MEMORANDUM

Date: February 11, 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: 26-4993] Recommendation to approve the "Sport Fishing Championship 2026" on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, through Sunday, April 19, 2026, daily from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

Introduction

The City Manager's Office requests the approval of the "Sport Fishing Championship 2026" on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, through Sunday, April 19, 2026, daily from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the 631 Greene Street parking lot and the adjacent gravel parking lot.

Background

The City Manager's Office has received an application from "Conch Republic Seafood Company" for the "Sport Fishing Championship 2026" on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, through Sunday, April 19, 2026, daily from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. The event is a multi-day professional sportfishing tournament and waterfront activation at the Historic Key West Seaport. The event will feature elite sportfishing yachts docked directly in front of the restaurant along the seaport wall, serving as the tournament's central marina and public-facing showcase.

In conjunction with the on-water activities, a temporary Sportfishing Village will be installed within the 631 Greene Street parking lot and the adjacent gravel lot. This village will include sponsor activations, team check-in areas, merchandise, weigh-in related programming, and fan engagement experiences designed to celebrate offshore sportfishing and Key West's historic maritime culture. The layout, operations, and footprint will closely mirror the City-approved November Powerboat Race events that have successfully taken place in this same location for more than 30 years.

The tournament is part of a nationally recognized professional fishing series with major broadcast and media partners, including ESPN, Hulu, Disney+, and affiliated platforms. The event is expected to draw visiting teams, media crews, sponsors, and spectators, generating a significant economic activity for the Historic Seaport, surrounding businesses, and the City of Key West as a whole.

This activation is fully aligned with the intent of Conch Republic Seafood Company's lease provisions, which were established to allow for large-scale, destination events that enhance the vibrancy, visibility, and economic impact of the Historic Key West Seaport while maintaining safe, coordinated operations with City departments.

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 Special Event Matrix. City parking fees are waived per previous management direction.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office recommends the Mayor and Commission the Sport Fishing Championship 2026 on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, through Sunday, April 19, 2026, daily from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the 631 Greene Street parking lot and adjacent gravel lot.