



Memorandum

Date: April 10, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

From: Kathie Brooks
Interim City Manager

Department: Erin Sullivan
Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: **4th of July Parade- Department Vetting Memo**

Introduction

The Parks & Recreation Department has reviewed the memos submitted from Councilwoman Porras and Mayor Fraga regarding the item for the 4th of July parade in conjunction with the Civil Air Patrol.

Background

Councilwoman Porras and Mayor Fraga submitted council agenda items for the April 10, 2024 meeting expressing interest in the City hosting a 4th of July parade along with the Civil Air Patrol and other participating organizations. To gather more insight, staff met with the leader of the Civil Air Patrol, Ettore Sabatella. In discussions with Mr. Sabatella, he explained that he has the idea for the parade and can provide approximately 5 military vehicles along with the cadets from the Civil Air Patrol to participate in the parade. He is requesting the City to plan the logistics, execute and fund the parade as well as staff the parade. He is flexible with the date and the route for the parade, as well as waiting until next year when the event is back at Doral Central Park.

The City of Doral's Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for planning, organizing and executing the City's Independence Day event. This is a large scale event that has had an estimated attendance of 30,000 people when previously at Doral Central Park. Due to the park construction, the event has been relocated to the Trump National Doral and will remain there for 2024. The event will return to Doral Central next year in 2025. The execution of this event

is a large undertaking and requires lots of dedicated staff time during the planning phase and days leading up to the event day. The event itself also requires a majority of Parks & Recreation staff members (both full time and part time) to work the event on the 4th of July from approximately 2:00pm to midnight. These times and workload will likely increase when the event returns to Doral Central Park next year.

The Parks & Recreation department previously held a Veteran's Parade leading to the Veteran's Day Ceremony. This parade is no longer hosted due to low attendance. The Civil Air Patrol was also open to partnering with the City to bring back this parade in lieu of a 4th of July parade.

Fiscal Impact:

Staff needs additional time and details to fully evaluate and calculate the fiscal impact of hosting a 4th of July parade. Funding for a parade is not currently budgeted.

Strategic Plan Alignment

This item ties into the Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan Initiative, fostering a sense of community building.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office respectfully recommends the following two options for the Mayor and City Councilmembers review and consideration. The Parks & Recreation Department currently does not have the capacity to organize and staff a 4th of July parade this year due to the large undertaking of planning and staffing the City's existing 4th of July event. It is recommended that a City organized 4th of July parade be evaluated through the upcoming FY 24-25 budget process, which will allow feasibility, logistics and funding to be evaluated. Alternatively, if the Civil Air Patrol wants to host a 4th of July parade this year, the City can assist them through the permitting/road closure process, waive permit fees and provide police presence, however, parade logistics, staffing and any additional incurred expenses will need be organized and carried out by the Civil Air Patrol.