

From: Loretta DiTocco <lorettamdt@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2026 3:20 PM
To: Brian L. Barroso; Mayor E-Mail; District VI; District V; District IV; District III; District II; District I
Cc: City Clerk External E-Mail
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Resolution 26-5489 — Special Events and Pavilion Rental Fee Schedule — Request for Nonprofit/Civic Exemption and Fee Waiver Standards

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Dear Madam Mayor, Commissioners, and City Manager Barroso,

I respectfully urge the Commission to address a significant omission in Resolution 26-5489 and its enabling ordinance before final adoption: the absence of any fee waiver or reduced-fee category for nonprofit organizations and civic groups.

I support the City's goal of recovering costs associated with special events and the use of City-owned property. The local organizer discount included in Exhibit A is a sound policy choice, and the fee levels—a \$200 application fee and per-day event fees scaled to attendance—are generally consistent with those used by comparable Florida municipalities.

Taken as a whole, the proposed fee structure represents a fiscally responsible effort to diversify municipal revenue without increasing the tax burden on residents.

Exhibit A establishes fees for special events and pavilion rentals and provides a discount for local organizers. However, it contains no fee waiver provision, reduced-fee tier, or exemption category for nonprofit organizations, civic leagues, neighborhood associations, voter education groups, or other entities whose use of public space serves a demonstrable community benefit rather than a commercial purpose.

This is not a minor oversight. Under the fee schedule as written, a nonpartisan voter registration drive, neighborhood civic forum, community health fair, environmental education program, or similar public-benefit event hosted by a 501(c)(3) organization would be subject to the same application fee as a commercial promoter. That outcome is neither equitable nor consistent with the City's longstanding support for civic engagement and community-based activities on public property.

Many municipalities have addressed this issue through nonprofit fee waivers or reduced-fee categories governed by objective, content-neutral criteria.

I respectfully request that the Commission direct staff to incorporate one or both of the following provisions into the enabling ordinance or a companion resolution before, or concurrent with, final adoption:

1. A reduced-fee or waived-fee category for 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations conducting events whose primary purpose is civic, educational, charitable, or community benefit, with verification through appropriate IRS documentation; and/or
2. Explicit City Manager fee-waiver authority governed by content-neutral criteria that prohibit consideration of an applicant's message, viewpoint, or associational identity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Loretta M Di Tocco

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