



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-106

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: April 8, 2026
SUBJECT: **Intent to Submit Proposal to Host the 96th U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting in June 2028**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the City Commission that the City intends to submit a proposal to host the 96th United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) Annual Meeting in June 2028. The proposal will be submitted by the required deadline of April 24, 2026, in accordance with the U.S. Conference of Mayors' meeting host city guidelines.

The USCM Annual Meeting typically draws about 1,600 attendees. The host city selection process is very competitive. Within the proposal, the City will distinguish itself from other prospective host communities by emphasizing that Fort Lauderdale offers an exceptional setting for this national convening. The City features a robust array of arts, culture, and hospitality amenities designed to enhance the experience of mayors, their families, and guests. Fort Lauderdale is home to a vibrant arts and culture scene, including premier performing arts venues, a convention center with an 800-room hotel, galleries, and cultural institutions that can accommodate meetings, evening programs, receptions, and special events.

In addition, the local hospitality industry offers a wide range of high-quality accommodations, from beachfront and luxury resorts to business-class hotels, complemented by a diverse culinary landscape that includes Michelin-recognized and other award-winning restaurants. Fort Lauderdale's signature beaches and scenic waterways, supported by an extensive water taxi network, provide unique opportunities for off-site events, tours, and family activities that highlight the City's natural beauty and overall quality of life.

In addition, Fort Lauderdale's recreational and sports facilities can support youth, family, and partner programming during the conference. State-of-the-art amenities such as the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Baptist Health IcePlex, FTL War Memorial, The Fort pickleball complex, and the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) provide distinctive venues for special events, demonstrations, and wellness activities. The City's historic districts and cultural neighborhoods offer authentic experiences that highlight

Fort Lauderdale's history, architecture, and community character, while our downtown and riverfront areas create a welcoming environment for delegates and visitors.

As part of this effort, guidelines require the City to assume responsibility for arranging, organizing, implementing, and funding all details related to family, youth, and partner programs, as well as other social events scheduled outside of the meeting headquarters. The USCM is responsible for raising funds for all official daytime meeting activities held during the Annual Meeting. To support the City's responsibilities, the City will actively engage local stakeholders and is authorized to fundraise and obtain sponsorships from private and nonprofit partners to offset or cover the costs associated with these programs and social events.

The City's proposal will be developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, including hospitality, tourism, governmental, business, transportation, public safety, and community partners, to ensure a strong local partnership and demonstrate the City's capacity to successfully host a high-profile national meeting.

Staff will continue coordinating with stakeholders and evaluating the requirements, logistics, and benefits associated with a potential host city submission. A future item may be brought before the City Commission, as needed, to provide additional details and seek any approvals necessary to advance the proposal.

For additional information, please contact Daphnee Sainvil, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager at 954-299-7806, dsainvil@fortlauderdale.gov or Judy Erickson, Beach Business Improvement District Manager at 954-828-4599, jerickson@fortlauderdale.gov.

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