



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 25-152

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

DATE: August 28, 2025

SUBJECT: Information Technology Services Department Launches CyberSmart FTL

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information on the CyberSmart FTL program. In recognition of the growing need to protect both our broader community and City operations from evolving cybersecurity threats, the City of Fort Lauderdale's Information Technology Services (ITS) Department has taken a leadership role in launching CyberSmart FTL, a targeted outreach initiative focused on direct, in-person engagement. Through this program, ITS is delivering hands-on training, public education, and strategic guidance to empower residents and City business users alike, reinforcing Fort Lauderdale's commitment to digital safety and civic resilience.

CyberSmart FTL is a citywide cybersecurity awareness and education initiative designed not only to safeguard operations, but to empower our community. Staying cyber safe is everyone's responsibility and the key to maintaining safety is through cyber education. Instead of asking our staff and residents to come to us to learn cyber safety, we are determined to take the education not only to each department but to neighborhoods and public spaces.

The program soft launched on June 18, 2025, at Hortic Park, followed by two (2) community engagements on June 23, 2025 at Riverland Park and July 14, 2025 at the YMCA/Mizell Community Center. These early activations laid the groundwork for a full citywide rollout to begin on September 8, 2025, bringing cybersecurity awareness, training, and resources to neighborhoods across the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Through CyberSmart FTL, ITS continues to lead by example, empower residents, educate city staff, and build a more resilient digital future for all.

Community-Centered Objectives

- Empower Residents Through Education - CyberSmart FTL offers accessible, workshops in parks, libraries, and local venues—ensuring that every resident,

regardless of technical background, has the opportunity to learn and recognize phishing attempts, manage credentials securely, and navigate online risks with confidence.

- Foster Public Trust and Digital Literacy - By demystifying cybersecurity and making it approachable, we strengthen trust between the City and its constituents. This initiative positions Fort Lauderdale as a leader in civic digital responsibility.
- Bridge the Gap Between Government and Community - CyberSmart FTL is not just a training program, it's a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and shared responsibility. It invites residents to become active participants in protecting our digital landscape.
- Protect City Operations - Equip city employees with the tools and knowledge to identify cyber threats, safeguard sensitive data, and prevent breaches that could impact service delivery and infrastructure.

Strategic Impact

CyberSmart FTL formalizes our commitment to digital safety. It transforms cybersecurity from a technical concern into a community value, one that protects infrastructure, empowers individuals, and strengthens the social fabric of Fort Lauderdale. This initiative serves as a model for how cities can lead with transparency, education, and engagement in the digital age.

We thank you for your continued support in advancing Fort Lauderdale's cybersecurity resilience. CyberSmart FTL is more than a program, it's a promise to our residents that their safety, privacy, and digital wellbeing are a top priority as we move forward together in building a city that is not only smart but CyberSmart.

Please contact Ron McKenzie, Chief Information Officer/ITS Director, at rmckenzie@fortlauderdale.gov should you have any questions or concerns.

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