



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE

OUTDOOR EVENT ORDINANCE

April 7, 2026

Prior Commission Direction

At the August 19, 2025, City Commission Conference Meeting staff presented the impact fee matrix concept

The staff recommendations included fee increases which were met with concerns from event organizers

The City Commission advised staff to seek additional feedback from stakeholders and event organizers and compile recommendations

Additional Outreach Meetings

- **Stakeholder Meetings**

- Meeting Dates:

- December 3, 2025
- January 16, 2026
- January 27, 2026

- Participants

- Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale
- Central Beach Alliance
- Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Development Authority
- Hilton
- Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association
- City Staff

- **Event Organizer Meeting**

- Meeting Date:

- February 4, 2026

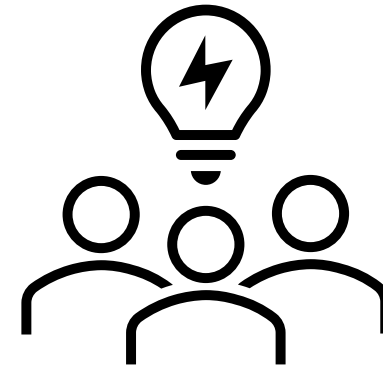
- Participants*:

- Tortuga Music Festival
- Lauderdale Air Show
- Split Second Timing (Shamrock Run, Turkey Trot)
- Exclusive Sports (A1A Marathon)
- Igloo Cooler Festival

Outreach Overview & Outcomes

Overview:

- Background and history on City Commission feedback
- Review strategies to limit the number of outdoor events
- Review fee structures based on public impacts
- Stakeholder feedback and concerns



Outcomes:

- Fee Recommendations
- Support for the implementation of an Impact Fee Matrix
- Establish “Signature Event” designation and a maximum fee cap
- Establish “Legacy Event” designation and a maximum fee cap for run/walk events only

Stakeholder Feedback – Application Fees

Application Fees	Current Fees	Stakeholder Feedback
Standard: 90 days+ in advance	\$200	\$500
Late Application – Tier I: 60 - 89 days in advance	\$1,000	\$1,500
Late Application – Tier II: Less than 60 days in advance	\$1,000	\$2,000

Stakeholder Feedback – Fee Matrix

Category	Staff Recommendation	Stakeholder Feedback
Limited Impact	\$500/day	\$500/day
Moderate Impact	\$1,000/day	\$1,000/day
Major Impact	\$1,500/day	\$1,500/day
Signature Event Designation Maximum Fee Cap	--	\$25,000/event
Legacy Event Designation Run/Walk Maximum Fee Cap	--	\$2,500/event

- The stakeholders recommend that the event fee include the use of City parks, recreational facilities, or the beach property and that there are not separate facilities fees based on the use.

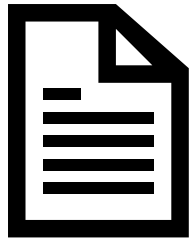
Signature Events Designation

- Distinct, recognizable event that meets the following criteria:
 - **Uniqueness:** Stands out from other events and not easily replicated
 - **Strong Association:** People immediately connect the event with the host (i.e., city, brand or institution) that reflects mission, image or goals of the organizer
 - **Consistency:** Often held annually or seasonally with recognizable format or theme
 - **Positive Impact:** Generates significant attention, participation or cultural value and substantial positive economic impact to the City

Examples:

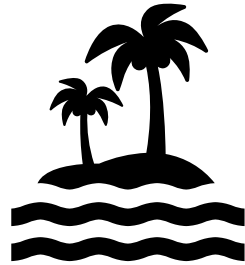
- Tortuga Music Festival
- Lauderdale Air Show
- Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show

Signature Event Designation Process



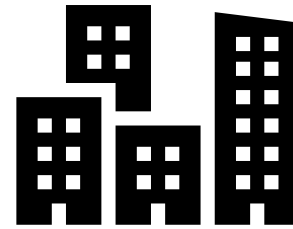
Application

The event promoter submits a request for the event to receive a “Signature Event” designation



Barrier Island Events

City staff will request that the BBID provide a recommendation on the designation status



City Events*

City staff will request that the PRBAB provide a recommendation on the designation status



Commission Consideration

Once the BBID/PRBAB has provided a recommendation, the City Commission will determine the designation request.

Signature Event Examples

- Tortuga Music Festival

- Current Fees: \$13,500
- Proposed Fees without Signature Event designation: \$40,500
- Proposed Fees with Signature Event designation: \$25,000



- Lauderdale Air Show

- Current Fee: \$2,500
- Proposed Fees without Signature Event designation: \$7,500
- Proposed Fees with Signature Event designation: \$7,500



Legacy Events Designation

- Recurring events that meet the following criteria:
 - Remain in good standing with the City
 - Event held within the City of Fort Lauderdale for five (5) consecutive years or more
 - Eligible for priority scheduling over new event requests
 - Run/Walk events eligible for a maximum fee cap
- City staff will designate “Legacy Events” upon review of the event application and verify it meets Legacy Event designation definition

Examples:

- A1A Marathon
- Turkey Trot
- Igloo Cooler Festival
- Las Olas Art Fair
- Christmas on Las Olas

Fee Comparison Matrix

Event	Proposed Designation	Current Impact	Current Total Fee	Proposed Impact	Proposed License Fee	Proposed Total Fee	Notes
Igloo Cooler	--	Minor	\$200	None	\$0	\$500	\$500 application fee
Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show	Signature	Major	\$200	Major	\$45,000	\$25,000*	\$500 application fee \$1,500/day x 31 days = \$45,000. *Signature Events maximum of \$25,000.
Turkey Trot	Legacy	Intermediate	\$200	Moderate	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$500 application fee \$1,000/day x 1 day = \$1,000.
Tortuga Music Festival	Signature	Major	\$13,500	Major	\$40,500	\$25,000*	\$500 application fee \$1,500/day x 31 days = \$45,000. *Signature Events maximum of \$25,000.
Walk like MADD	--	Intermediate	\$200	Limited	\$0	\$500	\$500 application fee

Limiting Events Considerations

Approve no more than one (1) event permit per month with a road closure on the barrier island.*

*Currently there are nineteen (19) annually

Implement a civic association acknowledgement form requirement for each event organizer to complete.

Establish a “quiet weekend” each month on the barrier island.*

Implement seasonal restrictions on road closures such as spring break or major holidays.*

Options for City Commission Consideration

- Based on the outreach and stakeholder feedback, City staff are presenting six (6) potential options for City Commission consideration.
- City staff seek City Commission feedback on if it would like to incorporate any of the six (6) options and if so, which options.

- ① Take no action
- ② Increase Application Fee
- ③ Implement the Outdoor Event Impact Fee Matrix
- ④ Cap the outdoor event fees for Signature Events at \$25,000 per event
- ⑤ Cap the outdoor event fees for run/walk events at \$2,500 per event
- ⑥ Implement a policy to limit the number of outdoor events (340 events in 2025)

Potential Next Steps

