



## Agenda Abstract

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date:	Nov. 24, 2025
Department:	Planning and Economic Development
Agenda Section:	Consent
Public hearing:	No
Date of public hearing:	N/A

#### PRESENTER/INFORMATION CONTACT

Dakotah Kimbrough, Planning Technician

#### ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED

**Subject:** Special Event Permit Application – 2025 Solstice Lantern Walk and Market

**Attachments:**

Special Event Permit Application

**Summary:**

The Hillsborough Arts Council is to hold their annual Solstice Lantern Walk and Market on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025. Set-up will be from 1 to 5 p.m., with the event running from 5 to 8 p.m. and breakdown completed by 9 p.m. This free event continues to attract participants from around the region, with attendance last year estimated to be between 5-6,000. Organizers expect between 4-6,000 again this year, with peak attendance around 6 p.m.

For the event, up to ten 10'x10' tents will be placed around the site for information, first aid, entertainment, etc. Organizers will bring equipment including heaters, event lighting, band equipment, portable toilets, and portable hand-washing stations, with some items to be left overnight for pick-up the next day. Many artists and food vendors will be present; organizers have been provided with a Single-Day Tax Compliance Form to distribute to the prepared food vendors without a Mobile Food Vendor permit.

The Lantern Walk route will follow Riverwalk from near the Farmer's Market Pavilion to the bridge by Gold Park and return via the same route. The map layout details the location of volunteers, police security, watch zones, etc. This year, a circulator bus is being piloted to provide shuttle service from parking areas in West Hillsborough to the Pavilion. A certificate of insurance is also attached to the application.

Town-sponsored service being requested include police coverage, ideally between 5 and 8 p.m. at either the Weaver Street and/or Gold Park entrances to Riverwalk, and 4 additional trash rollout carts at the Pavilion.

**Financial impacts:**

Moderate; departmental costs associated with four trash rollout carts requested from Public Works and four officers required for police coverage of the event.

**Staff recommendation and comments:**

Staff recommends approval of the event and town-sponsored services; greenway use conditions will apply.

**Action requested:**

Approve, approve with conditions, or deny the special event permit.