



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING**

#26-0184

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: February 3, 2026

TITLE: Presentation on the Preparation of City of Fort Lauderdale Operations During Spring Break 2026 - City Manager's Office (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

The City Manager's Office will present an overview of the City of Fort Lauderdale's preparation for Spring Break 2026 and the operational responsibilities of various City departments including the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue, Transportation and Mobility, Strategic Communications, and Community Services.

Background

Each year, thousands of college age people seek to spend Spring Break in Fort Lauderdale in large part due to our warm climate, our pristine beach, and our world class hotels, restaurants, and nightlife. Since the 1960's when the movie *Where the Boys Are* introduced many to Fort Lauderdale as a Spring Break destination, Fort Lauderdale has grown accustomed to hosting students from late February to early April each year. While many are in our community to engage in various recreational activities that include parties, social events, and other festive gatherings, City staff is hard at work to ensure that everyone's need for safety and enjoyment is met and that our entire community can enjoy all that springtime in Fort Lauderdale has to offer. While the Spring Break event period is from February 23, 2026 – April 17, 2026, based on data and prior history, the peak period is anticipated to begin the week of March 8, 2026 and end the week of March 22, 2026.

The City of Fort Lauderdale has four (4) primary goals that guide staff's operations throughout the Spring Break High Impact Period:

- Provide a safe and orderly environment;
- Facilitate efficient movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic;
- Gain compliance with existing City ordinances and state statutes; and
- Work seamlessly with all City departments during Spring Break operations.

Public Engagement

In advance of Spring Break, staff will actively engage with hotels, bars and restaurants, entertainment districts, and the community to share information, increase awareness of the City's operational plan, and to understand their needs and expectations. The following is a schedule of upcoming informational outreach meetings:

- **February 9** – Beach Business Improvement District Advisory Committee
- **February 11** – Himmarshee business owners, nearby hotels, and stakeholders
- **February 19** – Barrier Island Spring Break operations meeting with barrier island hoteliers and their security teams, restaurants, vendors such as the City's beach chair provider and the Water Taxi, and Central Beach Alliance leadership
- **February 20** – Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Beach Council Committee that includes hotel general managers and marketing directors

Additionally, The City is preparing Spring Break communications through a coordinated approach that prioritizes clear expectations and consistent messaging. Outreach will emphasize public safety through responsible visitation. The City's messaging will be deployed consistently across multiple channels including direct outreach, social media, earned media, and partner platforms. In close coordination with media partners, the City will proactively set boundaries that support a safe Spring Break experience for residents, businesses, and visitors. A City press conference will be scheduled in February ahead of the Spring Break season to share the City's coordinated approach and highlight public safety preparations.

Key Operational Elements

- High Impact Event Zones: Barrier Island and Downtown
 - Alcohol, coolers, tents, and tables or similar structures will not be allowed in certain areas of the beach.
 - Live and amplified music may be limited.
 - A curfew may be implemented that restricts juveniles under the age of eighteen (18) from accessing specific areas at or near a high impact event, unless supervised by a parent or adult eighteen (18) years of age or older.
 - Suspension of sidewalk café permits and the removal of associated café equipment may be implemented.
 - Modification of operating hours for parks and City facilities.
- Robust public engagement and messaging through Strategic Communications.
- Additional police assigned to the beach and entertainment districts during high volume times of day and night.
- Outside agency assistance that includes the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tabacco Bureau of Law Enforcement and the City of Davie's Police Department's mounted unit.
- Information provided to visitors through hotels and other points of contact that includes safety information about pickpockets, how to avoid sexual assault, and drug and alcohol abuse.
- Strategic deployment of transportation services by Circuit.

- Emergency medical preparedness for anticipated impacts related to heat, alcohol intoxication, drug abuse, and water rescue.
- Enhanced sanitation throughout the barrier island with a focus on high impact areas.
- Code Enforcement availability seven (7) days a week during Spring Break to be proactive and reactive to issues commonly encountered such as noise at entertainment venues and vacation rentals, parking in residential neighborhoods, vacation rentals that exceed the permissible number of people staying in the rental, and unregistered vacation rentals.

Strategic Connections

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 Place specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area
- The Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Area
- Goal 2: Be a community with high quality parks and recreational facilities that highlight the character of our city.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Spring Break Presentation

Prepared by: Christopher Cooper, Deputy City Manager, City Manager's Office

Charter Officer: Rickelle Williams, City Manager