

**AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
INVERNESS, FLORIDA, CITY HALL, 212 WEST MAIN STREET
July 21, 2026 - 5:30 PM**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Governing Body with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to provide that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes).

Accommodation for the disabled (hearing or visually impaired, etc.) may be arranged with advance notice of seven (7) days before the scheduled meeting, by dialing (352) 726-2611 weekdays from 8 AM to 4 PM.

ENCLOSURES*

- 1) INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL**
- 2) PLEASE SILENCE ELECTRONIC DEVICES**
- 3) ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**
- 4) PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES / RECOGNITIONS**
 - a) Cooter Kudo - Culver's Ice Cream
- 5) PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOPS**
- 6) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

*The public is invited to speak. (Speaking time limit: Individual - 3 minutes;
Group/Organization - 5 minutes)*
- 7) CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**
- 8) CONSENT AGENDA**
 - a) Bill Listing*
 - b) Council Minutes* - 07.07.2026
- 9) CITY CLERK'S REPORT**
- 10) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**
 - a) Residential Sanitation Rate FY 2027 -Resolution 2026-06

**AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
INVERNESS, FLORIDA, CITY HALL, 212 WEST MAIN STREET
July 21, 2026 - 5:30 PM**

- b) Trim Notice -Tentative Millage Rate
- c) Interlocal Agreement for Enhanced Law Enforcement Services
- d) City Garden Update
- e) Project and Program Updates
 - Full Budget Workshop
 - IGC Improvements
 - Other

11) MAYOR & COUNCIL SUBJECTS / REPORTS

- a) Mayor Plaisted
- b) Councilwoman Bega
- c) Councilwoman Hepfer
- d) Councilwoman Lizanich
- e) Councilman Davis
- f) Councilman Craig

12) NON-SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

(Speaking time limit: Individual - 3 minutes; Group/Organization - 5 minutes)

13) ADJOURNMENT

- a) **DATES TO REMEMBER**
Market at the Depot
Saturday, August 1, 2026 from 9:00am - 1:00pm
Depot Pavilion

Inverness City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 2025 @ 5:30pm
IGC – Council Chambers

**AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
INVERNESS, FLORIDA, CITY HALL, 212 W. MAIN STREET**

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Page 1 of 2

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7) CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

8) CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes* – 07/07/2026
 - Recommendation – Approval

9) CITY CLERK’S REPORT

10) CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- a) *
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e) Project / Program Updates
 -
 -
 -
 - Other

11) MAYOR & COUNCIL SUBJECTS / REPORTS

- a) Councilwoman Bega
- b) Councilwoman Hepfer

**AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
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Page 2 of 2

- c) Councilman Davis
- d) Councilwoman Lizanich
- e) Councilman Craig
- f) Mayor Plaisted

12) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The public is invited to speak. (Speaker Time: Individual – 3 min.; Group or Organization – 5min.)

ADJOURNMENT

DATES TO REMEMBER

Market at the Depot

Saturday, August 1, 2026 from 9:00am – 1:00pm

Depot Pavilion

Inverness City Council Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 4, 2025 @ 5:30pm

IGC – Council Chambers

July 7, 2026
5:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Inverness met on the above date in Regular Session at 212 W. Main Street, with the following members present:

President Lizanich
Vice President Bega
Councilwoman Hepfer
Councilman Craig
Councilman Davis
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager Williams, City Attorney Hartley, Staff Members, and City Clerk Jackson.

The Invocation was given by Councilwoman Hepfer and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Bega motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

PRE-SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS / WORKSHOP

5)a) Ordinance 2026-852 Medical Marijuana Dispensary – Final Reading* with City Manager Williams stating per consensus direction provided at the May 19 meeting of Council, an ordinance was presented to reinstate a ban on new Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTC) within City limits. The Public Hearing was opened. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2026-852 by Title only. Seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion carried.**

ORDINANCE 2026-852

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, BANNING ADDITIONAL (as of the date of adoption of this ordinance) MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT DISPENSING CENTERS A/K/A MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSING FACILITIES AS DEFINED BY SECTION 381.986 FLORIDA STATUTES (2017) WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

For the Ordinance

The following members of the public spoke in support of the Ordinance: Renea Teaster with Anti-Drug Coalition, Ray Valentine Kalasusky, John Labriola, Robert Robinson II, Lala Sanders, April Wnok, and Debbie Wheatley.

Against the Ordinance

No member of the public spoke against the Ordinance.

Council comments

Councilwoman Bega read an email against the Ordinance that the Elected Officials had received from Mike Wright. President Lizanich supported the idea of using a special exception as the best approach. Questioned if a review period should be added and referenced the process that was used with the Entertainment District. City Manager Williams recommended the review as a separate item and not included with the Ordinance. City Attorney Hartley spoke of the last discussion of the subject, legislative bills, statutes, etc. Councilman Davis noted that Council has the ability to review this matter whenever it is needed. In no way should there be an impact on availability for those that need it. Suggested to revisit when it becomes a supply and demand issue. Councilwoman Hepfer stated she still stands by her opinion and spoke of medical marijuana vs. street drugs, as well as smoke shops & dispensaries. Mayor Plaisted noted there is availability within the City limits and spoke of the character of downtown. The public hearing was closed. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-852 by rollcall vote on final reading. Seconded by Councilman Davis. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, no; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; and President Lizanich, yes. The motion carried.**

5)b) Ordinance 2026-854 Land Use and Ordinance 2026-855 Zoning – 232 Trout Ave. – Final Reading* with Council President declaring the public hearing open. Interim Community Development Director Wells stated an application was submitted by Liberty Investments Citrus County LLC, owner of the property located within the historic LaBelle neighborhood. The applicant intends to split the existing 0.42-acre parcel into two equal new parcels of 0.21 acres and then construct a residential triplex on each new parcel. Three dwelling units on the resulting 0.21 acres is a gross density of 14.2 dwelling units per acre. The Future Land Use of the property is currently designated as Low Density which limits the density to 2.5 dwelling units per acre requiring a land use amendment from Low Density to High Density. Included was a request for rezoning from LD/R1 to PDP which will allow the applicant to craft product design that meets their needs and accomplishes the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. Property Owner Matt Osborne stating his support of the Council and the City. It is a great place to live and his family is proud to be a part of the community. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2026-854 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

ORDINANCE 2026-854

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ORDINANCE 2016-713 OF THE INVERNESS CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR A SMALL-SCALE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT BY REVISING THE GENERALIZED FUTURE LAND USE MAP ON APPROXIMATELY 0.42 ACRES FROM LOW DENSITY (LD) TO HIGH DENSITY (HD); PROPERTY AS FURTHER DESCRIBED HEREIN BELOW; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

No one spoke for or against the ordinance. The public hearing was closed. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-854 by rollcall vote on final reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; and President Lizanich, yes. The motion carried.**

Councilwoman Bega motioned to have the Clerk read Ordinance 2026-855 by Title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2026-855

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP BY REZONING APPROXIMATELY 0.42 ACRES OF LAND FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (LD/R-1) TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (PDP) AS FURTHER DESCRIBED HEREIN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

No one spoke for or against the ordinance. Councilman Davis commended the Osbornes for quality housing. Councilwoman Hepfer reference the tri-plex across from her residence and how impressive it is. The public hearing was closed. **Councilman Davis motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-855 by rollcall vote on final reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; Councilman Davis, yes; Councilman Craig, yes; and President Lizanich, yes. The motion carried.**

5)c) CCSO Law Enforcement Enhanced Services Presentation with Captain Lee Carey providing a presentation noting the excellent working relationship with the Citrus County Sheriff's Office through the existing interlocal agreement for enhanced law enforcement services. This partnership has provided the City with professional, responsive, and community focused enhanced law enforcement services that support the safety and quality of life of Inverness residents, businesses, and visitors. At the May 5th Council meeting, a discussion ensued requesting additional information regarding the enhanced services provided and clarifying what services are provided over and above the general law enforcement services provided across the entirety of Citrus County funded by way of county general ad valorem property taxes. This additional information ensures continued transparency and understanding regarding the City's investment in enhanced public safety services. Councilman Davis questions the call for service with Cpt. Carey providing an explanation. Councilwoman Bega appreciated the good information and requested the presentations be included in the agenda packets for prior review. Councilman Craig was thankful for the information and feels safe in the City. President Lizanich questioned the budget amount referenced in the presentation with City Manager Williams confirming the amount is being included in the upcoming proposed budget. Spoke of rising costs associated with most uniformed positions. *No action required.*

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Lala Sanders thanked Council for the decision on the Ordinance regarding the dispensaries. Noted the Patriotic Evening event was wonderful.

Debbie Wheatley stated Patriotic Evening was great and Liberty Park is amazing. Loves living here and thanked everyone for all they do.

Karen Esty spoke of the time and energy staff put out for the Patriotic Evening on Friday, it was an amazing event, with a safe environment. This is the place to live. Park staff are incredible.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes* – 06/16/2026
 - Recommendation - Approval

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Longwood Gardens Affordable Housing Finance Application* with City Manager Williams stating the much-anticipated Longwood Gardens project is approaching the final steps to funding and construction. As part of the competitive affordable housing process, local government financial participation is required to demonstrate meaningful local support for a project and to help close financing gaps that would otherwise make the project difficult to complete. Florida Housing's Local Government Area of Opportunity process allows a city to contribute funding in the form of a cash loan to support a qualifying development. The City previously adopted Resolution 2025-11 and its commitment to this much needed project. Council was asked to consider approving loan terms and enabling documents for a local government match loan in the amount of \$340,000. This amount is consistent with the required minimum local government contribution level identified for medium/small counties, including Citrus County, under Florida Housing's Local Government Area of Opportunity. Additionally, the proposed loan term is 15 years, being funded and commencing after construction of the development is completed. The loan will be amortized at an annual interest rate of 2 percent resulting in \$53,802 in total interest payments to the City over the term of the loan. The Longwood Gardens project supports the City's broader goal of encouraging quality housing opportunities for seniors and residents with limited or fixed incomes. The loan documents were reviewed by the City Attorney to protect the City's interest, establish repayment terms, and ensure that the public investment is tied directly to the development of affordable senior housing in Inverness. **Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve the Longwood Gardens loan terms and documents as presented and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.**

10)b) Permit Fees – Florida House Bill 803* with City Manager Williams stating HB803 was signed into law on May 7, 2026, which makes changes to how local governments charge fees for building permits and inspections. The most significant change having an impact on the City requires an electronic registration system for private provider inspection companies and a mandatory reduction of commercial permit fees by 25% if the private provider is handling either plan review or both services. "Private providers" are independent companies which employ licensed professional building inspectors to review building plans and conduct structural and site inspections and are required to be certified by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. The City's current building permit fee schedule for residential and commercial permits calculates

the appropriate fees based on a percentage of the total cost of construction: 1.25% for residential and 1.5% for commercial. For example, if a project's total cost was \$1,000,000, the permit fee before the changes would be \$15,000. After the new law takes effect, the new permit fees would be \$11,250 (1.125%) for one of the services and \$7,500 (0.75%) if both services are provided by a private provider. *No action required.*

10)c) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER)* with Chief Bessler stating the City has taken several important steps to improve its ISO rating for fire services over the past several years. The addition of a ladder truck further supports this effort by addressing a significant equipment which enhances response capabilities, improves protection for residents and businesses, and positions the City to continue working toward a lower ISO rating in the future. The Inverness Fire Department recently applied for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program, commonly known as the SAFER Grant. The purpose of the SAFER Grant Program is to assist fire departments with increasing or maintaining the number of trained firefighters available to respond to emergencies, improve operational readiness, and enhance the level of fire and emergency response protection provided to the City of Inverness. This application is for funding three firefighter positions. *No action required.*

10)d) Project/Program Updates (Verbal)

- FDOT Florida Freedom Tour with Asst. City Manager Marshall stating the mobile history museum will be in Inverness on July 18.
- Master Lift Station Rehabilitation at Wallace Brooks Park is a Federal grant and includes an odor control system which should be completed in August.
- Wallace Brooks Park Improvements has 90% of the plans received from Kimley-Horn. The basketball court and skatepark will be approx. the same size.
- Manning's Bar Property Sale with City Manager Williams providing information regarding appraisals, letters of interest, consideration of listing the property on a real estate multi-listing site.
- Other even though the weather was very hot, there was a record attendance at Patriotic Evening, what a great event. Spoke of the participants that appeared on stage coming together, the volunteers, and the donation of food by Texas Roadhouse.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted spoke of opening prayer at the Council meetings. Stated the Osborne family is a great addition to the community. Spoke of partnerships being tremendous and the various dignitaries on stage at Patriotic Evening.

Councilman Craig noted the sponsors of the wonderful Patriotic Evening event and thanked the volunteers. Spoke of the event at the Caboose and of the history of the trail.

Councilwoman Hepfer agreed with the comments from both Mayor Plaisted and Councilman Craig.

Councilwoman Bega spoke of the wonderful Patriotic Evening event and how hot the weather was.

Councilman Davis thanked Parks Director Worley and staff for all they do to make the events successful. Spoke of the number of people in attendance of the event and happy vendors.

Council President Lizanich agreed with everything that had been stated by her colleagues and thanked staff, Citrus County Sheriff's Office, and the volunteers for a great event. State she has a CCCCCF meeting on July 9.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Debbie Wheatley spoke of the amazing ladder truck and flag at the event and was given a tour of the truck.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

City Clerk

Council President

Agenda Memorandum - *City of Inverness*

July 21, 2026

TO: Elected Officials
FROM: Eric Williams, City Manager
SUBJECT: Residential Sanitation Rate FY 2027 -Resolution 2026-06
CC: Susan Jackson, City Clerk, Alexis Koter, Finance Director, Rob Pell, Public Works Director, Aidan Marshall, Assistant City Manager
Enclosures: 1. Resolution 2026-06 - Residential Cart Rates

As the Council is aware, in March 2020, a solid waste and disposal service fee was implemented for each residential unit within the City, which became effective 10/01/2020. The initial fee for FY 2021 was based on the rate study done by Tindale Oliver. The study recommended that the fee be reviewed and adjusted annually based on cost factors such as the collection of residential waste via contract and an outside party, cost of providing the technical study, and administrative expenses related to the residential solid waste service.

Staff has reviewed the projected program cost for FY 2027 and recommends that the residential solid waste fee be set at \$23.00 a month per residential cart. This represents a \$4.60 increase from the current monthly rate of \$18.40. The increase is primarily due to a rise in fuel costs and increased tipping fees. However, even with the proposed increase, the City's service package remains robust and the lowest cost for such in the region.

It is recommended that the Council proceed to adopt the enclosed resolution, thereby setting the rate to be effective for services beginning 10/01/2026. As the fees for residential solid waste services are billed a month in advance, implementation of the rates would begin with the September billing.

Recommended Action –

1. Allow staff to speak
2. Motion, Second, and vote to Resolution 2026-06 by title only.
3. Deliberate the matter.
4. Motion, Second, and vote to adopt Resolution 2026-06 by roll call.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me at your convenience.

Eric C. Williams

RESOLUTION 2026-06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF INVERNESS,
FLORIDA SETTING THE RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE AND
DISPOSAL FEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING
OCTOBER 1, 2026 THRU SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; AND PROVIDING
FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the City of Inverness established a residential solid waste and disposal service fee for each residential unit pursuant to Section 10-17 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Inverness; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance requires the City of Inverness to establish the service charge uniform rate for the next fiscal year by resolution adopted no later than July 31st of the previous year; and

WHEREAS, the rate established is pursuant to the recommendations of the Tindale Oliver technical analysis which includes adjustments due to increases in collection and disposal costs; and

WHEREAS, that the residential solid waste and disposal service fee for each residential unit is set at \$23.00 per month, commencing with the September 2026 billing cycle.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Inverness, Florida in regular session passed and adopted said Resolution, effective upon adoption, this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF INVERNESS

Crystal Lizanich, Council President

ATTEST

Susan Jackson, City Clerk

Agenda Memorandum - *City of Inverness*

July 21, 2026

TO: Elected Officials

FROM: Eric Williams, City Manager

SUBJECT: Trim Notice -Tentative Millage Rate

CC: Susan Jackson, City Clerk, Alexis Koter, Finance Director, Ruthi Griffiths,
Assistant Director of Finance, Aidan Marshall, Assistant City Manager

Enclosures:

Annually, the City Council must proceed in the budget development process to result in a properly funded budget for the ensuing year. As you are aware, a portion of the City's general fund revenue is derived through the taxation of real property (property tax). In order to proceed in the next steps of budget development for Fiscal Year 2027 (10/01/2026-09/30/2027), state law requires that Council must set a tentative millage rate. The establishment of a tentative millage is required to be used as a "Not To Exceed" rate to be used during budget development. The tentative millage rate set may decrease during the adoption process of the City Budget, but an increase may not be made.

The Citrus County Property Appraiser has certified an amount of \$753,262,022 in gross taxable value of nonexempt property to be used for budget planning purposes. This estimate includes a value of taxable net new construction/improvement of \$9,403,118. The total increase in value from the previous year final gross taxable value is \$34,581,506 or 4.81%. At the current millage of 7.56 levied against the certified \$753,262,022, assuming at 95% collection rate, the City would collect an estimated \$5,409,927 in property tax. At the current millage of 7.56 levied against the current year final gross taxable value of \$718,680,516, assuming a 95% collection rate, the City is estimated to collect \$5,161,563 in property tax. The delta of the two is \$248,364.

The goal has been to develop a budget that maintains the expected levels of service and does not need to increase the current millage rate of 7.56 for the ensuing year. For the ensuing fiscal year, the City will incur increased expenses in multiple areas of operation. An increase in the current millage is not anticipated to be needed to cover the increased expenses.

In addition to ensuring the City can maintain the expected levels of service at the current millage rate, a review has been done with a proposed decrease in millage to 7.46. At a decreased millage of 7.46 levied against the certified \$753,262,022, assuming at 95% collection rate, the City would collect an estimated \$5,338,367 in property tax. This is \$176,804 more than the estimated collection for the current year at the current rate. Anticipated increased expenses for operations are covered with the decreased millage.

It is recommended that the Council proceed to adopt the tentative millage at a lowered rate of 7.46.

Recommended Action –

1. Allow the staff speak
2. Motion and second to adopt a lowered Tentative Millage Rate of 7.46 that may be additionally lowered, and authorize the submission of TRIM documents to the State.
3. Deliberate the matter
4. Vote the matter
5. Publicly announce the Budget Workshop for the Full Budget Presentation scheduled for Tuesday August 4, 2026 at 5:30pm, in the IGC Chambers.
6. Publicly announce the location of the two Public Hearings for budget adoption:

Location: Inverness Government Center, City Council Chambers
212 West Main Street, Inverness, FL 34450
Dates & Time: 5:01 P.M., Thursday September 3, 2026
5:30 P.M., Tuesday September 15, 2026

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me at your convenience.

Eric C. Williams

Agenda Memorandum - *City of Inverness*

July 21, 2026

TO: Elected Officials
FROM: Eric Williams, City Manager
SUBJECT: Interlocal Agreement for Enhanced Law Enforcement Services
CC: Aidan Marshall, Assistant City Manager, Susan Jackson, City Clerk
Enclosures: 1. CCSO 26-27 Enhanced Services Agreement

The City of Inverness continues to maintain an excellent and highly effective partnership with the Citrus County Sheriff's Office for the provision of Enhanced Law Enforcement Services. Last council meeting, a representative from the Sheriff's Office presented an overview of the enhanced services above and beyond the baseline services provided to Citrus County residents. The Sheriff provides the City with a full complement of enhanced law enforcement services and quarterly updates that have indicated Inverness remains an extremely safe city with a very low crime rate.

The enclosed agreement is structured to continue the program through September 30, 2027. The program cost for next fiscal year to maintain the current staffing/level of service is \$1,427,069.65, which represents a 5.72% increase from the current year. It should also be noted that the proposed contract includes services for crossing guards and incorporates the City's provision of office space to the CCSO which provides efficiencies for both parties. The majority of the proposed increase is due to benefit/salary adjustments.

Representatives from the CCSO are present this evening to address any questions or concerns of the Council and Mayor. It is recommended that Council proceed to approve the agreement as presented.

Recommended Action –

1. Allow staff and CCSO representatives to speak
2. Motion and second to approve the agreement with the Citrus County Sheriff's Office for Enhanced Law Enforcement Services through September 30, 2027, based on the presented costs, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.
3. Deliberate the matter
4. Vote the matter

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me at your convenience.

Eric C. Williams
City Manager

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR ENHANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between the CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, ("Inverness"), a municipal corporation of the State of Florida; DAVID E. VINCENT, as Sheriff of Citrus County, Florida, ("Sheriff"); and, CITRUS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, (Citrus County"), a political subdivision of the State of Florida (collectively referred to as "the Parties").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Sections 125.0101, 163.01 and 166.021, Florida Statutes (2024) provide that a county and a municipality may contract to provide law enforcement services within a municipality's boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Inverness is a municipality within the boundaries of Citrus County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Inverness is desirous of providing a high level of competent law enforcement services in conjunction and in harmony with its fiscal policies of sound economic management; and

WHEREAS, Inverness has requested that the Sheriff furnish enhanced law enforcement services within Inverness; and

WHEREAS, Inverness desires that the Sheriff furnish enhanced law enforcement services on a full-time basis and duly performs any and all necessary and appropriate functions, actions, and responsibilities of a police and law enforcement agency for Inverness; and

WHEREAS, Inverness and the Sheriff have a desire to provide ancillary safety and student crossing guard services to the public schools of Inverness in designated areas that may be deemed a hazardous walking condition/location that have consistent pedestrian volume before and after school; and

WHEREAS, the Inverness City Council has determined that the most efficient way to fulfill its desire to provide police protection and ancillary student crossing guard services in a responsible manner for the term beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027, and ancillary services annually commencing on the start of the school year, is by contracting with the Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff has indicated his desire and willingness to accept and fulfill the responsibilities hereinbefore mentioned; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement for the provision of enhanced law enforcement services is not intended by the Parties nor shall it be interpreted to be a transfer, consolidation or merger within the meaning of those terms for constitutional or statutory purposes or for any other purpose whatsoever and the Parties shall administer this Agreement to that end; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement between Inverness and the Sheriff requires the concurrence of Citrus County, and said Citrus County approves and supports the plan and program set out in this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Inverness City Council has determined that this Agreement is in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Inverness, Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein and given by each Party to the other, the Parties hereto do covenant and agree as follows:

1. **RECITALS.** The recitals included above form an integral part of this Agreement and are hereby incorporated herein, *in haec verba*.

2. **MUNICIPAL POLICE POWERS.** By appropriate resolution, Inverness City Council shall vest within the Sheriff and within each deputy sheriff, to the extent allowed by applicable law, Inverness' police powers to the extent necessary or desirable to perform the enhanced law enforcement services described herein during the contract period. Both Parties recognizing that Inverness retains the right to resume responsibilities to provide enhanced law enforcement services within Inverness at the expiration of this Agreement.

3. **INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.** The Sheriff shall, to the extent feasible, coordinate enhanced law enforcement activities and functions, including special event functions, individual's complaints and unanticipated events requiring law enforcement involvement with Inverness' City Manager. The Sheriff or Sheriff's designee will attend regular City Council meetings and staff meetings when requested.

4. **ENHANCED SERVICES** It is understood and agreed that the enhanced services provided pursuant to this Agreement are supplemental to, and exceed, the baseline level of law enforcement services otherwise provided on a countywide basis. Such enhanced services confer a direct, real, and substantial benefit upon the residents, visitors, and businesses of the City. For purposes of this Agreement, "Enhanced Services" shall mean specifically tailored, expanded, and specialized law enforcement services that materially exceed routine or incremental service increases. These Enhanced Services include, but are not limited to, the assignment of dedicated

patrol deputies providing twenty-four (24) hour coverage, increased patrol frequency, enhanced patrol density, and additional patrol hours intended to maximize law enforcement visibility, crime deterrence, and rapid response capabilities. Enhanced Services further include specialized K-9 and marine patrol units designed to address tourist-related concerns, crowd management, public safety surveillance, and other conditions unique to the City. Additional Enhanced Services include community resource officers, records personnel, investigative and detective services, and such other specialized personnel or operational support as may be reasonably necessary to fulfill the objectives of this Agreement as exclusively determined by the Sheriff.

5. **STAFFING LEVELS/COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICER.**

a. The Sheriff will provide two (2) full-time community resource officers, geographically assigned within the city limits of Inverness. This deputy will be trained and equipped to perform interactive and proactive patrols and emerging practices, which may include but not limited to: making contact with citizens and business owners to build rapport and to solve community crime problems, meeting with individuals to explain crime prevention techniques, and addressing non-emergent public safety concerns. The Sheriff will work with the Office of City Manager to develop appropriate schedules and work programs to best fit the needs of Inverness on a quarterly basis. The Sheriff agrees to provide certain notice to the City Manager or designee at any time the community resource officer may find it necessary to be assigned for duty outside the City limits.

b. The Sheriff agrees to enforce City Ordinances (including, but not limited to the regulation of parking, sidewalk cafés, ROW utilization, alcohol violation, and illegal dumping/littering) and provide the necessary and appropriate level of enhanced law enforcement services in and for Inverness by providing six (6) deputies with patrol automobiles for twenty-four (24) consecutive hours each day to serve as law enforcement officers within Inverness. Said deputies shall be provided within Inverness on the basis of one (1) deputy at all times, not to include the community resource officer, supplemented by scheduling overlap. Deputies assigned within Inverness will not patrol unincorporated areas of the County except when rendering mutual aid assistance to ensure public safety in extraordinary circumstances consistent with past practices and mutual aid agreements. The Sheriff agrees to notify the City Manager or designee as soon as reasonably possible any time the City is to be without at least one deputy within the City limits.

c. The Sheriff will provide for two (2) part-time (minimum 20 hours per week per position) Public Service Officer's for utilization in the enforcement of the City's parking program and certain enhanced law enforcement support.

d. The Sheriff, or his designee will meet with the City Manager on a quarterly basis to develop appropriate schedules and work programs to best fit the needs of the City of

Inverness. The Sheriff agrees to notify the City Manager or designee at any time there is a deviation from any agreed upon schedule and/or work program.

e. The Sheriff will provide supervision of deputies, interactive community service to communicate law enforcement activities to Inverness businesses and residents, school traffic regulation, school bus traffic regulation, school security services, investigative services and public relations. Deputies, CROs and PSOs shall also be authorized, and will be expected, to enforce all City regulations, ordinances and codes to include writing Inverness City citations.

f. The Sheriff shall make all basic services of the Sheriff's Office available to Inverness during the term of this Agreement at the same level of service provided to the unincorporated areas of Citrus County. These services include but are not necessarily limited to; marine patrol, K-9, helicopter patrol, crime watch assistance, report writing, record retention, emergency management operations dispatch operations, media interaction, and community service programs. The Sheriff will conduct periodic speed monitoring of Inverness' vehicle traffic. Any specific problems with marine infractions that are reported to the Sheriff will be handled as a law enforcement complaint or as a code enforcement complaint as appropriate.

g. The Sheriff shall make available deputies for off duty details, in support of Inverness sponsored events, at the request and additional cost of Inverness. Any requests for said off duty detail must be approved and requested by the City Manager or designee directly.

6. ANCILLARY SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD SERVICES.

a. The School Crossing Guards shall remain employees of the Sheriff's Office and will remain under direct supervision, control and chain of command of the Sheriff. The Sheriff shall be responsible for the recruitment and performance evaluation of the School Crossing Guards.

b. If the principal of a school believes that a School Crossing Guard assigned to that school has not been performing his/his duties in a professional and responsible manner, the principal may report and recommend to the Sheriff and/or his designee that the School Crossing Guard be removed or reassigned in a manner that the Sheriff deems just and proper.

c. The Sheriff, with permitted input from the principal at each school, will determine the number of personnel needed at each post/zone/time to successfully execute the obligations of this ancillary crossing guard service and meet the desired safety conditions for the various schools and at the various times as noted in the School Zone/Times schedule attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit "A."

d. Inverness shall provide additional compensation for this ancillary service in the amount of twenty-three thousand one hundred eighty-six and 65/100 dollars (\$23,186.65) which is subsumed in the total consideration amount below.

7. **CONSIDERATION.**

a. Inverness shall pay to the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, as payment in full for enhanced law enforcement and ancillary school crossing guard services herein agreed to be performed by the Sheriff, the sum of one million four hundred twenty-seven thousand, sixty-nine and 65/100 dollars (\$1,427,069.65) for the term October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027, to be paid in twelve (12) equal monthly installments beginning October 1, 2026, and continuing on the first day of each month thereafter.

b. Inverness shall make sufficient space available to house the Sheriff's Office Inverness substation, all necessary staff, and equipment as required for the successful operation of enhanced law enforcement duties as contemplated by the terms of this Agreement. The property located at 202 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Ave., Inverness Florida, 34450, shall be utilized for these purposes.

1. **LAWS ENFORCED.** The Sheriff shall discharge his responsibility under this Agreement by the enforcement of all state laws, county ordinances applicable within Inverness. The Sheriff shall bring appropriate charges for violations of all laws and ordinances. The City shall be responsible for the prosecution of any such violators of municipal ordinances.

8. **FINES AND FORFEITURES.**

a. **Law Enforcement Education Funds.** All law enforcement education funds levied and collected by the Clerk of the Court for Citrus County, Florida and designated for use by Inverness pursuant to section 943.25, Florida Statutes, shall be assigned by Inverness to Sheriff for payment directly from the Clerk of the Court for Citrus County, Florida. Sheriff shall use these funds for the law enforcement education purposes authorized in said statute within or for the benefit of Inverness. The Sheriff will advise the City Manager on a quarterly basis of the collections and expenditures from this fund as they relate to Inverness specifically.

b. **Fines.** Pursuant to section 316.660, Florida Statute, Inverness hereby authorizes, empowers and assigns Sheriff to take such actions on behalf of Inverness to obtain such funds directly from the Clerk of the Court for Citrus County, Florida. Sheriff shall use these funds for the benefit of Inverness. The Sheriff will request from the Clerk of Courts a report to provide to the City Manager on a quarterly basis of the collections from this fund as they relate to Inverness specifically.

c. Grant Funds and Miscellaneous Revenues. The Sheriff shall cooperate with Inverness and, to the extent allowable by law, act as the law enforcement agent on behalf of Inverness in the continued application, maintenance, and accounting of grants and entitlements. Inverness will make these funds available to Sheriff to carry out the intent of the grant program as approved by the granting agency and Inverness. It is understood by both Parties that all revenues currently received by Inverness as a result of law enforcement activities shall continue to be received by Inverness as previously mentioned herein or as may be added in the future.

d. Return of Unused Funds. All funds received directly by Sheriff after the commencement of the Agreement under the provisions of this paragraph, shall be accounted for and reported to Inverness annually to include the details of all revenues received and all expenditures made. In the event of termination of the Agreement all unused funds shall be returned to Inverness within ninety (90) days from the date of termination, unless such return of funds is prohibited by law or would violate the terms of a grant or contract.

9. **PERFORMANCE REPORTS AND CRIME REPORTING.** The Sheriff shall maintain performance reports and statistical records regarding police activity within Inverness and shall provide such to Inverness so that Inverness may review Sheriff's performance under this Agreement, these records will include, but will not necessarily be limited to, the number of calls for service, offense reports, arrests, alarm responses, location and nature of calls, response times, number and type of citations and number and type of accidents. The Sheriff will provide these performance reports and statistical records to Inverness at least once each quarter.

10. **UNIFORMS and VEHICLE MARKINGS.** The Sheriff shall have the authority to designate the uniform dress of the Deputy Sheriffs and School Crossing Guards performing services under this Agreement and the marking of patrol units; however, the Sheriff agrees to place the Inverness Insignia on public service and community resource officers' vehicles associated with this contract. The insignia shall aesthetically fit the current decal scheme and be no less than 8" in diameter and displayed on each side of the vehicle.

11. **INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS.** The Sheriff shall be legally responsible for the actions of Sheriff's law enforcement and school crossing guard personnel performing services under this Agreement. Lawsuits and claims that may be filed from time to time shall be handled by the Sheriff in accordance with normal procedures and the Sheriff shall hold Inverness harmless from any and all manner of actions, causes of actions, suits, judgments, executions, claims and demands of any kind whatsoever, in law or in equity, which may result from or arise out of Sheriff's negligent acts. The Sheriff shall indemnify Inverness from any and all damages, judgments, claims, costs, expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, which Inverness might suffer in connection with or as a result of the negligent acts of the Sheriff, Sheriff

Deputies and Sheriff's employees. Inverness agrees to hold the Sheriff harmless from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, judgments, executions claims and demands of any kind whatsoever, in law or in equity, which may result from or arise out of the constitutionality of ordinances enacted by Inverness and enforced by the Sheriff or from acts or omissions attributable to Inverness that occurred prior to the execution of this Agreement, and Inverness agrees to indemnify the Sheriff for any and all damages, judgments, claims, costs, expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, which the Sheriff might suffer in connection or as a result of the constitutionality of Ordinances enacted by Inverness and enforced by the Sheriff or from acts or omissions attributable to Inverness that occurred prior to the execution of this Agreement. The Sheriff does not assume any existing or contingent liabilities regarding liability of Inverness unless specifically listed above. By agreeing to the provisions of this paragraph, the Parties hereto do not in any way waive or limit their entitlements of sovereign immunity.

12. **REVENUE SOURCES.** The Parties agree that this Agreement does not constitute a general indebtedness of Inverness within the meaning of any constitutional, statutory, or charter provision or limitation and it is expressly agreed by the Parties that neither the Sheriff nor Citrus County will ever have the right to require or compel the exercise of ad valorem taxing power of Inverness or taxation of any real or personal property therein for the payment of any monetary obligations due under the terms of this Agreement and it is further agreed between the Parties that this Agreement and any funds called for to be paid hereunder shall not constitute a lien upon any real or personal property of Inverness, or any part thereof, and that the obligation for monetary payments called for to be made hereunder shall be deemed to exist for less than a year at any point in time and shall be entirely subject to the legislative budgetary discretion of Inverness and Citrus County.

13. **NOTICES.**

a. All notices, requests, consents and other communications required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing (including electronic mail or facsimile) and shall be (as elected by the person giving such notice) hand delivered by messenger or courier service, faxed, or mailed by registered or certified mail (postage pre-paid), return receipt requested, addressed as follows or to such other addresses as any party may designate by notice complying with the terms of this paragraph:

If to CITRUS COUNTY: Steven Howard, County Administrator and Denise Lyn, County Attorney, Citrus County Courthouse, 110 North Apopka Avenue, Inverness, Florida 34450.

If to CITY OF INVERNESS: Eric Williams, City Manager, and Robert Batsel Jr., 1531 Southeast 36th Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34471.

If to CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF: David Vincent, Sheriff, and Charles Hughes, General Counsel, Citrus County Sheriff's Office, 1 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Avenue, Inverness, Florida 34450.

- b. Each such notice shall be deemed delivered:
 - i. On the date delivered if by personal delivery;
 - ii. On the date facsimile transmission occurs if by facsimile, unless such date is not a business day, or such transmission occurs after 5:00 p.m., in which case such notice shall be deemed delivered on the business day immediately following the day on which the facsimile transmission occurs; and
 - iii. If the notice is mailed, on the earlier of: (a) the date upon which the return receipt is signed; (b) the date upon which delivery is refused; (c) the date upon which notice is designated by the postal authorities as not delivered; or (d) the third business day after mailing.
- c. If a notice is delivered by multiple means, the notice shall be deemed delivered upon the earliest date determined in accordance with the preceding subparagraph.
- d. If the above provisions require notice to be delivered to more than one person (including a copy), the notice shall be deemed delivered to all such persons on the earliest date it is delivered to any of such persons.

14. **TERM.** This Agreement shall take effect on October 1, 2026, at 12:01 a.m. and continue in effect thereafter through September 30, 2027. This Agreement shall automatically renew for additional 12-month terms, unless either party sends a notice as provided for herein to the non-terminating party of its intent to terminate, no less than ninety (90) days and no more than one hundred and fifty (150) days prior to the expiration of the term then in effect. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Sheriff reserves the right to notify the City no later than June 1 of the current term, of the consideration required to fund the next term of this Agreement. The City shall agree in writing to the required consideration no later than July 15. In the event the Sheriff and the city cannot agree of the consideration to be paid, this Agreement and any renewals hereof shall terminate effective 11:59 p.m., September 30, of the term then in effect.

15. **NO PROHIBITIONS.** Each Party represents unto the other that there are no lawful prohibitions, whether grounded in federal, state, county or municipal law, which prevents either party from entering into this Agreement. Further, and to the extent provided by Florida law, each

party agrees to defend, indemnify and hold each other harmless should any challenge of whatever nature be brought challenging the right or ability of Inverness, the Sheriff, or Citrus County to enter into this Agreement.

16. **NO UNINTENDED BENEFICIARIES.** In no event shall this Agreement confer upon any third person, corporation or entity the right to any cause of action or damages against any party hereto.

17. **SCOPE OF AGREEMENT.** This document reflects the full and complete understanding of the Parties, supersedes any other agreements entered into by and between the Parties hereto and may be modified or amended only by a written document signed by all of the Parties hereto.

18. **GOVERNING LAW.** This Agreement and all of the rights and obligations of the Parties hereto shall be governed according to the laws of the State of Florida and that jurisdiction regarding the rights and obligations of either Party under this Agreement shall be vested in the Fifth Judicial Circuit, in and for Citrus County, Florida.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties to this Agreement have caused the same to be signed by their duly authorize representatives this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF INVERNESS:

Eric Williams, City Manager

Susan Jackson, City Clerk

CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE:



David E. Vincent, Sheriff

CITRUS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: _____

EXHIBIT "A"

School Zones/Times

Main Street/ Line Street - Citrus High	8:30am-9:30am/3:00pm-4:00pm
Ella Street/Turner Camp Rd.- Inverness Middle School	7:00am-8:00am/1:50pm-2:50pm

Agenda Memorandum - *City of Inverness*

July 21, 2026

TO: Elected Officials
FROM: Eric Williams, City Manager
SUBJECT: City Garden Update
CC: Susan Jackson, City Clerk, Aidan Marshall, Assistant City Manager, Woody Worley, Parks & Recreation Director

Enclosures:

As the Council is aware, the City Garden opened up in 2018. Once opened, members of the community and organizations were able to rent beds for the year and maintain those beds throughout. As time went on, beds were not being utilized nor maintained, and therefore, the City had to look at other approaches. In 2021, the City entered into an agreement with the Key Training Center for them to utilize the Garden for their clients in order to teach them how to maintain and work in the Garden. In 2024, the Key Training Center made some internal changes and were no longer able to manage the Garden and withdrew their agreement with the City.

Since that time, the City Staff has engaged with multiple organizations, home school groups, and schools to try to find a suitor that would be able to manage the Garden. Within recent weeks, a local grassroots group has expressed interest in partnering with the City to manage and maintain the City Garden. During the discussion, the group shared its vision of creating a community-driven effort that would enhance the garden through volunteer involvement, educational opportunities, and community engagement. At this time, the interested individuals are an informal grassroots group and are not organized as a legal entity. They understand that, before the City could consider entering into any formal agreement, they would need to establish themselves as a recognized organization which would allow them to obtain and maintain the appropriate levels of insurance. This would provide the necessary structure for governance, accountability, and the ability to enter into agreements with the City. This would not be an overnight process and could take several months to put into place.

Staff is requesting consensus from the City Council to continue working with the interested group under this approach. Council consensus would authorize staff to proceed with discussions while requiring the group to become a formal organization and secure the appropriate insurance coverage before any management agreement is brought forward for Council approval.

Recommended Action:

1. Allow staff to present
2. Provide consensus direction.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me at your convenience.

Eric C. Williams

Agenda Memorandum - *City of Inverness*

July 21, 2026

TO: Elected Officials

FROM:

SUBJECT: Project and Program Updates

- Full Budget Workshop
- IGC Improvements
- Other

CC:

Enclosures:
