



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-067

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: March 13, 2026
SUBJECT: **City of Fort Lauderdale Receives 42nd Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the City Commission that the City of Fort Lauderdale has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Annual Budget. This marks the 42nd consecutive year the City has earned this prestigious recognition.

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award represents the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. To earn the award, the City's budget document was evaluated by an independent panel of reviewers and determined to meet nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines assess how well a government's budget functions as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communications device, and require the document to meet fourteen (14) mandatory criteria.

In addition to receiving the award, the City's FY 2026 budget document received special recognition in the following areas, indicating that all reviewers awarded the City the highest possible score:

- Long-range operating financial plans;
- Strategic goals and strategies;
- Budget process; and
- Capital program.

There are more than 1,900 participants in the GFOA Budget Awards Program, and award recipients represent governments that have demonstrated leadership in improving the quality and transparency of public budgeting throughout North America.

This achievement reflects the continued commitment of the City Commission, City leadership, and staff across all departments who contribute to the development of the

City's annual budget. Special recognition is extended to the Office of Management and Budget for their dedication and outstanding work in preparing the City's budget. City staff appreciates the Commission's ongoing support and will continue striving to enhance the clarity, transparency, and usefulness of the City's budget document.

Please join me in congratulating the Office of Management and Budget. Should you have any questions, please contact Laura Reece, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, at lreece@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-5894.

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