



MEMORANDUM

Date: July 1, 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: 26-5554 - Recommendation to approve “Key West Oyster Fest” on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

Introduction

The City Manager’s Office requests the approval of the “Key West Oyster Fest” on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Half Shell Raw Bar, 231 Margaret Street.

Background

The City Manager’s Office has received an application from Half Shell Raw Bar for the Key West Oyster Fest on Saturday, November 14, 2026. This event is a celebration of food, music, education, and coastal conservation designed to support oyster reef restoration efforts across Florida. The festival will offer a unique, immersive experience celebrating sustainably sourced Florida oysters and the joy of gathering with friends and family over incredible seafood.

The mission of Key West Oyster Fest is to educate consumers about South Florida oyster farming while actively collecting shells for Gulf Coast oyster reef restoration. Increased oyster consumption directly benefits local oyster farms while contributing to the restoration and enhancement of wild oyster reef populations. Highlights of the event include all-you-can-eat oysters from regional oyster farms, oyster creations prepared by Michelin-starred and celebrity chefs, participation from Florida’s top chefs and local restaurants, live music and entertainment throughout the evening, educational experiences focused on oyster reef restoration and marine conservation and a high-energy open-air waterfront atmosphere.

The outdoor event will take place rain or shine. Proceeds will benefit Reef Relief and Gulf Coast Oyster Movement, Inc. for coral reef protection and education and oyster recycling outreach programs. 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 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 "Key West Oyster Fest" on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Half Shell Raw Bar, 231 Margaret Street.