



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: 25-4873] Special Event Permit for “Southernmost Youth Regatta” on Friday, January 16, 2026, through Sunday, January 18, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Introduction

The City Manager’s Office requests the approval of “Southernmost Youth Regatta” on Friday, January 16, 2026, through Sunday, January 18, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Truman Waterfront Park Quay Wall, the playground side of the boat ramp and the gravel lot.

Background

The City Manager’s Office has received an application from the “Key West Community Sailing Center” for the “Southernmost Youth Regatta” on Friday, January 16, 2026, through Sunday, January 18, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. This youth-focused event represents more than just another race. It fills a major gap in the Florida Keys, where youth sailors have traditionally lacked access to competitive events close to home. Now, for the first time, junior sailors will have the chance to compete in Key West. KWCSC has a proven record of running well-organized, welcoming events, including the Halloween Regatta, ‘Roud the Island Race’, Winter Dinghy Championship, and Sunset Cruise Cup. With experienced staff, knowledgeable volunteers, a commitment to safety and sportsmanship, the Center is well-equipped to deliver a high-quality youth regatta that draws participants from across the state and country. The Southernmost Youth Regatta is designed as more than just a race. By attracting families to Key West, it boosts local tourism and adds to the island’s vibrant cultural scene. Visitors can enjoy sailing, fishing, diving, and the city’s unique charm – making the event memorable both on and off the water. The Regatta is strategically scheduled the weekend before, and partnered with, the Southernmost Regatta – creating a rare multigenerational opportunity: youth compete first, then parents or older siblings can race the following week. This overlap turns a typical weekend event into a weeklong sailing getaway. The three-day schedule includes Friday check-in and setup, two full days of racing, and an awards ceremony Sunday evening. With KWCSC’s leadership and the support of the

community, the Southernmost Youth Regatta is set to become a lasting fixture on the sailing calendar – celebrating youth, sport, and the enduring spirit of the sea that defines Key West. Pall proceeds will go towards support of the Sailing Center’s Youth Sailing Programs and Scholarship Fund. The applicant has agreed to abide by City Codes and Ordinances, including providing insurance.

The KWCSC has been in contact with the Navy for permission to use the Inner Mole. The Navy has given its approval pending a few conditions are met. The approval letter from the Navy will be included once received.

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 & City Commission approve the “Southernmost Youth Regatta” on Friday, January 16 through Sunday, January 18, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Truman Waterfront Park Quay Wall, the playground side of the boat ramp and the gravel lot.