



MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER: James Clinch, City Manager **E-SIGN:** JRC
FROM: Deputy Public Information Officer Brianne Lorenz
DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office
DATE: 10/13/25 **MEETING DATE:** 10/28/25

SUBJECT / TOPIC: New Special Event: Respect First Responders (R1R) 5K

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The New Events Review Team (NERT) recommends the Respect First Responders (R1R)5K running event for City Council approval. Attached please find:

- Memo
- Event timeline and site plan(s)
- NERT Scoring and Event Proposal

This event was reviewed by NERT in July and has finally received Sarasota County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources approval after a long wait. The R1R 5K will occur Jan. 31, 2026, at Legacy Park running north along the Legacy Trail.

Hosted by Fire Ninja Safety Equipment, the R1R race was founded to support first responders, military and front-line workers with resources and equipment to assist in response to natural disaster or major emergency events. Fire Ninja is a firefighter owned and operated company in Venice that strives to give back to our fellow Brothers and Sisters on the front line. Over the past 10 years, Fire Ninja has helped first responders in the Venice community and around the world. Funds raised throughout the year at Fire Ninja events aid in the purchasing of and logistical distribution disaster relief equipment and materials. Fire Ninja is a first-time event holder with the City, and the Jan. 31, 2026, R1R 5K is intended to start the new year off with a major fundraising effort to restock Fire Ninja's disaster kit inventory.

City support will include Venice Police Department officers and Solid Waste for trash and recycling. This event does not require access to metered utility. Sarasota County will issue a park permit and lateral use permit for Legacy Trail Access and will provide notice along the trail.

SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN: Goal Six: Preserve the Venice Quality of Life through Proper Planning

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: For Council Adoption by Consent Motion

Yes N/A

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| ☐ | ☐ | Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance (required if for agenda posting) |
| ☐ | ☐ | City Attorney Reviewed/Approval |
| ☐ | ☐ | Risk Management Review |
| ☐ | ☐ | Finance Department Review/Approval |
| | | Funds Availability (account number): |

CC:

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR NEW SPECIAL EVENT PROPOSALS

Respect for First Responders 5K
Jan. 31, 2026

Proposed Event Score

Tally the numbers you circled for question 1 through 10 for a total score. It is suggested Events with scores 10 through 20 are recommended for Council approval and events with scores 21 through 50 may be disqualified.

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NERT RECOMMENDATION

Proposed Event is Disqualified

The proposed event does not meet NERT criteria and will not be recommended to the Council for final review and approval. Event impacts were found to be too high to safely occur within the confines of date, time, location, services, and other event needs.

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Consider for Further Evaluation & City Council Recommendation

The proposed event meets NERT criteria for recommendation to the Council for final review and approval. Pending Council approval, the event holder will meet with City staff for a formal planning meeting and continue through the event execution process.

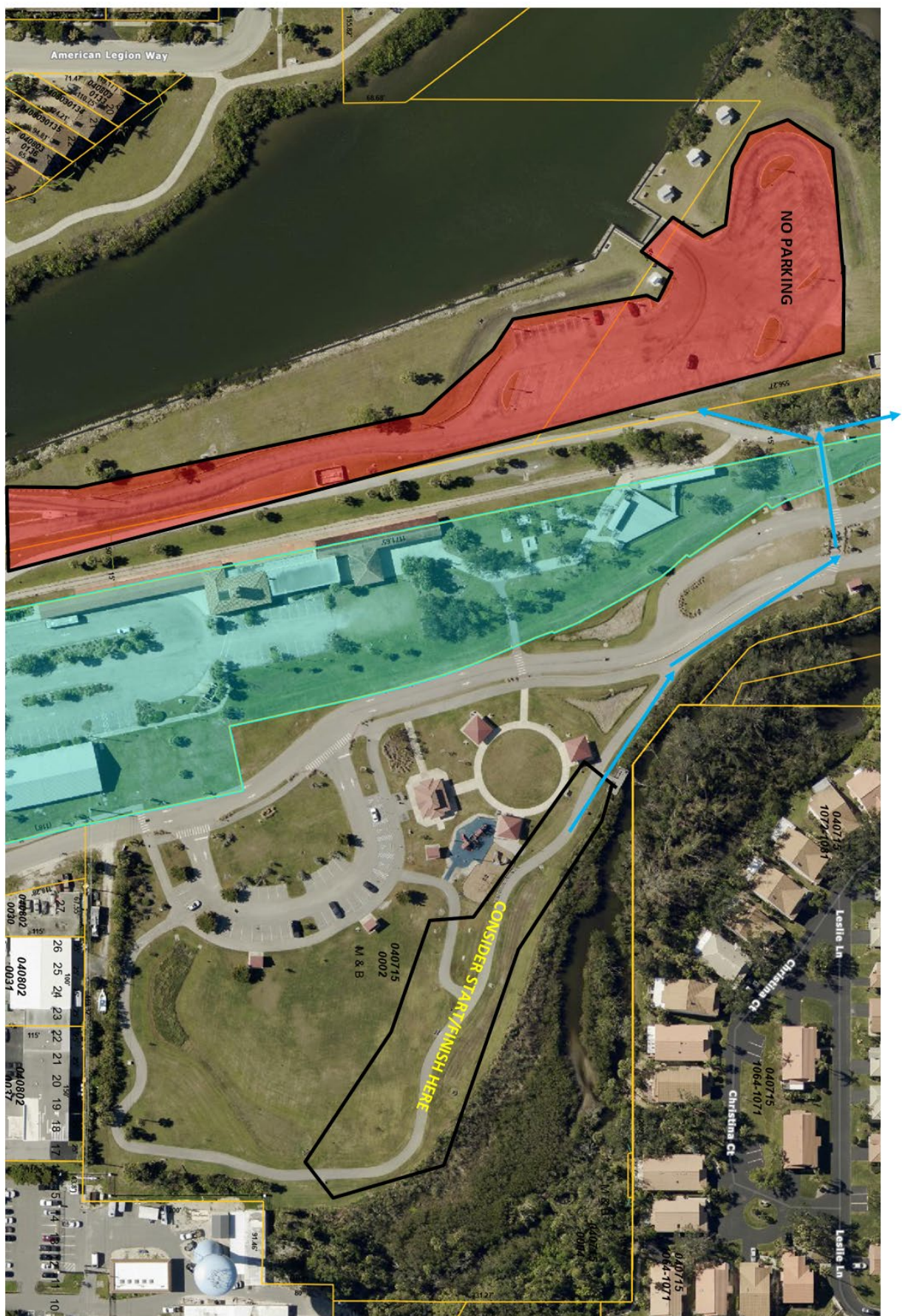
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Comments:

race participants cannot park at Marina Park/Boat ramp - this must be communicated to all racers. Violators will be ticketed and towed.

Requires SRQ County permit/LT lateral permit

Must consider moving start/end line due to location on main section of trail - see recommended map.



RESPECT 1ST RESPONDERS 5K FESTIVAL

SATURDAY
JAN. 31, 2026



Respect 1st Responders 5K Festival Event

Saturday January 31st, 2026 Event Timeline

6:00AM-8:00AM

- Set up of race finish line, vendor tents, DJ and sound system, registration area, banners on tents, and yard signs for parking and 5K stations
- Arrival and set up of portable toilets and wash stations
- Arrival of food trucks and antique firetrucks

8:00AM- 9:00PM

- Register 5K participants
- Music begins

9:00AM-11:00AM

- 5K Run/Walk timeframe

11:00AM-2:00PM

- Awards announcements, games and activities, antique firetruck tours
- Food trucks and Beer tent open and serving attendees

2:00PM-4:00PM

- Event ends- breakdown of tents, DJ area, finish line area, and removal of all signage
- Food trucks and Antique firetrucks leave
- Portable toilets and wash stations removed

Signature: 
James Clinch (Oct 13, 2025 15:50:23 EDT)

Email: JClinch@venicefl.gov

COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM - New Special Event Respect First Responders 5K

Final Audit Report

2025-10-13

Created:	2025-10-13
By:	Brianne Lorenz (blorenz@venicefl.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAKstFlwQgqqcO6qCQvLAGwsNIL8Yaj-Ny

"COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM - New Special Event Respect First Responders 5K" History

-  Document created by Brianne Lorenz (blorenz@venicefl.gov)
2025-10-13 - 6:22:12 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to James Clinch (JClinch@venicefl.gov) for signature
2025-10-13 - 6:22:16 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by James Clinch (JClinch@venicefl.gov)
2025-10-13 - 7:49:07 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by James Clinch (JClinch@venicefl.gov)
Signature Date: 2025-10-13 - 7:50:23 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2025-10-13 - 7:50:23 PM GMT