



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 20-071

Date: August 4, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

From: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

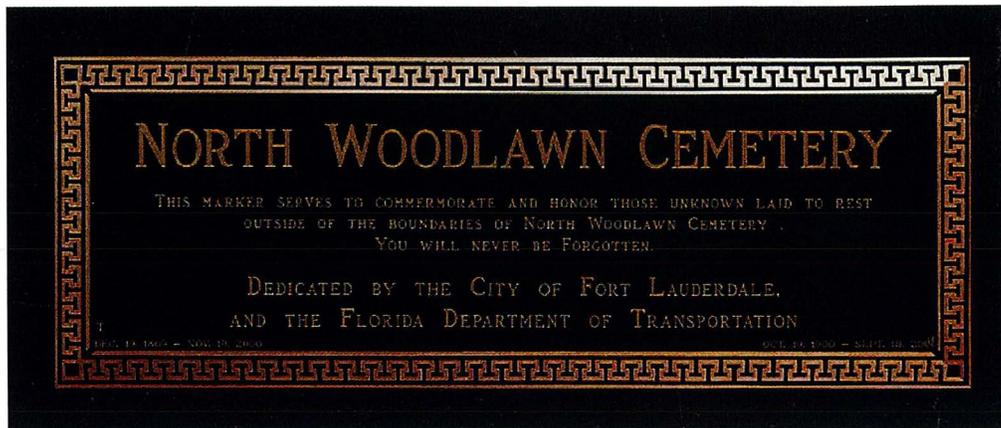
Re: North Woodlawn Cemetery Update

In April 2020, while working on the I-95 Express Lanes Project, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) contracted archaeologist Paul Callsen. Mr. Callsen was employed to specifically monitor ground disturbing work related to the replacement of damaged lighting conduit under I-95. The Express Lanes project was in an area adjacent to North Woodlawn Cemetery, which is locally designated as a Historic Landmark Site and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

There is a history of unmarked burials in this location, known as the potter's field, which became the pauper's cemetery for those who could not afford interment at North Woodlawn Cemetery. While monitoring the ground disturbing work, the archaeologist identified human remains which were not part of an intact grave site. This discovery was reported to the state archaeologist and the medical examiner. After review, the state archaeologist and the medical examiner did not recommend further investigation due to the known history of the site and suggested that the remains be interred at North Woodlawn Cemetery.

FDOT notified the City of Fort Lauderdale of the findings and recommendations, and the City concurred that the most appropriate location for the remains would be North Woodlawn Cemetery. In June 2020, ground penetrating radar was used to identify a specific location for the interment.

FDOT has committed to providing funds for a funeral director to prepare the remains and perform the burial, as well as for the cost of a marker to honor those buried in the pauper's cemetery. Stacy Spates, Cemetery Administrator in the Parks and Recreation Department, has been coordinating with FDOT on the arrangements and placement of a marker at the site (see marker design and text below). A ceremony in conjunction with the burial will not be held due to concerns related to the coronavirus.



For more information, please contact Anthony Greg Fajardo, Director, Department of Sustainable Development at 954-828-5984 or afajardo@fortlauderdale.gov.

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