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: 26-4984] Recommendation to approve "Taste of Key West" on Monday, March 23, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Truman Waterfront Quay Wall**

Introduction

The City Manager's Office requests the approval of the annual "Taste of Key West" on Monday, March 23, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Truman Waterfront Quay Wall.

Background

The City Manager's Office has received an application from "We've Got the Keys for AH of Monroe County, Inc." for the 31st Annual "Taste of Key West" on Monday, March 23, 2026. This event is a favorite of locals and those planning a spring vacation to the island. More than 50 restaurants participate in this highly anticipated Key West event, and 100-plus beers and wines are available for sipping enjoyment. The open-air event promises a bounty of beverage and palate-pleasing plates. Restaurants and food vendors from across the Lower Keys and Key West donate staff's time and extraordinary culinary talents to create delectable small plates. In addition to the scrumptious food, libations are free-flowing throughout the event. A selection of wines and craft beers from across the globe are provided by Republic National Distributing Company. Connoisseurs can expect to be wowed with vintages from vineyards and wineries as well as a vast selection of beers to sample. The funds raised will directly support the food and emergency services provided by A.H. Monroe, an organization operating in Monroe County. 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.

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 Taste of Key West on Monday, March 23, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Truman Waterfront Quay Wall.