

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Commission

FROM: Robin I. Gomez, City Manager

DATE: July 23, 2025

RE: America 250 – July 4, 2026 – City Participation

Background

July 4, 2026, will be the US' 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. All governments have been encouraged to recognize the very special date with a variety of possible events, activities, displays, meetings, etc., as evidenced in the below internet sites discussing, promoting, and recognizing the date.

Discussion

As we continue preparing and finalizing our FY 2026 budget, the following information on a few ideas of what the City could research and participate in to host an event/exhibit, partner with other organizations, promote the date, etc.,:

- a. Develop a budget for certain activities, events, exhibits, etc., such as: a larger Fireworks show on Saturday, July 4, 2026 (perhaps we partner with neighboring beach cities for a combined fireworks display-use barges to launch fireworks on the Gulf); host a historical/informational exhibit (perhaps in partnership with the Gulf Beaches Public Library) at City Hall or the GBPL, etc?
- b. Research the State's Semiquincentennial Advisory Commission webpage for information, getting involved, events, etc: https://america250fl.com/
- c. Create a logo for the City to use?
- d. Websites to research, likely add links to them from our website:
 - a. America250.org
 - b. America250fl.com
 - c. whitehouse.gov/america250/

From the **America250.org** website:

America250's mission is to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, marking America's Semiquincentennial. We aim to inspire our fellow Americans to reflect on our past, strengthen our love of country, and renew our commitment to the ideals of democracy through programs that educate, engage, and unite us as a nation. America250 will foster shared experiences that spark imagination, showcase the rich tapestry of our American stories, inspire service in our communities, honor the enduring strength, and celebrate the resilience of the United States of America.

From the America250fl.com website:

