

NOTICE OF HEARING TO ADOPT NON-AD VALOREM FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT RATES

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cocoa, Florida, will conduct a public hearing to consider adopting updated Fire Protection Assessment non-ad valorem assessment rates to continue funding the provision of Fire Protection Services to properties within the City pursuant to Ordinance 20-2006 previously adopted by the City Council in 2006. The proposed updated rates will not exceed the maximum rate per EBU previously adopted by the City Council. The City Council may continue hearings on the matter and the date and time for continuance shall be announced at the public hearing without further written notice of the continued hearing to the public. The decision on whether to impose the assessment will be made either at this public hearing at the time and date listed below or at a continuance of the public hearing to be held, if necessary. Note: The proposed assessment, if adopted, will replace the current Fire Protection Assessment and will not be in addition to the current Fire Protection Assessment. Additionally, the City's Fire Protection Assessment was previously validated and held to be lawful by the Circuit Court of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, Florida, in Case No. 05-2016-CA-025719.

The public hearing will be held on August 27, 2024, at 6:00 PM or soon thereafter, at the Council Chambers, 65 Stone St., Cocoa, FL 32922, for the purpose of considering approval of the Final Assessment Resolution and receiving public comment on the proposed assessment. All affected property owners have a right to attend and speak at the hearing and to file written objections and/or comments with the City Council within 20 days of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at (321) 433-8488 at least two days prior to the date of the hearing.

The non-ad valorem assessment will fund a portion of the cost of the provision of essential services relating to fire protection service within the City. A more specific description of the services is set forth in the Preliminary and Final Assessment Resolutions being considered for adoption by the City Council pursuant to Ordinance 20-2006. Copies of the above-referenced Ordinance, Resolutions, and the non-ad valorem assessment roll are on file with and may be viewed during normal business hours at the Office of the City Manager or at the Office of the City Clerk, both located at 65 Stone Street, Cocoa, FL 32922.

Upon authorization of the non-ad valorem Fire Protection Assessment for fiscal year 2024/2025 and thereafter, the fire protection non-ad valorem assessment will be billed by and collected by the Brevard County Tax Collector on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November. In accordance with the tax bill collection method authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, failure to pay this or any non-ad valorem assessment will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title to real property that is subject to the non-ad valorem assessment.

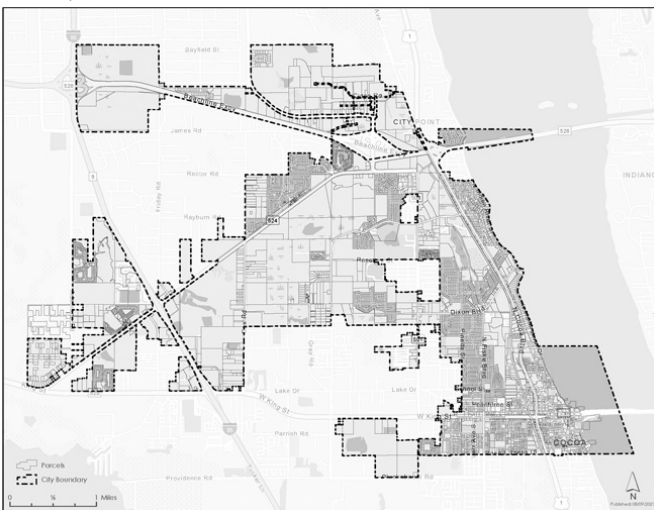
For the purpose of this non-ad valorem assessment, benefited parcels are all parcels within the City limits of the City of Cocoa except for Brevard County public schools, governmental parcels, rivers, lakes, rights-of-way/buffers and other properties exempted by law, agreement, or other lawful action of the City Council. In addition, parcels, or portions thereof, that are jurisdictional wetlands are exempt from the assessment. For the purposes of this assessment, the assessment for benefited parcels shall be determined based upon the availability of fire/rescue service to all parcels and the protection from loss of structures on improved parcels and the rate schedule is as follows:

Benefit Tier	Equivalent Benefit Unit (EBU)	Applicable to	Rate per EBU (1)	Maximum Rate per EBU
Residential total assessment	Per Dwelling Unit	Improved non-exempt residential parcels	\$249.97	\$306.12
Non-residential:				
Response Readiness Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved Property - Per parcel Un-improved Property - Per parcel or parcel equivalent (Parcel EBU) 	All improved and un-improved non-exempt parcels	\$176.74	\$216.45
Protection from Loss of Structures	Per \$5,000 of structure value, rounded down to nearest \$5,000. (Structure EBU)	Improved non-exempt parcels	\$11.07	\$13.55

(1) Parcel EBU is the Tier 1 equivalent benefit unit representing a parcel for improved parcels and a parcel equivalent (EBU) for un-improved parcels. Un-improved parcel EBUs are determined by rounding down the acreage of the parcel to the nearest 5 acres and dividing by 5 acres to determine the number of EBUs for the parcel.

In addition, annual adjustments to this assessment, including increases, may be implemented and the maximum assessment rates presented above are authorized to provide sufficient future revenues (in addition to other legally available funds) to provide fire/rescue services at appropriate levels of service including, but not limited to, providing continued availability of fire insurance at favorable rates, protection from loss of property due to fire, and preservation of property values by virtue of the availability of fire/rescue services provided by the City of Cocoa. The total amount of revenue to be collected by the City of Cocoa in FY 2024/2025 under the non-ad valorem assessment program is estimated to be approximately \$3.49 million.

If you have any questions, please contact Lora Howell, Deputy Finance Director, at (321) 433-8611, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF COCOA, FLORIDA