



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: 26-5681 - Recommendation to approve “Pole Vault in Paradise + Run for Paradise” on Thursday, November 7, 2027, through Sunday, November 10, 2027, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Higgs Beach**

Introduction

The City Manager’s Office requests the approval of the “Pole Vault in Paradise + Run for Paradise” on Thursday, January 7, 2027, through Sunday, January 10, 2027, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Higgs Beach.

Background

The City Manager’s Office has received an application from Key West Track & Field Club, Inc. for the “Pole Vault in Paradise + Run for Paradise” on Thursday, January 7, 2027, through Sunday, January 10, 2027, to authorize the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

The annual Pole Vault in Paradise and Run for Paradise 5K, is a USATF-sanctioned pole vault competition that has been held at Higgs Beach for the past seven years. Proceeds from the event support youth track and field programming in Key West, with the accompanying Run for Paradise 5K providing additional funding for local youth athletics.

The event schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, January 7: Setup for the pole vault competition begins at 8:00 a.m.
- Friday, January 8: A clinic is held at noon and a dinner in the evening where alcohol is served in a tent on the beach for guests.

- Saturday, January 9: Setup for the Run for Paradise 5K begins at 6:30 a.m. with the race starting at 8:00 a.m. The course is cleared by 9:00 a.m. and the competition begins. Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase on the beach. Food service will include a Pepsi beverage truck and a grill serving hamburgers and hot dogs, located within a blocked parking space. The competition typically concludes at sunset.
- Sunday, January 10: Breakdown begins at 8:00 a.m. and is expected to be cleared from the beach by noon.

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 and Commission approve the "Pole Vault in Paradise + Run for Paradise" on Thursday, January 7, 2027, through Sunday, January 10, 2027, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Higgs Beach.