



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-093

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: April 1, 2026
SUBJECT: Outdoor Event Summary Matrix

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide the City Commission with information comparing outdoor event application fees charged by various municipalities in Florida.

The outdoor event research was prepared in response to feedback received during the August 19, 2025, City Commission Conference meeting, at which staff presented proposed amendments to the outdoor event ordinance (CAM #25-0698). During the discussion, the City Commission requested a comparison of outdoor event application fees charged by other municipalities.

City staff researched publicly available information from several peer coastal municipalities regarding application fees, cost-recovery, and other related fees. The following coastal municipalities are included in the Outdoor Event Summary Matrix (Attachment 1): Clearwater, Daytona Beach, Delray Beach, Hollywood, Miami, Miami Beach, Naples, Panama City Beach, Pompano Beach, Tampa and West Palm Beach.

The key findings include:

1. Application Fees - Most municipalities charge a non-refundable application fee ranging from \$25.00 to \$666.58 for standard events based on the date the application was submitted. In addition, some municipalities charge higher fees for commercial or large-scale events.
2. Use Fees and Venue Rental Charges - Municipalities impose additional fees based on the location of the event including, but not limited to beachfront, park space, street closures, resident and non-resident use, and for-profit and not-for-profit entities. The rates frequently varied by duration, square footage of the event footprint, or expected attendance.
3. Public Safety and Operational Costs - Most municipalities require full cost recovery, based on labor rates approved annually by each municipality, for public

safety (police and fire/EMS), sanitation services, and other City operational departments and divisions.

The comparison indicates that the City of Fort Lauderdale's outdoor event application fees are near the midpoint when compared with other municipalities. The survey also indicates that many municipalities charge additional fees based on event location, including public park rental fees. Furthermore, several municipalities also require security deposits for the use of their parks or facilities, although the amounts and conditions for these deposits vary considerably.

Given increased event activity and the associated impact to City resources, an updated fee schedule and event restrictions may be warranted. In preparation of a revised outdoor event fee schedule, staff coordinated meetings with key stakeholders and several event promoters to discuss revisions to the outdoor event ordinance, reviewed the implementation of an outdoor impact event fee matrix and discussed limiting the total number of events on the barrier island and downtown areas. A presentation regarding the updated impact fee matrix and staff recommendations for outdoor event ordinance amendments is scheduled for the April 7, 2026, City Commission Conference meeting (CAM #26-0354).

If you have additional questions, please contact Carl Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation, at Cwilliams@fortlauderdale.gov or (954) 828-5804.

Attachment:

1. Outdoor Event Summary Matrix

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

Outdoor Event Summary Matrix			
City	Application Fee	Application Deadline	Late Fee
Clearwater	\$50.00	90 days prior to the event	Applications outside of the deadline are not accepted
Daytona Beach	100-500 attendees \$25; 501 -1000 attendees \$50; 1001-2000 attendees \$100; 2001 -3000 attendees \$150; 3001 -4000 attendees \$200; 4001 -5000 attendees \$250	1-2,000 attendees - 45 days prior; +2,000 attendees - 270 days prior	N/A
Delray Beach	\$150.00	180 days prior to the event	\$100.00
Hollywood	\$363.50 90+ days prior to the event ; \$515.01 45-89 days prior to the event; \$666.58 30 - 44 days prior to event date	90 + days prior to the event	Increases according to date submission
Miami	\$250>1,000 attendees; \$500<1,000 attendees	250 attendees - 30 days prior to the event; 251 - 1000 attendees 30 days prior to the event; +1,000 attendees - 45 days prior to the event	2x application fee
Miami Beach	\$333.00	60 days prior to the event for events Public Property; 30 days for an event on private commercial property	Equivalent to the Application fee. Applications submitted less than 14 days are not acceptable.
Naples	\$150	90 days prior to the event (Not approved by City Council; 120 days if must be approved by City Council)	Applications outside of the deadline are not accepted
Panama City Beach	\$25.00	60 days prior to the event	N/A
Pompano Beach	\$50.00	45 days prior to the event	N/A
Tampa	\$50.00	90 days prior to the event if you need street closures, City services or serving alcohol; 60 days if its only using the park	Applications outside of the deadline are not accepted
West Palm Beach	\$50.00	Low impact event - 6 weeks; High Impact Event - 90 days	N/A