



## LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

**LTC No: 26-090**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission  
**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*  
**DATE:** March 31, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** **American Swimming Coaches Association Hall of Fame 2026 Inductee - Dave Gibson, Head Coach of Swim Fort Lauderdale - Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center**

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The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the City Commission that Dave Gibson, Head Coach at Swim Fort Lauderdale, will be inducted into the American Swimming Coaches Association (ASCA) Hall of Fame.

The ASCA Hall of Fame honors coaches whose careers have made a lasting impact on the sport of swimming through excellence in coaching, leadership, and service. Coach Dave Gibson will join an elite group of coaches whose contributions have shaped generations of swimmers and elevated the profession.

Coach Gibson has over fifty (50) years of coaching and leadership experience, including fourteen (14) years with the City of Fort Lauderdale at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center (FLAC) as the head coach for Swim Fort Lauderdale since 2012. Throughout his successful career, Coach Gibson has developed swimmers at the club, high school, collegiate, and national levels.

As head coach of Swim Fort Lauderdale, Coach Gibson founded and built the program into a USA Swimming Level Four (4) Club, growing it from 100 to 200 competitive swimmers. Under his leadership, Swim Fort Lauderdale has produced multiple Olympic Trials athletes (2012, 2016, 2020, 2024), Junior National Team members, Junior National Champion, Junior Pan Pac Bronze Medalist, and numerous Florida High School State Champions.

Coach Gibson previously led the Phoenix Swim Club in Arizona and Mecklenburg Aquatic Club in North Carolina (SwimMAC Carolina), producing multiple Junior National Champions, Olympic Trials swimmers, National Junior Team members, and Olympians—including Ricky Berens, a 2008 & 2012 Olympic Gold Medalist in the 800m freestyle relay. Earlier in his career, he coached at Fort Wayne Aquatics in Indiana, where he developed and coached 1988 Olympian Steve Bigelow, at seventeen (17) years old, the youngest 1988 US Olympic Team member. Before that he held collegiate

and YMCA coaching positions, earning Coach of the Year honors in Indiana (2000), North Carolina (2004), and Arizona (2011).

A Level Five (5) ASCA coach and recipient of the ASCA Gold Medal Coaching Award, Coach Gibson has served on numerous USA Swimming National and Junior National Team staff rosters and served on the ASCA Board of Directors. His career reflects a deep commitment to athlete development, coach mentorship, and growing the sport at every level.

Coach Gibson is one (1) of only two (2) coaches upon which this honor is being bestowed this year. The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place during the ASCA World Clinic on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the Rosen Centre Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Please join me in congratulating Coach Gibson. If you have additional questions, please contact Carl Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation, at [CWilliams@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:CWilliams@fortlauderdale.gov) or (954) 828-5804.

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