



MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER: James Clinch, City Manager **E-SIGN:** JRC

FROM: Special Events & Marketing Coordinator Brianne Lorenz

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

DATE: 9/18/25

MEETING DATE: 10/14/25

SUBJECT / TOPIC: New Special Event Permit: 1,000 Miglia

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The New Events Review Team (NERT) recommends the 1,000 Miglia Race for City Council review and approval. Included please find:

- Memo
- Screen shots of the Miglia Experience website featuring of City of Venice imagery from 2025
- AACA Speedster Newsletter March Edition, pages covering the Feb. 23, 2025, event
- City of Venice Newsletter March Edition, pages 35 and 36, covering the Feb. 23, 2025, event

On Feb. 21, 2026, the world-renowned 1,000 Miglia Race will return to the City of Venice for a lunch stopover from around 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., bringing an international spotlight to our historic downtown and Centennial Park. This event not only celebrates 100 years of "The City on the Gulf," but also supports local tourism, economic development, and community pride by drawing thousands of visitors to experience Venice's restaurants, shops, and public spaces.

The Venice chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) will serve as the official permit holder and event organizer on behalf of the 1,000 Miglia race. While the 2025 stopover was not formally permitted by the City, this year's approach provides a clear framework for accountability and coordination. By issuing a special event permit in 2026, the City and AACA will have the flexibility to manage risks, ensure compliance with City policies, and coordinate activities in a way that prioritizes public safety and community engagement. AACA is a successful special event permit holder, with their annual antique car show happening in the spring at Centennial Park for more than 35 years, and the new addition of a fall Swap Meet at the Airport Festival Grounds.

The 2026 race route will bring more than 100 participants through City streets, with teams stopping downtown to enjoy restaurants and shops. Race participants will complete a required time trial stop in Centennial Park before enjoying their hour-long stop in the City. AACA is partnering with Venice MainStreet Inc. to coordinate meals with Venice Avenue restaurants, with Visit Sarasota County supporting regional promotion. AACA is also working with a professional event manager to secure sponsors for Centennial Park programming and to cover costs for City

services such as solid waste, police details, and facility use. Florida Highway Patrol will again escort rally participants to ensure road safety and compliance with traffic laws.

This year's stopover coincides with the Italian American Club of Venice's Italian Feast and Festival, creating what has become known as the "Italian Weekend Takeover." The overlap offers visitors a unique opportunity to experience both internationally recognized and locally celebrated cultural events on the same weekend.

Building on the 2025 success, Miglia organizers will distribute expanded promotional materials including hand flags, hats, and keychains. The Venice passport stamp designed by an AACA member last year, which prominently featured the City's Centennial logo, will continue to serve as a signature symbol and will be a focal element of the 2026 stamp.

About 1,000 Miglia: The *Mille Miglia* was first held in Italy in 1927 as the vision of Franco Mazzotti, Aymo Maggi, Giovanni Canestrini, and Renzo Castagneto. Since then, it has become one of the world's most renowned road rallies, weaving through the streets of Italy and celebrated internationally for its history and prestige.

In February 2025, the *1,000 Miglia Experience* made its inaugural appearance in the United States, traveling from Miami to Naples, Tampa, Cape Canaveral, and back to Miami. With encouragement from the Venice chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA), race organizers agreed to include Venice as a stamp stop on Feb. 23, 2025.

Awed by the City's historic charm, Venetian architecture, and its namesake connection, Miglia officials designated Venice as a pit-stop. Mayor Nick Pachota, Venice MainStreet Inc. President Kara Morgan, Venice Area Chamber of Commerce President Kathy Lehner, now City Manager James Clinch, Special Events Coordinator Brianne Lorenz, and AACA President John McKeon served as honorary "stampers" to ensure every participant received a Venice passport stamp.

The event drew more than 8,000 spectators to Centennial Park, W. Venice Avenue, and surrounding streets to view the exotic and classic touring cars. Restaurants offered race-themed specials, businesses distributed race programs and downtown became a hub of activity. Race organizer Alessandro Comoglio stated afterward, "[Venice] was the absolute best moment of the whole road rally, and the drivers were shocked by the massive cheering crowds you managed to gather."

Though initially believed to be a once-in-a-lifetime stop, Venice's turnout and enthusiastic reception elevated the City as a premier destination for Miglia organizers.

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

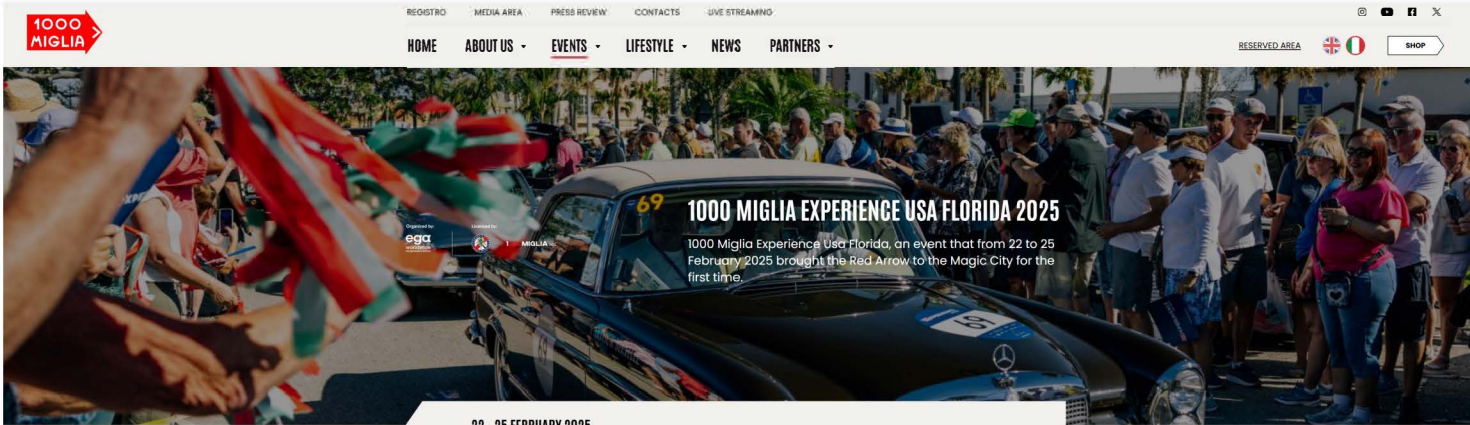
COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: For Council Adoption by Consent Motion

Yes N/A

☐ ☐ Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance (required if for agenda posting)

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | City Attorney Reviewed/Approval |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Risk Management Review |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Finance Department Review/Approval |
| | | Funds Availability (account number): |

CC:



Home > Events > 1000 Miglia Experience > 1000 Miglia Experience Usa Florida 2025

More information

Entry List

The first edition of the **1000 Miglia Experience Usa Florida** kicked off on **23 February** from **Miami**.

After the start from Magic City, the route wound its way through the wild scenery of the **Everglades National Park**, then the cars reached **Naples**, passing through **Fort Myers**, **Venice** and **St. Petersburg** to arrive in **Tampa**. On the second day, the cars returned to the southeast coast of Florida, reaching **Cape Canaveral**, and then begin the descent to the finish line of the leg in **West Palm Beach**. From here, on Tuesday 25 February, they returned to **Miami**, where the transit of the landmarks of the Magic City was a prelude to the final arrival.

There were three classes of cars accepted: **1000 Miglia Originals** (specimens built between 1927 and 1957), **Classic Icons** (1958-1994) and **modern Supercars and Hypercars**.



REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

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AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY

The Most Beautiful Race In The World comes to Florida. An unforgettable experience for a chosen few.
The 1000 Miglia Experience Florida is returning Feb 20-23, 2026.

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March 2025 | Volume 195

The How & Why of National Events

By Stacy Zimmerman, Speedster Editor,

szimmerman@aacaa.org

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Well, springtime has finally sprung here at National HQ in Hershey, PA. The weather is getting warmer, and daffodils are popping up everywhere. There is a layer of pollen on everything outside, which for those of us with allergies is the biggest signal that the season is changing.

We have made it through the cold, winter months and we are all ready to be rewarded. We are eager to get outside. We are excited to have things to do, places to go and people to see. We are also super excited that the start of car show and tour season is right around the corner. In fact, the first car show on the National AACA calendar happens this coming weekend in Charlotte, NC!

The Charlotte show in April is a regular recurring event on the National calendar, as is the Hershey show in October. You can always count on these two events every year. Why? Because its tradition, people love them, and because each show has the backing and support of a super strong AACA region.

**Librarian & Volunteer
Coordinator**
[Matthew Hocker](#)

**Librarian & Outreach
Coordinator**
[Amoi Goldman](#)

Librarian
[Jim Kapoun](#)

QUICK LINKS:
[AACA Website](#)
[AACA Library](#)
[AACA Forums](#)
[AACA Merchandise](#)
[AACA Judging Guidelines](#)

**AACA National
Headquarters address:**
800 W. Hersheypark Dr.
Hershey, PA 17033

Join Our
Email List



Have you ever looked at the National Activities calendar and wondered how locations for shows and tours are chosen? National AACA events are a partnership between National and local regions/chapters. Without the help of local regions and chapters, we would not be able to put on all these wonderful events all over the U.S. and Canada.

The National Board and staff provide event advice and information, review hotel and venue contracts, design marketing materials (brochures, registration cards, advertisements, dash plaques, etc.), assist with the online registration program, mail registration materials to members, provide media lists and press releases for event promotion, supply award trophies, send merchandise to sell at the show, etc.

The local regions provide boots on the ground. They handle the onsite logistics and actual planning of the shows and tours. They work directly with the hotels and venues to make sure everyone knows what's going on and is on the same page. They are responsible for supplying the onsite volunteers necessary to make the event happen. They focus on all the little details that will lead to a successful experience for members and guests.

It may seem like a daunting task to put on a National show or tour, but as you can see the positive working relationship between National and regions makes everything more manageable. If you think your region doesn't have enough members to put on a National event, I'm here to tell you that you do. And don't forget that you can partner with other AACA regions and/or other car clubs to put on these events. If your region is worried about having enough money to put on a National event, I'm telling you that you do. In fact, many regions make money on National events! There are grants and sponsorships available from your local tourism bureaus and chambers of commerce. There is also a grant available from AACA National for any region who hasn't put on a National show or tour in more than 10 years. Your region also gets a portion of the monies from the car registrations, merchandise sales and National assists with the costs of the Judges Breakfast as well.

If you are a region that is at all slightly interested in learning more or talking to someone about the possibility of helping to host a National show or tour, please feel free to call National HQ (717-534-1910) or contact Greg Jackson, VP National Activities, at greg.jackson15@outlook.com or 704-408-6217. With National and regions continuing to work

The Casino Tower features luxury deluxe king and queen rooms at a special group rate of \$169/night. Rooms are also available in the Estrella Tower adjacent to the Casino for \$149/night.

Contact the Resort at 855-765-7829 for reservations.

Online registration is also available.

See instructions at tucsonaaca.org/registration.html.

Group name: **AACA National Meet/Grand National**

Use group code: **8385**

FREE car trailer parking is available at the hotel in certain areas. Please check with at the Tucson Region Registration table for instructions. No RV parking is allowed on the Casino grounds!

RV parking is available for a full-hookup rate of \$50/night.

[Click here](#) to reserve your spot.

Questions?

Event Coordinator: Dave Green, 520-904-7325, alpgavegr@msn.com

Western Spring Nationals Chair: Andy Neal, 520-405-5490, nihoto560@gmail.com

Grand Nationals Chair: Tom Mulligan, 520-325-7247, tmulligansr@aol.com

Registration Chair: Roy Ireland, 520-591-1140, royireland802@gmail.com

Tucson Region Website: tucsonaaca.org

REMINDER: Your 2025 AACA membership dues must be paid prior to registering for any 2025 National shows and tours.

Double Your Grand National Pleasure in 2025!!

Enter your Senior car in the show in Tucson and then in July head to Dayton, OH. This is a rare year with two Grand Nationals to serve the East and West. Conceivably you could get your First and Senior Grand National both in 2025! Plus, what a neat opportunity to see more of our great country.

Meet Your New 2025 AACA National Board of Directors

Your new [2025 AACA National Board of Directors](#) was inducted during the Annual Convention in February. If you click the link above, it will take you to the page on the AACA website where the Board is listed. Each listing includes a Board member's name, position, address and photo. If you click on their name, you can email them directly. **These Board members are here to serve you and this organization, so please do not hesitate to contact them at any time.**



ATTENTION ALL AACA JUDGES!!

You should be receiving your printed copy of the April issue of *The Judge* newsletter in your mailbox very soon. If you would like a sneak peak, [click here for a digital copy](#). The issue includes registration forms for the following shows:

2025 Grand Nationals, Tucson, AZ
2025 Western Spring Nationals, Tucson, AZ
2025 Eastern Spring Nationals, Beckley, WV
2025 Central Spring Nationals, Auburn, IN
2025 Grand Nationals, Dayton, OH

There are also two articles from your new 2025 VP of Judging, including one explaining the new AACA Original program (formerly known as Historical Preservation of Original Features, HPOF). There is also an article from one of your Judging School instructors, recognition of 3 judges who received National Awards in February, a list of the approved changes to the *Judging Guidelines* for this year, and the 2024 Judging Awards recognition list.

Just a reminder that you can also [register to judge online](#) on the AACA website.

Not a current judge, but interested in becoming one? Just attend one of the Judging Schools at any of the Nationals to get started.

Venice Region Hosts Inaugural 1000 Miglia USA Stop

By John McKeon, AACA Venice Region President, john.mckeon@veniceaaca.com

This is a member submitted article.

What's better than a sunny, cloudless, 75-degree day in February? How about a sunny, cloudless, 75-degree day with 70+ race cars from the [1000 Miglia Experience USA Florida](#) road rally rolling through your hometown? That's exactly what happened on

The Judge
 April 2025 • Number 167

Taking Over the VP of Judging
 By Dave Bowman, VP Judging, bowman_jabelloush.net

Every few years, AACA rotates the position of VP of Judging. I was selected to guide our judging teams for 2025. Many of you know me from being Chief Judge at the Charlotte Nationals, Grand National and others. I'm pleased to be in this position this year.

So, what does a VP of Judging actually do? The VP of Judging approves or selects the Chief Judge for each of the Nationals and oversees class assignments and the selection of judging teams for each of the Nationals. He presides over the Judging Committee meetings where judging performance and potential changes are discussed for National Board approval. Updates to the Judging Guidelines are the responsibility of the VP of Judging as well.

The VP of Judging is also responsible for responding to member requests for where deductions were taken during the judging of their car at one of the Nationals. This is the most time-consuming part of this role. Last year, more than 300 requests for areas of deduction were answered. Judging forms for all of the Nationals in 2024 are available, but not for any previous year. Just a reminder, requests must be in writing and emailed to me with a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) for a response.

We are always in need of new judges. Please consider inviting a friend to join the judging system. We also want to encourage younger members to join us. Judging is a great way to make friends with members of other regions.

Won't YOU Join Me in the Desert?
 By Fred Hartmeyer Jr, Chief Judge Tucson, hartmeyerjr@a.com

The Duel in the Desert III (Grand Nationals and Western Spring Nationals) is coming up fast in the first part of May. Once again, the dual meet in Arizona provides the AACA with a great opportunity to promote our club in the western part of the country.

Please consider registering as judges for the dual meet. The more judges who participate, the fewer cars remain per team on show days resulting in higher quality evaluations for our participants.

Please note that Judges Breakfast starts at 7 a.m. and judging starts at 10 a.m. on both days for each show. The early start times were suggested by the Tucson Region on speculation that the Arizona heat will potentially be a concern.

I look forward to spending time with my judges and hope for a successful and relaxing event for all involved! Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

The Judge • Antique Automobile Club of America • 800 W Hersheypark Dr • Hershey, PA • 17033

Sunday, February 23, when the [Venice Region AACA](#) hosted the 1000 Miglia for a “stamp check” at Centennial Park in downtown Venice, FL. Centennial Park is a downtown park and parking lot where our club holds its annual classic car show on the last Sunday in March.

An offshoot of the famous Italian Mille Miglia race (Italian for 1,000 miles), this inaugural running of the 1000 Miglia in the U.S. traveled for 3 days from Miami to Naples to Tampa to Cape Canaveral and back to Miami. Running secondary roads, the route would take the race cars right by our hometown as they traveled north from Naples to Tampa along Florida’s Gulf Coast. With that information in hand, the Venice AACA club, the largest classic car club in South Florida, contacted race officials and sweet-talked them into considering a stop in Venice. An advance team of Italian race officials met with club and city officials a month before the race, and they fell in love with the name, architecture, and quaint hometown feel of historic downtown Venice. From there, the club and city took the reins to organize and promote the “stamp check” stop in Venice, which the race was now committed to making.



Historic Downtown Venice, Florida



1000 Miglia Venice Stamp

Below: The “stamp check” checkpoint

What is a “stamp check” you ask? To ensure that all the cars hit their required checkpoints, they must stop at certain pre-defined locations and get their official paperwork stamped to prove they were there. To make our checkpoint special, we designed a special stamp that incorporated the Venice Centennial Logo for our upcoming 100th anniversary as a city, and Venice Mayor Nick Pachota, Venice Mainstreet CEO Kara Morgan, Venice Area Chamber of Commerce President Kathy Lehner, City of Venice Special Events Coordinator Brianne Lorenz, and AACA Venice Region President John McKeon were named the honorary “stamper”.



On the day of the race, our club filled Centennial Park with 200 classic cars to welcome the race cars and spectators. Downtown restaurants ran race-themed dinner and drink specials. And we handed out free race programs and 1000 Miglia flags.



Squeezing through the estimated 10,000 spectators

By mid-afternoon on race day, downtown was packed! An estimated ten thousand spectators (four deep in many places) lined the race car route through the park and the surrounding streets. By the time the last car had left the park, a 1951 Bentley, more than an hour after the first car had arrived, 72 rare and exotic race cars had squeezed through the cheering and flag-waving crowds, got their stamp, and were on their way to the next checkpoint. What a spectacular event, and what a historic day for Venice!



*The last race car to arrive...
a 1951 Bentley B Special*

Check out our [Facebook page](#) for more photos and videos of the event.

We want to thank all the spectators and the 40+ Venice AACA volunteers who came out and helped make this a fun, safe, family-friendly, and memorable event for our small town. And a special thanks to the Italian race organizers for bringing the 1000 Miglia Experience USA Florida to Venice!

Historic Virginia Peninsula Region (HVPR) & Tidewater Region (TRAACA) Participate in the 100th Anniversary of the Jamestown-Scotland Virginia Ferry

By Al Crane, Historic Virginia Peninsula Region, cranejra@aol.com

Virginia Department of Transportation & John Atkinson (HVPR) Contributed to This Article

This is a member submitted article.

The Jamestown-Scotland Ferry marked a century of service last month, celebrating its role as a living piece of Virginia's transportation history. Since its first voyage on February 26, 1925, the ferry has connected communities, carried generations of travelers, and preserved a vital link across the James River.

As part of the ceremony on February 26, 2025, guests were provided a ceremonial ride in Model T and Model A cars driven by members from local antique car clubs, just like those ferried a century ago. Descendants of the ferry's founder and first captain, Captain Albert Jester,



AACA National Activities Calendar

May 1-3, 2025

Western Spring Nationals/Grand Nationals
Tucson, AZ

[Click here for brochure](#)

[Click here to register online](#)

[Click here to register online to judge](#)

June 1-7, 2025

Vintage Tour
Southern/Eastern PA

[Click here for brochure](#)

June 19-21, 2025

Eastern Spring Nationals
Beckley, WV

[Click here for brochure](#)

[Click here to register online](#)

[Click here to register online to judge](#)

July 2-5, 2025

Central Spring Nationals
Auburn, IN

[Click here for brochure](#)

[Click here to register online](#)

[Click here to register online to judge](#)

July 24-26, 2025

Grand Nationals/Zenith
Dayton, OH

[Click here for brochure](#)

[Click here to register online](#)

[Click here to register online to judge](#)

August 12-15, 2025

Eastern Divisional Tour
Aroostook County, ME

September 7-12, 2025

79th Revival AAA Glidden Tour®

Hosted by VMCCA

Owensboro, KY

[Click here for tour application](#)

NEW! Save the Date!

September 21-25, 2025

Founders Tour
Williamsburg, VA

October 7-10, 2025

Eastern Fall Nationals
Hershey, PA

October 18-22, 2025

Would you like registration information and materials about any of these National Activities?

You can:

1. Fill out the activity request card that came with the last issue of *Antique Automobile* magazine and mail it to us.

2. Sign into the [members only area](#) of the AACA website to print your own registration form and brochure.

You can also now fill out your registration online and pay via credit card. You will need your member number and your PIN. If you don't remember your member number and your PIN, give AACA Headquarters a call, and we can provide you with that information.

3. Call us at AACA Headquarters and we will fill out a request for you and mail you the materials. Call 717-534-1910 Mon.-Fri. from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

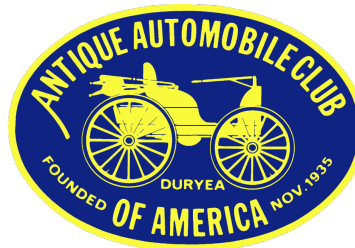
REMINDER:

Your 2025 membership dues MUST be paid prior to registering for any 2025 National Activities.

If you request registration materials for a show or tour and those materials are not finalized and printed yet, you will be put on the mailing list to receive them as soon as they are available.

**Central Divisional Tour
San Antonio to Galveston, TX**

**October 23-25, 2025
Central Fall Nationals
Galveston, TX**



This list is subject to change. New events may be added to the schedule. Continue to watch Speedster for up-to-date information, changes and additions.

Trivia Answer

**The Jaguar OTS was/is an Open Two-Seater (roadster).
The DHC was/is a Drophead Coupe (convertible cabriolet).
And the FHC was/is a Fixed Head Coupe (an actual hardtop coupe).**

Antique Automobile Club of America

AACA.org | 717-534-1910

America's Premiere Resource for the Collectible Vehicle Community



The Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, is the country's premier resource for the collectible vehicle community. Since its formation in 1935, the Club, through its national office, publications, and membership, aids individuals, museums, libraries, historians and collectors dedicated to the enjoyment and preservation of automotive history.

Antique Automobile Club of America | 800 W Hersheypark Dr | Hershey, PA 17033 US

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1000 Miglia race rolls through Venice



The turnout was incredible for the 1000 Miglia Experience Florida, which brought a fleet of stunning vintage and exotic cars through the City on Feb. 23, supported by the Venice Antique Automobile Club of America (AACAA). Inspired by the legendary Mille Miglia race in Italy, this international rally brings together some of the world's most remarkable cars, from a 1937 Bugatti and a 1951 Ferrari to a 1965 Fiat and a 2025 Porsche. As the autos made their way through Centennial Park, drivers had their paperwork stamped with the official Venice stamp, pictured above. Below, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Venice Chamber President & CEO Kathy Lehner, Mayor Nick Pachota, Venice Mainstreet CEO Kara Morgan, John McKeon with AACAA, and City Special Events Coordinator Brianne Lorenz all took a turn at stamping the entries. A once-in-a-lifetime event! *See aerial photo, page 36*



1000 Miglia race event

“[Venice] was the absolute best moment of the whole road rally and the drivers were shocked by the massive cheering crowds you managed to gather.” - Alessandro Comoglio, Miglia organizer



Photo provided by Alessandro Comoglio

Signature: 
James Clinch (Sep 18, 2025 14:22:01 EDT)

Email: JClinch@venicefl.gov



Council Memo & Packet - New Special Event 1000 Miglia

Final Audit Report

2025-09-18

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