



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 24-021

Date: January 30, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

From: Greg Chavarria, City Manager 
Greg Chavarria (Jan 31, 2024 09:18 EST)

Re: **Lien Amnesty – Fiscal Year 24 Quarter 1 Update**

On September 5, 2023, the City Commission approved a resolution establishing a Lien Amnesty program to be administered by the Development Services Department (DSD). The program is made available to property owners that have a City levied lien due to their failure to maintain their property in conformance with the City's code of ordinances, implemented a fixed reduction rate of 90% which incentivizes property owners to rehabilitate dilapidated, vacant, and abandoned properties and to enhance occupied properties. By taking advantage of the program, property owners can clear the City's lien from their title. Additionally, the program encourages the beautification of properties by requiring compliance for previously cited code violations, as well as those found when qualifying for the program which will improve the appearance, safety, and welfare of the community. The program was also projected to help reduce the number of older fines and liens due to the City.

To promote the program, DSD staff created a webpage dedicated to the program which includes background information, application instructions, and a step-by-step video for completing the application process. Staff also initiated proactive mailouts to property owners with outstanding fines/liens, emailed notifications to HOAs, provided an informative flyer for placement in various businesses and organizations including community centers and houses of worship and sent monthly social media blasts tagging multiple agencies to distribute this information.

Since October 1, 2023, Quarter 1 of Fiscal Year 2024, activation of the program, DSD has approved 47 applications. These approvals will generate \$522,063 in revenue from liens totaling \$3,975,460. As of January 19, 2024, the City has collected \$111,176 of this anticipated revenue. Prior to the lien amnesty program, the lien reduction program was administered by the special magistrate. The Lien Amnesty program has demonstrated an 881% increase in revenue from Quarter 1 of Fiscal Year 2023 when administered by the

special magistrate. If this trend continues, the City can anticipate collecting approximately \$2 million and reducing the fines and liens owed to the City by approximately \$16 million. The DSD staff is increasing their outreach to maximize application submittals which will in turn increase the revenue generated through this program.

If you have any inquiries regarding the Lien Amnesty Program, please contact Christopher Cooper, Director of Development Services Department, at (954)828-5980 or Ccooper@fortlauderdale.gov.

c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager
Thomas J. Ansbro, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
Department Directors
CMO Managers

Commission Memo 24-021-Lien Amnesty Quarterly Update

Final Audit Report

2024-01-31

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