



**LETTER TO THE COMMISSION**

**LTC No: 26-049**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission  
**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*  
**DATE:** February 25, 2026  
**SUBJECT: Spring Break 2026 Preparations**

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The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide an overview of the coordinated multi-departmental operational strategy underway in preparation for Spring Break 2026.

The Spring Break period in Fort Lauderdale is identified as February 28 through March 31, 2026, with the peak visitation anticipated between March 8 and March 22. During this period, the City will enhance operations within Spring Break high impact areas to maintain public safety, support local businesses and protect neighborhood quality of life.

Consistent with prior years, the City Manager will implement a designated High Impact Period within established High Impact Event Zones on the Barrier Island and in Downtown Fort Lauderdale, with intensified operational measures concentrated during the peak weeks of March 8 through March 22.

**Barrier Island High Impact Zone**

**Boundaries:** The Barrier Island High Impact Zone is bounded by Sunrise Boulevard to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, Holiday Drive to the south, and the westernmost bank of the Intracoastal Waterway to the west.

**Prohibitive Measures:** The following prohibitive measures shall be imposed during the 2026 Spring Break High Impact Period for the Barrier Island High Impact Zone and shall be enforced pursuant to Section 8-55.5(d) of the Code, as amended:

- Prohibition of coolers on beach property.
- Prohibition of inflatable devices on beach property from the 900 Block of Seabreeze north to Sunrise Boulevard;
- Prohibition of tents, tables, and similar structures on beach property from the 900 block of Seabreeze north to Sunrise Boulevard;

- Limitation of live or amplified music on beach property from the 900 block of Seabreeze north to Sunrise Boulevard; and
- Prohibition of possessing or consuming alcohol on the beach property from the 900 block of Seabreeze north to Sunrise Boulevard. Consumption of alcohol is permitted on beach properties within areas licensed by the City in accordance with Section 8-55.4 of the Code, as amended.

**Possible Prohibitive Measures:** The following measures may be imposed during the 2026 Spring Break High Impact Period to mitigate potential negative impacts to the Barrier Island High Impact Zone and is enforceable pursuant to section 8-55.5(d) of the Code, as amended:

- Implementation of an age limitation that restricts juveniles under the age of eighteen (18) years old from accessing specific area(s) at or near a high impact event, as designated by the City Manager or designee, without the supervision of a parent or guardian over the age of eighteen (18) years old;
- Suspension of sidewalk café permits and the removal of associated café equipment with notice to the permittee pursuant to Section 25-190 of the Code; and
- Modification of operating hours for parks and City facilities.

### **Downtown High Impact Zone**

**Boundaries:** The downtown high impact zone is bounded by Broward Boulevard to the north, Andrews Avenue to the east, the northernmost bank of the New River to the south, and Southwest 7 Avenue to the west.

**Prohibitive Measures:** The following prohibitive measures shall be imposed during the 2026 Spring Break High Impact Period for the Downtown High Impact Zone and shall be enforced pursuant to Section 8-55.5(d) of the Code, as amended:

- Prohibition of coolers anywhere within the high impact zone;
- Implementation of an age limitation that restricts juveniles under the age of eighteen (18) years old from accessing specific area(s) within the High Impact Zone between the hours of 10:00 pm and 5:00 am, as designated by the City Manager or designee, without the supervision of a parent or guardian over the age of eighteen (18) years old;

**Possible Prohibitive Measures:** The following measures may be imposed during the 2026 Spring Break High Impact Period to mitigate potential negative impacts to the Downtown High Impact Zone and is enforceable pursuant to Section 8-55.5(d) of the Code, as amended:

- Suspension of sidewalk café permits and the removal of associated café equipment with notice to the permittee pursuant to section 25-190 of the Code; and
- Modification of operating hours for parks and City facilities.

Outlined below is a summary of departmental preparations:

### **Police Department**

The Police Department will enhance staffing levels and implement targeted special operations throughout the Spring Break period. Increased personnel within designated High Impact Zones will be supplemented with outside agency support.

Officers will actively enforce newly adopted High Impact ordinances, including the prohibition of open containers in designated areas and enhanced juvenile enforcement measures in the downtown district. Additional strategies include continued implementation of the Bar Watch Program and direct public messaging to visitors regarding City regulations and behavioral expectations.

### **Fire Rescue Department**

Fire Rescue will initiate a Level 3 activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in monitoring status to support citywide operations throughout the Spring Break period. Preparations include enhanced staffing of Ocean Rescue and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), with additional lifeguards deployed along the beachfront and strategic placement of medical response carts to improve rapid response times in high-traffic areas.

Fire Prevention personnel will conduct proactive occupancy checks and life-safety inspections at entertainment venues and other high-capacity establishments to ensure compliance with fire code requirements and maintain safe operating conditions.

The department has also launched the C.O.R.E. FTL program, expanding access to Narcan and making it readily available at participating hotels, bars and restaurants throughout the city. This initiative strengthens overdose prevention efforts and reinforces the City's commitment to public health and safety during high-impact periods.

### **Transportation and Mobility**

Transportation and Mobility will implement enhanced operational measures to manage peak travel demand and maintain safe, orderly circulation throughout the Spring Break period. The Department will operate the free "LauderGO" Micro Mover to assist with off-island dispersal during high-volume periods and enhance parking enforcement.

A temporary Barrier Island roadway and right-of-way construction moratorium will be in effect for non-emergency work to reduce congestion and preserve emergency access. Staff will coordinate closely with FDOT to minimize roadway disruptions and monitor real-time conditions in partnership with other agencies.

Rideshare and vehicles-for-hire activity will be managed through geofencing, designated operational controls and targeted outreach to maintain traffic flow and public safety.

### **Community Enhancement and Compliance**

Code Compliance will maintain 24-hour operations throughout the Spring Break period with continuous field deployment focused on noise violations, vacation rental compliance and regulated business activity. Inspectors will conduct proactive patrols and respond to complaints in real time to address quality of life matters. Code officers will coordinate with Police and partner departments to support immediate response, reinforce compliance and maintain consistent enforcement presence across high-traffic areas.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Barrier Island parks will operate with modified hours during the designated High Impact Period and staff will implement adjustments as needed to support public safety and manage crowd volumes in high-use areas. Parks staff oversees the South Beach restroom custodial vendor to maintain enhanced cleaning standards throughout the period. Staff have conducted proactive outreach with the City's beach chair vendor to reinforce requirements.

### **Public Works – Sanitation**

Public Works will implement enhanced sanitation operations throughout the period, with additional staffing deployed to support high-traffic areas.

Beach cleanings will occur each afternoon to maintain shoreline conditions. The department will increase the frequency of litter collection, deploy additional solid waste receptacles in high-volume areas and conduct enhanced pressure washing in heavily utilized areas.

These efforts are designed to maintain cleanliness and protect public health and preserve the appearance of the City's beach and downtown areas during peak activity.

### **Strategic Communications**

Strategic Communications will implement a coordinated outreach strategy to ensure clear and consistent messaging regarding public safety and behavioral expectations. Information will be shared across multiple channels including direct outreach, social media, earned media and partner platforms.

Staff conducted stakeholder meetings with the Beach Business Improvement District, Himmarshee business owners and hotels, Barrier Island operators and community partners to reinforce expectations and align messaging.

The City will maintain a unified command structure and adjust operations in real time to protect public safety and neighborhood quality of life. Please contact the City Manager's Office if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Attachments:

1. Memorandum No. 26-001 (REVISED) High Impact Period - Spring Break 2026  
High Impact Zones and Prohibitive Measures
2. Map of High Impact Zones

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
City Manager's Office  
Department Directors



**Memorandum**

**Memorandum No: 26-001 (REVISED)**

**Date:** February 25, 2026  
**To:** David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
**From:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*  
**Re:** **High Impact Period – Spring Break 2026 High Impact Zones and Prohibitive Measures**

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It has been determined that February 28, 2026, through March 31, 2026, will be a High Impact Period for Spring Break 2026. Pursuant to Section 8-55.5 of the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances (the Code), I hereby establish two (2) High Impact Zones.

**Barrier Island High Impact Zone**

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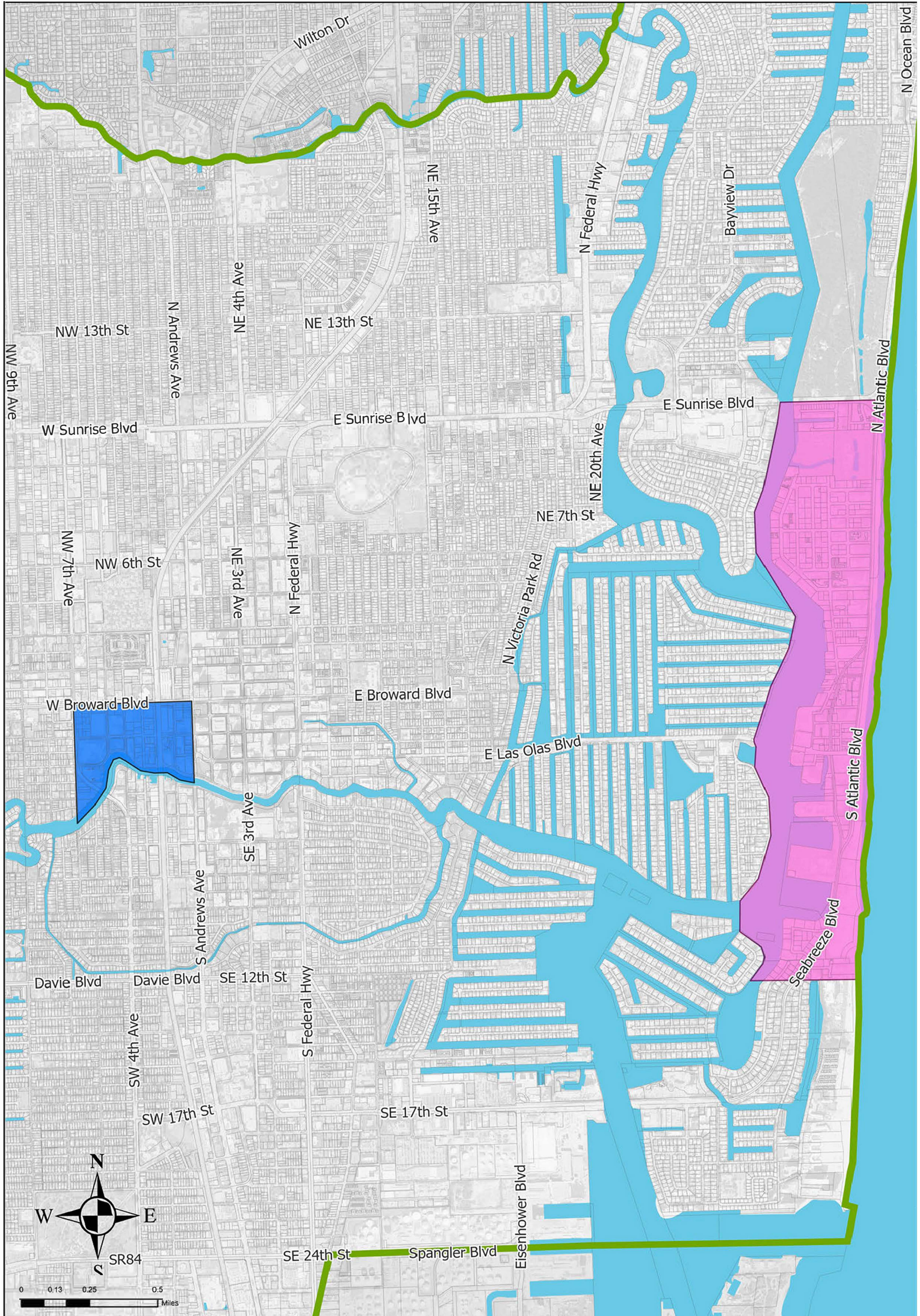
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- Modification of operating hours for parks and City facilities.

This notification shall be filed with the City Clerk and delivered to all appropriate City and local media outlets.

Attachment:

1. Map of High Impact Zones



## High Impact Period - Spring Break 2026 High Impact Zones

### Legend

- High Impact Zones
- Barrier Island Zone
- Downtown Zone