



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 16-048**

**Date:** April 12, 2016

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

**From:** Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**Re:** Seawall Ordinance Modification Process Update

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During September of 2015, the City of Fort Lauderdale experienced a King Tide that was predicted to be 8-10 inches above the average high tide but was observed to be 18-20 inches above the average high tide. The unprecedented flooding resulted in a presentation to the City Commission at the November 3, 2015 Commission Conference Meeting. At that time the Commission requested that the City revise the seawall ordinance (ULDR Sec. 47-19.3) to set a minimum seawall elevation requirement.

A team including Public Works, Sustainable Development, and the City Attorney's Office reviewed the major issues surrounding seawalls. These included:

- Seawalls and similar structures contribute to coastal resilience when constructed in a manner that is substantially impermeable and meet a minimum height standard that effectively addresses existing tidal flooding and future sea level rise for the expected lifetime of the seawall or structure;
- Seawalls elevation requirements need to be set and the structures constructed in a manner that does not create drainage issues on the adjacent properties;
- Currently, major repairs of the seawall may result in a significant investment without a resulting elevation in height;
- The new standard minimum and maximum standard for seawall construction should be set to prevent a substantial visual discontinuity with their neighbors;
- Seawalls with defects need to be repaired in a timely manner to reduce tidal flooding impacts on adjacent properties and public Rights-of-Way; and
- A minimum seawall elevation mandated throughout the City by a specific date will support the resilient City vision described in Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035.

The team has developed a public discussion draft of the ordinance which will be reviewed by a variety of stakeholders. Current scheduled meetings include:

April 7	Marine Advisory Board
April 14	Idlewyld Board of Directors
April 17	Las Olas Isles Homeowners Association
April 25	Council of Civic Association Executive Board
May 3	Commission Conference
May 10	Council of Civic Association Regular Meeting
May 18	Planning and Zoning Board – Public Hearing
May 23	Sustainability Advisory Board
June 7	First Public Reading – City Commission
June 21	Second Public Reading – City Commission

A Commission Conference agenda item to review the proposed modifications and the public feedback received is tentatively scheduled for May 3, 2016.

C: Stanley D. Hawthorne, Assistant City Manager  
Christopher J. Lagerbloom  
Cynthia A. Everett, City Attorney  
Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Clerk  
John C. Herbst, City Auditor  
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