



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#25-0730

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: January 6, 2026

TITLE: First Reading – Ordinance Amending Section 8-55.5 of the Code of Ordinances, Titled “High Impact Events on Beach Property” to Authorize the City Manager or Designee to Do All Things Deemed Necessary to Protect the Public Beach and Public Property from Damage, Degradation, Unauthorized Uses, and Impose Additional Immediate Temporary Measures During High Impact Events - (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve an ordinance amending Section 8-55.5 of the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances (Code of Ordinances), titled “High Impact Events on Beach Property” to authorize the City Manager or designee to do all things deemed necessary to protect the public beach and public property from damage, degradation, unauthorized uses, or all, and impose additional immediate temporary measures during High Impact Events, including a curfew that restricts juvenile access to designated areas, suspension of sidewalk café permits and removal of café equipment, and modification of operating hours for parks and City facilities.

Background

Section 8-55.5 of the Code of Ordinances currently addresses regulations regarding high impact events on beach property and grants the City Manager the authority to impose immediate measures for high impact events. The Code of Ordinances defines the criteria and process for when and how the City Manager may declare a high impact event. Previously declared high impact events include Spring Break, Tortuga Music Festival, Florida Panthers Stanley Cup Celebration Parade, Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, and Fort Lauderdale Air Show, among others.

City staff identified areas in the existing Code of Ordinances that require modification to ensure consistency with current City operations, to improve enforceability, and/or to ensure public welfare. The high impact ordinance provides the City with additional ways to respond to public intoxication, loitering, crowd control, and public disturbances that warrant police intervention. The proposed amendment, prepared in coordination with various City departments, will provide the City, specifically the Police Department, with

flexibility to enforce rules and regulations for enhanced safety measures during high impact event periods.

On August 27, 2025 (Exhibit 2), City staff presented the draft ordinance to the Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Advisory Board (PRBAB) which received unanimous support. The PRBAB unanimously passed a motion to approve the proposed ordinance language by a vote of 8 – 0.

On December 8, 2025, City staff presented the draft ordinance to the Beach Business Improvement District (BBID) to share and receive feedback on the proposed modifications.

The proposed amendment modifications to Section 8-55.5 include:

- The addition of “observed holiday” in Section 4(a);
- The addition of 4(b)(8) which states, “Implement a curfew that restricts juveniles under the age of 18 years from accessing specific area(s), as designated by the city manager or designee, without the supervision of a parent or guardian 18 years of age or older”;
- The addition of 4(b)(9) which states, “Suspend sidewalk café permits and order the removal of associated café equipment”; and
- The addition of 4(b)(10) which states, “Modify operating hours for parks and city facilities.”

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Strategic Connections

This is a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Commission Priority, advancing Public Spaces and Cultural Initiatives.

This item supports the 2029 Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area, Goal 5: Build a beautiful and welcoming community.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Here*.

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area
- The Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Element
- Goal 1: Be a community where persons of all ages are able to partake in a fun and healthy lifestyle.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance

Exhibit 2 – August 27, 2025, Parks Recreation and Beaches Board Minutes

Exhibit 3 – Business Impact Estimate

Prepared by: Carolyn Bean, Assistant to the Director, Parks and Recreation

Department Director: Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation