



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 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: 26-5662 – Recommendation to approve the “LEAD Fest Circus Key West” on Wednesday, February 24, 2027, through Sunday, February 28, 2027**

Introduction

The City Manager’s Office requests the approval of the “LEAD Fest Circus Key West” Wednesday, February 24, 2027, through Friday, February 26, 2027, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 27, 2027, and Sunday, February 28, 2027, from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Truman Waterfront Park gravel lot across from the Amphitheater.

Background

The City Manager’s Office has received an application from “L.E.A.D. Inc.” for the “LEAD Fest Circus Key West” on Wednesday, February 24, 2027, through Sunday, February 28, 2027. Wednesday through Friday, times are from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Setup will take place on Monday, February 22, 2027, and Tuesday, February 23, 2027.

The L.E.A.D. Fest Circus is a family-oriented community event featuring a traditional circus performance with acrobatic acts, jugglers, aerial artists, and animal-free entertainment under a temporary big top tent. The Amazing Anastasia’s are an 8-generation circus family from Italy that will be doing a tour in Florida next year and they reached out to bring their Circus to our area. There is a max attendance of 400 per show. The grounds will be fully fenced and staffed with trained personnel responsible for crowd management, security, sanitation, and emergency response coordination. Public admission and activities will occur only during the approved operating hours, with setup and breakdown taking place outside of show times in accordance with all city regulations and permit conditions.

Community Services worked with the applicant to find an area that will fit the space needed for the tent. The gravel parking lot across from the Amphitheater was the best area to accommodate their needs.

Proceeds and donations will be used by L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Against Drugs & Violence) to support its mission of providing evidence-based drug and violence prevention education, law enforcement training, and youth outreach programs. The applicant has agreed to abide by City Codes and Ordinances, including providing insurance.

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 Fee Schedule.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office recommends the Mayor & City Commission approve the "LEAD Fest Circus Key West" Wednesday, February 24, 2027, through Friday, February 26, 2027, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 27, 2027, and Sunday, February 28, 2027, from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Truman Waterfront Park gravel lot across from the Amphitheater.