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## **City Commission approves new L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell Community Center in Fort Lauderdale**

[Fort Lauderdale, August 23, 2017] – The YMCA of South Florida is pleased to announce that on August 22, the City of Fort Lauderdale Commission voted to approve the \$10,000,000 grant to rebuild the L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell Community Center, and to approve the 50-year lease of the property at 1409 NW 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

“The Y has a passion for bringing programs that create healthier communities,” said Sheryl A. Woods, President & CEO, YMCA of South Florida. “We are excited about this opportunity to partner with the city and expand what we offer to the community. This new Community Center will act as a hub that houses a YMCA, drives economic development and jobs, provides educational options, and more. At the same time, we plan to recognize and honor the history and rich heritage of the Sistrunk community. We are a part of it and respect it.”

“This is monumental for the L.A. Lee Y, its members and the community,” said Dr. Naomi Cobb, L.A. Lee YMCA Board Chair. “The impact of having a new Y that is visible and able to reach more people in the Sistrunk community is immeasurable. We are extremely proud of the support from the community and the City. The community wants and deserves a brand new, beautiful facility.”

The YMCA plans to build a new Community Center that offers:

- A YMCA with **traditional health and wellness program** offerings – diabetes and cardiovascular disease prevention, wellness and exercise options, youth sports, family activities, wellness education
- **Meeting Space** – support events from community, a place to gather
- **Retail space** – drive economic development in the corridor and give business owners affordable space to grow business
- **Preschool** – to serve the community
- **Shared Work Space** – support local business start-up
- **Black Box Theater** – bring cultural arts back to the community
- **Swimming Pool** – teach kids to swim and provide low-impact exercise options

The new Community Center will cost over \$15 million to build and will be 65,000 square feet with 25,000 square feet being the YMCA. The rest will be occupied by Broward College, retail space, community meeting space, and other features available to the community.

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### **About the YMCA of South Florida**

The Y is a leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Every day, the Y works hard to build healthy, confident, connected and secure children, adults, families and communities through over 200 afterschool, preschool, special needs, sports, camp and youth programs, family centers, and senior health outreach sites. To learn more, visit [www.ymcaofsouthflorida.org](http://www.ymcaofsouthflorida.org), connect on Facebook or Twitter, or call a Y near you.