



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-026

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

DATE: January 29, 2026

SUBJECT: Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) Water Meter Installations – Residential Water Meter Downsizing Requests

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to describe the process for reviewing residential water and irrigation meter downsizing requests from neighbors during the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) water meter replacement program.

The AMI Program is actively underway with its deployment launched in December 2025. Since then, the installation of smart water meters has been progressing, and core system integrations are substantially complete. As of January 29, 2026, approximately seven hundred fifty (750) meters have been installed, and the program is ramping up toward full-scale deployment of four hundred (400) meters per day, with substantial completion anticipated by mid-2027.

The AMI Program replaces water meters on a like-for-like basis, meaning meters are replaced with the same size. In response to a limited number of neighbors who have requested a reduction in meter size (e.g., from an existing 1½-inch meter to a 1-inch or ¾-inch meter), City staff intend to review requests for downsizing single-family residential water service and/or irrigation meters on a case-by-case basis, considering applicable utility standards, residence size, plumbing configuration, irrigation demand, and historical water usage.

While the City’s Code of Ordinances regulates tapping and meter-related fees for changes in water service, approved meter downsizing performed concurrently with the AMI meter replacement will be accommodated at no cost to the neighbor, as the installation work is already included within the AMI Program scope. This administrative accommodation applies only to initial AMI Program-related installations, does not amend or supersede the ordinance, and is limited to single-family residential water service and irrigation meters.

The City’s FY 2026 tapping charges are:

Meter Size	Domestic Meter	Irrigation Meter	Max GPM
5/8"	\$1,892.75	\$1,419.56 (75% of domestic cost)	20

Meter Size	Domestic Meter	Irrigation Meter	Max GPM
3/4"	\$1,966.82	\$1,475.12 (75% of domestic cost)	30
1"	\$2,110.71	\$1,583.03 (75% of domestic cost)	50
1-1/2"	\$3,418.85	\$2,564.14 (75% of domestic cost)	100
2"	\$4,341.98	\$3,256.49 (75% of domestic cost)	160

In the event of a meter decrease, the City’s Code of Ordinances provides for the assessment of a \$38.50 meter set fee and fifty percent (50%) of the applicable water service tapping charge, pursuant to Section 28-141(e):

“When a larger water meter is replaced with a smaller size meter, the charge shall be fifty (50) percent of normal water service tapping charges listed above for the new size meter. All tapping and service charges shall be paid in full before the water meter is replaced.”

As an example, in accordance with the ordinance, downsizing from a 1½-inch meter to a ¾-inch meter, would result in a waived charge of $\$1,966.82 \times 50\% = \983.41 , plus the \$38.50 meter set fee, totaling \$1,021.91.

For further information or to provide any feedback, please contact Albert Carbon, P.E., Director of Utility Services, at 954-828-6563 or ACarbon@fortlauderdale.gov.

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