



Cover Memorandum/Staff Report

File #: 26-1041

Agenda Date: 8/27/2026

Item #:

TO: Development Services Management Group
FROM: Allie Behrman, CPRP, Special Events Manager
THROUGH: Terrence R. Moore, ICMA-CM
DATE: August 27, 2026

28th DELRAY BEACH GARLIC FESTIVAL : RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES MANAGEMENT GROUP OF THE CITY OF DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA, TO THE CITY COMMISSION FOR AN IMPACT EVENT KNOWN AS "28TH DELRAY BEACH GARLIC FESTIVAL" TO BE HELD ON MARCH 20-21, 2027. AT THE OLD SCHOOL SQUARE CAMPUS.

Recommended Action:

The Development Services Management Group (DSMG) is asked to make a recommendation to the City Commission regarding the Impact Event known as 28th Delray Beach Garlic Festival to be held on Saturday through Sunday, March 20-21, 2027. This event is deemed an Impact Event due to attendance of over 3,500 people per day for an impact event.

Background:

Delray Beach Arts, Inc. submitted a Special Event Application on July 27, 2026 for the 28th Delray Beach Garlic Festival at the Old School Square. This will be the 28th year of the Garlic Festival. It was held in Delray Beach for 17 years. Garlic Festival outgrew the downtown area and left Delray Beach for several years. The event returned to Delray Beach in 2026. There were no issues, except for bad weather for a portion of the event. Garlic festival is an event that features both national and local music talents, local artists and culinary arts with a focus on garlic. Garlic Festival is also a fundraising source for local small non-profits that focus most of their attention toward educational programs for under served, minority youth in Palm Beach County with a secondary focus on the arts.

The application was reviewed by the Special Event Technical Advisory Committee on August 13, 2026 and was recommended for approval.

This is a scaled down version of the event that was in Delray Beach in the past. There will be no road closures for this event. It will take place only on the Old School Square campus. This event took place in 2026 without issue on Old School Square.

This event meets the attendance criteria for an impact event. The event is expecting 4,000 people per day. On Saturday the event will take place from 9am - 11pm and on Sunday from 9am-7pm. The event is ticketed and will feature live music, food vendors and alcohol. The entire grounds of Old School Square will be fenced in.

The event producers have worked with the Green Market and have made sure that both events can take place on Saturday.

Special Events Technical Advisory Committee (SETAC):

SETAC reviewed and recommended approval of the event.

No special conditions beyond the standard permits were recommended by SETAC

Funding Source/Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact to the city. The event producer will be billed for all costs.

Timing of Request:

This event must go before commission before the producer can begin to book vendors and advertise the event.