Agenda Item

Meeting Date: January 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Consideration of an action on a request to approve Mardi Gras as a city-wide event

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Item: Discussion /Action Item
Department: Special Events
Requested By: Interim City Manager Maggie Dimov

Background: Bundos Entertainment submitted a Special Event Permit application in October 2025 to organize a Mardi Gras celebration in the City and requested City's support. Mardi Gras has historically been a signature community event, and residents are anticipating its return.

Following the application submission, the City's Special Events Committee met with Bundos Entertainment to discuss potential models for hosting the event. Three options were presented and reviewed.

Event Hosting Options Reviewed
- **Option 1: Independent Event**
- **Option 2: City-Supported Event**
- **Option 3: City Partnership / Official City Event**

Initially, Bundos Entertainment selected Option 1 (Independent Event) and provided all required supporting documentation, including a certificate of insurance, event map, and detailed event information.

More recently, Bundos Entertainment approached the City to request consideration of Option 2 (City-Supported Event).

Financial Impact: If the City chooses to sponsor or partner in the event (Options 2), the estimated cost to the City for police, public works, and waived permit fees is approximately $15,000.00.

Recommended Council Action: Council to discuss the available event hosting options and provide direction on whether to:
- Proceed under an independent model (Option 3, the City produces the event).
- Provide City support (Option 2, due to limited city staff) and hire an event organizer.
- Recognize Mardi Gras as an official City event and initiate the RFP process.
- A service agreement needs to be signed between the City and the event company, outlining the event scope and details, and requirements for each stake holder.

Requested Action: Approve Mardi Gras as a city event and obtain event planning services through a RFP to execute the event