



MEMORANDUM

Date: January 20, 2026
To: Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Commissioners
From: Megan Powers, Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: City Photographer Contract

Background

City staff has been utilizing photography services to capture events and highlights occurring throughout the city. These services have included professionally edited photographs, videos, and specialized social media content designed to enhance the City's online presence and overall communications strategy.

The use of professional photography has proven valuable in improving the quality and consistency of content shared with the community, supporting transparency, engagement, and public awareness of City activities.

Staff recommends entering into a contract with a professional photographer to provide services for predetermined City events, as well as establishing an hourly rate for unplanned or short-notice items that arise throughout the year. This approach would ensure timely access to high-quality visual content while providing flexibility to meet emerging needs.

A contractual arrangement would allow the City to maintain a consistent visual standard, streamline scheduling, and better manage costs associated with photography and media services.

Research

Reached out to five photographers, got 2 proposals back:

- Jeremiah Khokhar Photography, LLC:
 - We have been working with Jeremiah over the last year to document pictures and video post storm and how we are recovering.
 - Wrote posts and shot shorts for social media
 - Has national exposure as a photographer
 - Website: <https://www.jeremiahkphotography.com/>
 - He also did all the burger week and seafood fest promos
 - Cost:
 - \$36,500/Year for events listed in contract
 - \$200/hr for any additional items. Includes production, editing, and posting.
- St. Jean Creative Photography
 - Works with Pinellas Beaches Chamber as official photographer
 - Has done BOC headshots
 - Has experience with Photography and Video
 - Certified by the Professional Photographers of America
 - Website: <https://stjeancreative.com/about-st-jean-creative>

- Cost:
 - Estimated \$56,000/year (about 700 hours total for events listed)
 - \$80/hour

Recommendation:

The cost of the photography services would be covered by the Recreation and City Manager Departments. The contract will also include a termination clause allowing the City to reduce or end the agreement once a Public Information Officer or related position is filled.

Staff recommends continuing photography services with Jeremiah Khokhar Photography, LLC. Jeremiah brings a strong storytelling approach to his work and has already demonstrated success in capturing and engaging audiences through social media posts that highlight the City's events, progress, and character.

The addition of a dedicated photographer will support consistent documentation of the City during its rebuilding efforts while also serving as a valuable tool to promote that the City is open, active, and thriving. These services will enhance the City's communication efforts, strengthen community engagement, and provide high-quality visual assets for current and future use.