



MEMORANDUM

Date: January 6, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Brian L. Barroso
City Manager

CC: Marcus Davila
Director of Community Services

From: Kelli Funkhouser
Special Events Manager

Subject: **[FILE ID: 25-4875] Special Event Permit for the “2nd Annual Roots on the Rock/Big Game Tailgate and Watch Party” on February 7, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and February 8, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. on South Beach**

Introduction

The City Manager’s Office requests the approval of the “2nd Annual Roots on the Rock/Big Game Tailgate and Watch Party” on Saturday, February 7, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 8, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. (or end of game) on South Beach.

Background

The City Manager’s Office has received an application from “Southernmost Beach Resort/Southernmost Beach Cafe” for the “Annual Roots on the Rock” on Saturday, February 7, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and a “Big Game Tailgate and Watch Party” on Sunday, February 8, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. (or end of game). On Saturday, February 7, 2026, they will have a 5-band concert on South Beach. There is a \$20 donation for entry, with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the S.O.S. Foundation of Monroe County. On Sunday, February 8, 2026, they will host a party to watch the Superbowl on a big screen on South Beach. Ticket includes tailgate buffet and open bar. Per the Lease Agreement for South Beach, the tenant is allowed five (5) special events per year on the beach. The applicant has agreed to abide by City Codes and Ordinances, including providing insurance.

The applicant is requesting permission allowing the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within the enclosed area.

The applicant has applied for a noise exemption due to live, amplified music on Saturday and amplified sound on Sunday. Notice of the City Commission's proposed action on a Noise Exemption was published in the Citizen and on KeysNews.com. Properties within 100' were mailed notice.

Procurement

There will be no additional expenses to the city as all service costs (Police/Fire/Community Services) are covered by the applicant, based on the Special Event Matrix. The applicant will pay the City of Key West the Local Private Small Event Fee of \$275 based on the Special Event Matrix.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office recommends the Mayor & City Commission approve the "Roots on the Rock/Big Game Tailgate and Watch Party" on Saturday, February 7, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, February 8, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. (or end of game) on South Beach