials, including printed flyers, handouts, and preparedness checklists. A centralized resiliency resources webpage will be launched to consolidate guidance, funding opportunities, and technical resources from the City and other partners.

In parallel, the Program will support the development of Neighborhood-Scale Resilience Snapshots. These snapshots will provide localized risk information, identify relevant city projects, and summarize preparedness considerations and emergency contacts. Initial versions will be developed by City staff and refined through feedback gathered during HOA outreach.

During the 2026 implementation year, the Program anticipates:

- Developing key outreach materials and digital resources;
- Delivering fifteen (15) in-person presentations to HOAs;
- Conducting coordination and engagement meetings with the SAB and CFLCA;
- Informing and development of at least four (4) Neighborhood-Scale Resilience Snapshots (one (1) per Commission District); and
- Supporting CRS Public Information activities to improve the City's overall CRS score.

Metrics will focus on outreach delivery, engagement levels, feedback collected, and alignment with CRS documentation requirements. The Program is designed to remain flexible and adaptive, with refinements informed by feedback, emerging risks, and evolving City priorities.

If you have any questions regarding the Property Resiliency Outreach Program, please contact Nancy J. Gassman, Ph.D., Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation/Chief Resilience Officer, at ngassman@fortlauderdale.gov or (954) 828-5769.

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney
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