



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 5, 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: 26-5019] Recommendation to approve the “Conch Revival Picnic” on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Introduction

The City Manager’s Office requests the approval of the “Conch Revival Picnic” on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (setup beginning at 8:00 a.m.) at the Customs House and Clinton Place.

Background

The City Manager’s Office has received an application from “Key West Art & Historical Society” for their Annual “Conch Revival Picnic” on Wednesday, March 18, 2026. The KWAHS, Great Events Catering, and Unity Table at Williams Hall are presenting their 10th annual Conch Revival Picnic – a beloved heritage dinner honoring the island’s rich culinary traditions. The event usually takes place at the Key West Lighthouse Museum; this year they would like to hold it at the Custom House and use Clinton Place. This year’s picnic-style feast will be crafted by renowned chefs Martha Hubbard and Dave Furman, offering a flavorful tribute to Key West’s Bahamian and Cuban roots through historic recipes, lively music, and a warm community spirit. The event also celebrates the launch of the Smithsonian’s FOOD exhibition, opening in the museum in February 2026. Originally inspired by the late Dianne Zolotow, a dedicated board member of The Society, the Conch Revival Picnic was created to preserve and showcase the traditional dishes passed down through generations of Conch families. Many featured recipes are drawn from the postwar Key West Woman’s Club Cookbook and other rare publications in the Society’s archives – recipes that are fast fading from local memory and dinner tables. Funds raised go toward operating support of the Key West Art & Historical Society. The applicant has agreed to abide by City Codes and Ordinances, including providing insurance.

The applicant is requesting approval for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within the enclosed area.

Due to having amplified, live music, a noise exemption is requested. Notice of the City Commission's proposed action on a Noise Exemption was published in The Citizen and on KeysNews.com. Property owners within a 100-foot radius 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.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office recommends the Mayor and Commission approve the Conch Revival Picnic on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Custom House and Clinton Place.