



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-131

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: May 4, 2026
SUBJECT: Administrative Approval of 2026 Beach Food and Alcoholic Beverage Licenses

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to notify the City Commission of the administrative approval of nine (9) Beach Food and Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for calendar year 2026.

On January 6, 2026, the City Commission adopted Ordinance C-25-50 (Attachment 1), which modified Section 8-55.4 of the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances regarding the sale, service, and consumption of food and alcoholic beverages (CAM #26-0025). In anticipation of amending the language in the code, the newly approved ordinance provided for renewal application materials submitted on or before December 31, 2025, to be eligible for administrative review for calendar year 2026 licenses. The approved ordinance modifications streamline the renewal process for hotels in good standing to receive administrative approval.

City staff completed a comprehensive review of the nine (9) submitted renewal applications and determined that all the applicants are in compliance with Section 8-55.4, including all required documentation and adherence to operational standards.

Based on this review, the following nine (9) hotel operators have been administratively approved for beach food and beverage licenses for calendar year 2026:

1. Atlantic Hotel, 601 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard
2. Bahia Mar, 801 Seabreeze Boulevard
3. Conrad Fort Lauderdale Beach, 551 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard
4. Four Seasons Hotel and Residences, 525 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard
5. Beach House Fort Lauderdale, 505 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard
6. Pelican Grand Beach Resort, 2000 N Ocean Boulevard
7. Ritz-Carlton, 1 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard
8. W Hotel, 401 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard
9. Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach, 321 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard

Beginning with the calendar year 2027 renewal cycle, eligible hotels will be required to submit renewal applications and supporting documentation by October 1 of each year. City staff will conduct an administrative review of qualifying applications, with approved renewals reported to the City Commission and subject to the established call-up process.

Staff will continue to monitor compliance with all applicable requirements and will notify the City Commission of any issues. If you have additional questions, please contact Carl Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation, at Cwilliams@fortlauderdale.gov or (954) 828-5804.

Attachment:

1. Ordinance No. C-25-50 Sale Service and Consumption of Food and Alcoholic Beverages

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

ORDINANCE NO. C-25-50

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE III, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, TITLED "PUBLIC BEACHES," BY AMENDING SECTION 8-55.4, TITLED "SALE, SERVICE, AND CONSUMPTION OF FOOD AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES" TO CREATE AN ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCEDURE FOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS FOR THE SALE, SERVICE, AND CONSUMPTION OF FOOD AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON THE PUBLIC BEACH AFTER THE FIRST LICENSE TERM IS APPROVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION AND PROVIDED THE LICENSE WAS NOT REVOKED BY THE CITY DURING THE IMMEDIATE LICENSE TERM; PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN LICENSE APPLICATION FEES; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, section 8-55.4 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale regulates the license application process for eligible owners and operators of hotels within the City's boundaries to sell, serve, and deliver food and alcoholic beverages to hotel guests and any person who rents a beach chair from a City-approved beach concessionaire; and

WHEREAS, City staff finds, after the City Commission's initial approval of a hotel's license application and companion agreement, the City's annual review and approval process of an eligible hotel applicant's license application may be expedited if performed administratively by the City Manager or designee, subject to the same terms and conditions outlined in section 8-55.4; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to amend section 8-55.4 of the City Code to create an administrative license review procedure after the City Commission approves the first license application by authorizing the City Manager or designee to conduct an annual review of each eligible license renewal application received from an eligible hotel owner or operator and, if the license applicant complies with the terms and conditions outlined in section 8-55.4, the City Manager or designee may recommend an administrative approval or denial of

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the license renewal application to the City Commission with a companion license agreement that includes terms and conditions acceptable to the City Manager and designee, provided said license did not expire or was not revoked by the City during the immediate license term; and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends increasing the license application fee to an amount equal to Thirty Dollars (\$30) times the total number of guest rooms for each eligible upland hotel or Breakers Avenue hotel license applicant plus an annual lump sum fee of One Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$1,200), and said proposed license fee increase is consistent with the fees charged by other coastal cities with a similar ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds the proposed amendments will serve a legitimate municipal purpose by creating a more efficient renewal application process for licenses approved under section 8-55.4 of the City Code to generate additional revenue for the City and avoid unnecessary license application delay or backlog;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That section 8-55.4 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, titled "Sale, service, and consumption of food and alcoholic beverages." is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8-55.4. - Sale, service, and consumption of food and alcoholic beverages.

A. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings ascribed to them, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Breakers Avenue hotel means any "hotel" as defined in this section that is principally located on Breakers Avenue.

Hotel means any unit, group of units, dwelling, building, or group of buildings within a single complex of buildings which is rented to guests more than three (3) times in a calendar year for periods of less than thirty (30) days or one (1) calendar month, whichever is less, or which is advertised or held out to the public as a place regularly rented to guests containing sufficient sleeping room accommodations for a total of twenty-five (25) or more guests within the hotel and

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providing the services generally provided by a hotel and recognized as a hotel in the community in which it is situated or by the hotel industry.

Upland hotel means any hotel located on a parcel of property between Sunrise Boulevard to the south and Oakland Park Boulevard to the north that directly abuts Fort Lauderdale Public Beach; or any hotel located on a parcel of property that shares a property line with the western right-of-way line of a segment of State Road A-1-A between Holiday Drive to the south and Sunrise Boulevard to the north, excluding that portion of A-1-A designated as Seabreeze Boulevard from Seville Street to the north and SE 5th Street to the south.

Sale, service or delivery includes the act or action of supplying or offering for sale any food or beverage item to any person.

Alcoholic beverages includes beers, wines, liquors, and any type of beverage with any volume of alcohol content.

Public beach is defined in ~~S~~sections 8-51 and 8-71 of the city code.

B. License required.

Except as otherwise provided in the City Code, it shall be unlawful to provide any food or alcoholic beverage service on any portion of the city's public beach without a license.

C. License application process.

An owner or operator of an upland hotel or Breakers Avenue hotel, except for ineligible hotels under sub-section C.4.k. of this section, may submit an application to obtain a license to sell, serve, and deliver food, and alcoholic beverages on the public beach for consumption by any person using a beach chair from a city-approved beach concessionaire. The license application shall be submitted to the city's parks and recreation department on forms provided by the department and shall be subject to the minimum requirements set forth in this section. The parks and recreation department is responsible for the processing and administration of license applications under this section. The application form shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. Name and address of an upland hotel or Breakers Avenue hotel owner or operator;

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2. Evidence that applicant upland hotel or Breakers Avenue hotel has been issued all required food service and liquor license(s) from the State of Florida;
3. A license fee with a completed license application signed by the applicant ~~upland hotel or Breakers Avenue hotel owner or operator~~. The license fee shall be calculated at an amount equal to ~~Twenty-Five~~Thirty Dollars (\$~~25~~30) times the total number of guest rooms at the license applicant's upland hotel or Breakers Avenue hotel plus an annual lump sum fee of One Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$1,200) and, thereafter, a license renewal application and applicable license fee shall be due annually on January first no later than October 1st sixty (60) days prior to December 31st of each license year. Failure to timely file a completed license renewal application with the applicable license renewal fee with the city will result in an automatic expiration of the license on December 31st of that year, thereafter, the licensee shall immediately discontinue all food and beverage services on the public beach. No upland hotel or Breakers Avenue hotel may engage in the sale, service, or delivery of any food or beverage, including alcoholic beverages, on the public beach until the city's receipt of a completed license application with the applicable license fee, and city ~~commission's~~ approval of the license application and license agreement; and
4. An operational plan that shall include the following:
 - a. A site plan, depicting a layout of the upland hotel's or Breakers Avenue hotel property boundary lines and lines representing the extension of side boundary lines east into the public beach representing the proposed location for food and any beverage service on the public beach, a detailed description and design of a temporary beachfront structure, if any, including the material to be used for the structure. Any temporary beachfront structure plans shall satisfy all applicable permitting requirements of the City Code and shall be reviewed and processed by the city's development services department;
 - b. Types of food and/or beverages to be served, sold, or delivered;
 - c. A traffic control plan with safety guidelines for service providers and hotel guests expected to cross State Road A-1-A or any other right-of-way in order to access the public beach to ensure no undue interference with the passage of the public on State Road A-1-A. The traffic control plan and personnel necessary to implement said plan shall be furnished at the sole cost and expense of each licensee;

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- d. A policy to ensure hotel guests consuming alcoholic beverages and all employees serving or otherwise handling alcoholic beverages are 21 years of age ore older;
- e. A policy to ensure service providers wear uniforms and name tags that identify the upland hotel or Breakers Avenue hotel as the employer, as more specifically set forth in the license application;
- f. Use of a mobile point-of-sale (POS) system that is compatible with other credit card processing software and necessary electronic equipment to facilitate and manage the food and beverage sale transactions to hotel guests on the beach and any person who rents a beach chair from a city-approved beach concessionaire;
- g. Statement of commitment to comply with sections 16-140 and 16-153 of the city's code related to the prohibition of plastic straws and polystyrene, respectively, and to the exclusively use of recyclable or reusable food and beverage containers, cutlery, and condiment packaging, that all clearly identify the upland hotel or Breakers Avenue hotel as the service provider;
- h. Statement indicating that the applicant's hours of operation on the public beach shall be limited to seven (7) days per week, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. for the months of October, November, December, January, February, March, April and May, and between the hours of 10:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. for the months of June, July, August, and September. Any change or deviation to these operating hours requires prior city ~~commission~~-approval;
- i. A plan for the continuous cleanup and ~~deposit-disposal~~ of all trash and debris by the service provider in proper receptacles supplied by the service provider in compliance with sanitary facilities and any safety inspection requirements, as deemed necessary by the fire-rescue, parks and recreation department, and development services department; and
- j. Statement of compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws; and
- k. A Breakers Avenue hotel located immediately west of a participating upland hotel is not eligible to apply for a license to sell, serve, and deliver food, and alcoholic beverages on the city's public beach.

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D. Review process.

1. The parks and recreation department shall review ~~the~~each license application to verify compliance with the minimum requirements set forth in this section 8-55.4 prior to and forward making a recommendation to the city commission for consideration of the city commission.
2. The city commission shall review ~~the~~each license application and a proposed license agreement for approval or denial. After the city commission approves the first license term, and upon the city's receipt of a completed and timely filed license renewal application by an eligible hotel owner or operator with the required application fee on or before October 1st of each license year, the city manager or designee is authorized to administratively review each license renewal application and, provided the renewal application complies with the terms and conditions outlined in this section 8-55.4, may recommend ~~administratively approve~~approval of said license renewal application to the city commission and request authority to execute a companion license agreement with terms and conditions that are acceptable to the city manager or designee, except that any expired license or license revoked by the city during the immediate license term is not eligible for this administrative renewal procedure. ~~The city commission may approve, amend, or deny the city manager or designee's recommendation under this section. but the eligible~~ Notwithstanding any other provisions in this section 8-55.4, any license renewal application received by the City on or before December 31, 2025, is eligible for the administrative license review and renewal process for calendar year 2026, provided the license renewal applicant complies with the provisions of this section. Any hotel owner or operator ineligible for the administrative license renewal process may apply for a new license under this code section which shall be considered by the city commission. The city reserves the right to reject or disapprove any license application if the city determines the issuance of such a license would have an adverse effect upon the public's health, safety, or welfare.
3. The license agreement, shall outline the terms and conditions ~~for~~that are consistent with the license application with a provision to defend, indemnify, and hold the city, and its officers and employees harmless from and against any and all claims related to the permitted services under the license agreement, and requiring each upland hotel or Breakers Avenue hotel to obtain commercial general liability insurance with coverage and

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policy limits acceptable to the city's risk manager. The license will not be issued until the license agreement is fully executed.

E. License regulations and prohibitions.

1. The sale, service, delivery and consumption of all food or alcoholic beverages on the public beach pursuant to this section shall be limited to the area within each hotel's upland property boundary lines that extend to the public beach, and subject to the terms and conditions outlined in the license agreement approved by the city commission.
2. No licensee's service operation or temporary beachfront structure as defined in the City Code, if any, shall interfere with or obstruct the view of any lifeguard tower or any lifeguard on duty and, upon request by a lifeguard on duty or city official, the licensee shall immediately remove said obstruction.
3. Beachfront storage of any equipment is prohibited.
4. No motorized vehicles shall be used in the service or delivery of food or beverages.
5. Any other provision, term, plan or condition deemed necessary by the city, as outlined in the license agreement.

F. Penalties; license suspension or revocation.

1. *Temporary or emergency suspension.*
 - a. The city may temporarily suspend licensee's services on any portion of the public beach that is approved for use in conjunction with a city approved special event, or for city to perform maintenance or repairs, or during periods of prohibitive measures imposed for high impact events pursuant to section 8-55.5 of the City Code. The city manager or the city manager's designee shall provide prior written notice to the licensee and licensee shall immediately discontinue all food and beverage services on the public beach.
 - b. The city may suspend licensee's services without any prior written notice upon the issuance of a severe storm, tropical storm or hurricane watch or warning by the National Weather Service or any other local, state or federal authority, including the

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National Hurricane Center. Licensee shall immediately discontinue all food and beverage services on the public beach.

2. *Suspension or revocation for non-compliance.*

- a. The city manager or ~~his~~ designee shall have the right to suspend any beach service license for non-compliance with any of the requirements of this section and licensee shall immediately discontinue all food and beverage services on the public beach upon receipt of a suspension notice from the city manager. Licensee is required to correct any deficiencies or failure to comply with any provisions of the license within forty-eight (48) hours after a written notice is issued by the city manager or ~~his~~ designee.
- b. In the event licensee fails to correct the deficiencies or fails to comply with the terms and conditions of a license issued under this section within the forty-eight (48) hour curing period, and the licensee did not secure a written extension to cure from the city manager or ~~his~~ designee prior to the expiration of the 48-hour curing period, the city manager or ~~his~~ designee shall have the option to immediately revoke the license and licensee shall immediately discontinue all food and beverage services on the public beach.

3. *Appeal.* Should the city manager or ~~his~~ designee suspend or revoke a license under this section, the licensee shall have thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the city's written notice to appeal the decision of the city manager or the city manager's designee to the city commission. The decision of the city commission shall be final.

4. *Enforcement.*

- a. If a licensee continues to provide services pursuant to this section after the city manager or ~~his~~ designee issues a decision to suspend or revoke a license issued under this section, and licensee fails to file a timely appeal to the city commission, the decision of the city manager or ~~his~~ designee becomes final and the city may initiate code enforcement proceedings pursuant to Chapter 11 of the City Code.
- b. If a licensee continues to provide services pursuant to this section after the city commission issues a final decision to suspend or revoke a license issued under this section, the city may initiate code enforcement proceedings pursuant to Chapter 11 of the City Code.

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- c. If any upland hotel or Breakers Avenue hotel owner or operator, or anyone, engages in the sale, service, or delivery of food or beverage, including alcoholic beverages, on the public beach without a license agreement approved by the city commission as provided in this section, the city may initiate code enforcement proceedings pursuant to Chapter 11 of the City Code.

SECTION 2. At the direction of the City Attorney, the publisher of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is authorized to conform chapter, article, section, subsection, and clause numbers and letters, and capitalization, set forth in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and to correct any non-substantive scrivener's errors in the codification of this Ordinance without the need for a public hearing.

SECTION 3. That if any clause, section, or other part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby but shall remain in full force and effect.


SECTION 4. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 5. In the event this Ordinance is automatically repealed, any license or license agreement approved by the city commission is automatically terminated and all rights and privileges granted thereunder shall be null and void and of no further force and effect.

SECTION 6. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage on second reading.

PASSED FIRST READING this 16th day of December, 2025.

PASSED SECOND READING this 6th day of January, 2026.



Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

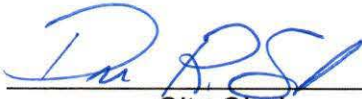
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ATTEST:



City Clerk
DAVID R. SOLOMAN

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