



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-133

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: May 4, 2026
SUBJECT: **Fort Lauderdale Celebrates America 250**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide an update on the City of Fort Lauderdale's planned recognition of America 250, the national commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence.

On July 4, 2026, communities across the country will mark this historic milestone in our nation's history through celebrations and patriotic displays. For Fort Lauderdale, America 250 provides an opportunity to honor our nation's history and celebrate our community.

As part of this citywide effort, the City will introduce America 250 into existing signature events, public-facing communications and visual branding throughout the remainder of 2026. This approach allows Fort Lauderdale to participate in the national commemoration in a way that reflects our local identity and strengthens the City's visibility as a destination for all.

Commemorative City Logo

To support the America 250 commemoration, the City has developed a special commemorative logo (Attachment 1). This logo will be used throughout the remainder of 2026 and will serve as a unifying visual element across City communications, event promotions, digital platforms, printed materials, email signatures, and other public-facing collateral.

The logo will be used where appropriate on City webpages, social media graphics, e-newsletters, event signage, presentations and related materials tied to the commemoration.

Pole Banners

The City will also install America 250 pole banners (Attachment 2) in key corridors and high-visibility locations to create a visible, citywide presence for the commemoration. The banners will help provide a consistent visual theme leading

into major events throughout the year.

Signature Events

Throughout the remainder of the year, several major events provide opportunities to celebrate and experience the city as part of this national milestone.

Air Dot Show Fort Lauderdale, “Salute Across America”

Scheduled for May 9 and 10, 2026, the Air Dot Show Fort Lauderdale (Air Show) will serve as an early highlight of the City’s America 250 recognition. The event is expected to draw visitors from across the region and beyond, while showcasing aviation, patriotism and Fort Lauderdale’s waterfront setting.

The Great American Beach Party

Saturday, May 24, 2026, on Fort Lauderdale Beach/Las Olas Oceanside Park, serving as a major Memorial Day weekend celebration and part of the City’s America 250 festivities. The free, day-long event features live bands, Walk of Fame Ceremony, and a military tribute.

City of Fort Lauderdale Fourth of July Spectacular

The Fourth of July celebration will serve as the centerpiece of the City’s America 250 commemoration. As the nation marks 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Fort Lauderdale will use this event to bring the community together for a patriotic celebration that reflects the significance of the milestone.

Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade, “Party in the USA”

Scheduled for December 12, 2026, the Winterfest Boat Parade will extend the America 250 recognition into the holiday season. As one of Fort Lauderdale’s most recognized signature events, Winterfest provides a unique opportunity to celebrate the milestone through the city’s maritime identity, waterways and regional tourism appeal.

America 250 represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reflect on the nation’s history and showcase Fort Lauderdale’s role in this historic year. The City will participate in the national commemoration while highlighting Fort Lauderdale as a vibrant, welcoming and connected community.

Staff will continue to provide updates as additional details are finalized.

For additional information, please contact Kevin Pulido, Director of Strategic Communications, at Kpulido@fortlauderdale.gov, or 954-828-3057.

Attachments:

1. City of Fort Lauderdale America 250 Commemorative Logo
2. City of Fort Lauderdale America 250 Pole Banner

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



