



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-024

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

DATE: January 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Waterways Update – January 2026

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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Staff will be presenting a motion recommending the award of a sewage pumpout vessel at the February 17, 2026, City Commission Regular Meeting. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Seawall Permit Fee Rebate Program: City staff presented at the December 16, 2025, City Commission Conference meeting. Staff will be attending the Marine Advisory Board and Sustainability Advisory Board in February to gather additional feedback. City staff anticipate presenting a resolution for City Commission consideration in April 2026. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Jacket Loaner Station: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) provided the City of Fort Lauderdale with an assortment of adult and child life jackets. Staff intend to create a “Life Jacket Loaner Station” located at Cooley’s Landing. The program would allow recreational users of our waterways to borrow a life jacket at no cost. This program is anticipated to launch in February 2026. Additionally, Memorial Healthcare System has contacted staff about installing an additional “Life Jacket Loaner Station” at no cost to the City. Staff are collaborating and exploring placement options. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Vessel Removal at Lauderdale Isles Landing: In July 2025, a thirty-five (35)-foot vessel was abandoned and subsequently sank at the Lauderdale Isles Landing dock. The vessel immediately began leaking fuel and oil. Due to the exigent circumstances, the vessel was removed (Attachment 1) the same day at a cost of \$11,500. Subsequently, staff worked with Broward County and in December 2025, |

the City secured full reimbursement through the Broward Boater Improvement Program (BBIP) for the cost of the removal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Third Mangrove Planting: Staff are working with New River Middle School, Coastal Conservation Association, and the Urban Farming Institute to coordinate a third mangrove planting. FWC installed mangrove planter boxes in the New River directly behind New River Middle School. The current plans are to plant seventy-five (75) mangroves in the planter boxes on February 28, 2026, at 12:30 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative: Sarah Perry attended the November 4, 2025, Regular City Commission Meeting, sharing the history and goals of the initiative. Since the Commission Meeting, the City has partnered with the Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative to install fifteen (15) additional life rings (Attachment 2) at strategic locations throughout the city, bringing the total to twenty-five (25) life rings installed. Letter to the Commission (LTC) No. 26-007 was issued on January 9, 2026, to provide the City Commission with additional information on the initiative.

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

Attachments:

1. Emergency Vessel Removal at Lauderdale Isles Landing
2. LTC No. 26-007 Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager Office
Department Directors





LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-007

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: January 9, 2025
SUBJECT: Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the City Commission of the City's participation in the Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative.

The Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative honors the life and heroic actions of Aden Perry, a high school student who tragically lost his life in 2022 while attempting to rescue another teenager from a submerged vehicle. Founded by his mother, Sarah Perry, the initiative promotes water safety awareness while honoring Aden's legacy through student scholarships, academic recognition, and the installation of life-saving equipment throughout Broward County.

During the November 4, 2025, Regular City Commission Meeting, Sarah Perry addressed the City Commission and shared Aden's story, as well as the goals of the Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative (CAM #25-1093). A life ring (or lifebuoy) is a life-saving buoy designed to be thrown to a person in water to provide buoyancy and prevent drowning. The City of Fort Lauderdale has since installed fifteen (15) additional life ring safety devices at multiple parks and waterfront locations, including George English Park, Colee Hammock Park, Cooley's Landing, Coontie Hatchee Park, Smoker Park, Sailboat Bend, Esplanade Park, Cox's Landing, Merle Fogg Park, Abiaka Park, Lauderdale Isles Boat Ramp, Lewis Landing, and at several locations along the New River.

These life rings enhance public safety by providing readily accessible emergency rescue equipment near the water and complementing existing safety infrastructure previously installed by the City. With these additions, there are now a total of twenty-five (25) life rings installed throughout the City of Fort Lauderdale to help protect residents and visitors along our waterways.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Carl Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation, at cwilliams@fortlauderdale.gov.

Attachment:

1. Installed Aden Perry Life Ring

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors

