



**JOHN C. HERBST, CPA**

FORT LAUDERDALE VICE MAYOR, DISTRICT 1



Dear Neighbors,

The City of Fort Lauderdale is making significant investments to modernize and strengthen its water system, ensuring safe, reliable service for residents today and into the future. A key part of this effort is the new Prospect Lake Clean Water Center, a state-of-the-art facility designed to replace aging infrastructure and dramatically improve the quality, reliability, and resilience of the City's drinking water. The new plant will replace the decades-old Fiveash Regional Water Treatment Plant and will use advanced treatment technologies, including nanofiltration, to remove impurities more effectively and produce cleaner, better-tasting water. With the capacity to treat up to 50 million gallons of water per day, the facility is designed not only to meet current demand but also to support future growth and long-term sustainability.

Beyond water quality, the Prospect Lake Clean Water Center is being built with resilience in mind. The facility is designed to better withstand severe weather events and reduce vulnerabilities in the City's water system, an important consideration in a coastal community like Fort Lauderdale. The project also includes significant upgrades to surrounding infrastructure, including new water mains and system connections that will improve overall reliability and water distribution throughout the city.

Complementing this major investment is the rollout of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), a citywide upgrade to smart, digital water meters that will transform how water usage is measured and managed. The AMI system replaces traditional water meters with new digital technology that automatically transmits water usage data to the City in near real time, eliminating the need for manual readings and improving accuracy. As part of this transition, the City has begun conducting a system-wide audit of existing meters, including inspections of meter conditions, locations, and accessibility, with installation to take place in phases across neighborhoods.

For residents, these upgrades bring several important benefits. Water bills will be based on actual usage rather than estimates, providing greater transparency and accuracy. The system also enables more frequent monitoring of water use and can quickly identify unusual activity that may indicate leaks, helping prevent costly damage. Customers will also have access to tools that allow them to track usage, set alerts, and make more informed decisions about conservation.

When installation begins in a neighborhood, residents can expect a quick and efficient process. Most installations take approximately 30 minutes, and while there may be a brief water interruption, there is no cost to residents for the upgrade. Crews will move through the city in phases to ensure an organized rollout.

Together, the Prospect Lake Clean Water Center and the AMI program represent a comprehensive, forward-looking approach to improving Fort Lauderdale's water system from treatment to delivery. These investments reflect the City's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and providing high-quality service, helping to build a more resilient and efficient water system for years to come.

Sincerely,  
Vice Mayor John C. Herbst