




MEMORANDUM

Date: March 14, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Albert P. Childress
City Manager 

From: Maria Ratcliff
Special Event Administrator

Subject: **24-5539 Recommendation to Approve the “The 42nd Annual Conch Republic Independence Celebration 2024 from April 19, 2024, through April 28, 2024.**

Introduction

The City Manager’s Office requests the approval of the Annual “42nd Annual Conch Republic Independence Celebration”, which consists of numerous events during April 19, 2024, through April 28, 2024.

Background

The City Manager’s Office has received an application for “the 42nd Annual Conch Republic Independence Celebration” for numerous events and at different locations through town starting on April 19th and ending on April 28th, 2024. This will be their 42nd Annual event and it is benefiting many local nonprofits charities. This event is free to the public. The Conch Republic was born on April 23, 1982, in response to a United States Border Patrol blockade of the Florida Keys. Since the United States insisted on treating the Keys like a foreign country, Mayor Dennis Wardlow seceded from Union. Today we stand proudly as a community of who have “Sovereign State of mind” and as the People who seceded where others have failed”. The seventeen mile traffic jam immediately ensued as the Border Patrol stopped every car leaving or entering the keys, supposedly searching for illegal drugs and aliens who might be hiding under the front seats and trunks and thus the Conch Republic was born.

There are a total of 7 events under the Conch Republic Independence Celebration Resolution:

They are:

Conch Republic Drag Races – Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the 700 block of Duval Street

Conch Republic Independence Street Fair – Sunday, April 21, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Duval Street between Eaton and Greene Streets

Conch Republic Ceremony & Military Muster 2024 – Tuesday, April 23, 2024, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. USCG Ingham Pier and aboard ship

Conch Republic the Longest Parade – Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Duval Street South to Greene Street

Conch Republic Military Salute Naval Parade & Sea Battle – Friday, April 26, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the T Pier at Mallory Square

Conch Republic Bed Races – Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Duval Street between Olivia and Southard Street

Conch Republic Brawl on Duval Street, Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on 200 block of Duval Street

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 "42nd Annual Conch Republic Independence Celebration" starting on April 19th to April 28, 2024.