



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#16-1211

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

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: October 18, 2016

TITLE: Discussion of Beach Special Events During Sea Turtle Nesting Season

The purpose of this discussion is to seek direction related to special events that occur on the beach during sea turtle nesting season. Goal 4, Objective 2 of the Public Places Cylinder of Excellence in the Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018 initiative states, "Be a healthy community with fun and stimulating recreational activities for our neighbors, and celebrate our community through special events". Large and small scale events held throughout the City celebrate our community and draw visitors from all around.

Currently, the City hosts several events which affect the beach either directly or indirectly. These events include but are not limited to SWATCH Volleyball (February), A1A Marathon (February), Aids Walk (February), Pride on the Beach (February), Tortuga Music Festival (April), Air Show (May), Boat Show (November) and now Riptide Music & Food Festival (December).

Sea turtle nesting season is March through October every year. While most of our large scale events do not conflict, Tortuga Music Festival and Air Show fall within the nesting season.

In discussion with representatives of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), it was suggested the Tortuga Music Festival is reaching sufficient duration, size and potential impact that a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and subsequent Incidental Take Permit (ITP) under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) should be applied for. This would be intended to ensure mitigation efforts are in place to minimize or eliminate impacts potentially created by the event.

We are seeking direction from the Mayor and City Commission on whether there is interest in the City participating in the preparation of a HCP and application for an ITP to more holistically address special events during sea turtle nesting season or if this is something individual event promoters should take into consideration when selecting

dates to propose an event on the beach.

The Washington D.C. law firm Nossaman, LLP indicates they have worked on more HCPs than any other law firm or attorneys nationally and are currently working with the Galt Mile Community Association in the preparation of a HCP and ITP. Nossaman, LLP has prepared an "Overview of HCP Development Process". The overview provides a description of the ten basic steps in the HCP development/ITP application process. It is included as Exhibit 1 for informational purposes.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Public Places Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 4: Be a healthy community with fun and stimulating recreational activities for our neighbors.
- Objective 2: Celebrate our community through special events and sports.
- Initiative 1: Evaluate special events planning to streamline both the City, vendor, and neighborhood experience; ensure effective logistics and safety.

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

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Overview of HCP Development Process

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