



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: 26-5666 – Recommendation to approve the “Marinelife Rally Key West” on Saturday, August 29, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Introduction

The City Manager’s Office requests the approval of the “Marinelife Rally Key West” on Saturday, August 29, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. beginning at Mallory Square and ending at the Southernmost Point Buoy at the Duval Street Pocket Park.

Background

The City Manager’s Office has received an application from “Endangered Species Coalition” for the “Marinelife Rally Key West” on Saturday, August 29, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Participants will gather at Mallory Square for an opening program featuring speakers who will address the importance of protecting the Florida Keys’ marine ecosystem, wildlife, clean water, reefs, and local coastal economy.

Following the speaker program, participants will take part in a peaceful, approximately 20-minute march escorted by KWPD, down Duval Street to the endpoint at the Southernmost Point Buoy location. The march will highlight public concern over the Trump administration’s March 31, 2026, decision to exempt Gulf offshore oil and gas operations from Endangered Species Act safeguards.

The event is intended to communicate that the Florida Keys are more than a tourism destination; they are a living marine ecosystem, a fishing community, a tourism economy, and habitat for protected wildlife in nationally treasured waters. Speakers and participants will emphasize that weakening Endangered Species Act protections for offshore drilling places sea turtles, manatees, corals, fish, birds, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary at greater risk.

The event will also draw attention to the economic stakes for local residents and businesses that rely on healthy reefs and clean water, including fishing families, dive operators, charter captains, hotels, restaurants, tourism workers, and other members of the Keys community. The program and

march will conclude at the Southernmost Point Buoy, where participants will gather for closing remarks, visual messaging and public outreach.

Any donations received during the rally will be used to further the grassroots advocacy programs and educate the public about threatened and endangered wildlife and the laws that protect them. 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 "Marinelife Key West" on Saturday, August 29, 2027, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. beginning at Mallory Square and ending at the Southernmost Point Buoy location.