



## **BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE<sup>1</sup>**

Meeting Date: 10/18/2023

**Proposed Ordinance Title/Reference:** Amendment to Monroe County Code of Ordinances (MCC) Sec 18-27(h) amending boat ramp fees and Park entry fees.

**The Proposed Ordinance**  **does**  **does not fall under one of the following enumerated exceptions:<sup>2</sup>**

- The proposed ordinance is required for compliance with Federal or State law or regulation;
- The proposed ordinance relates to the issuance or refinancing of debt;
- The proposed ordinance relates to the adoption of budgets or budget amendments, including revenue sources necessary to fund the budget;
- The proposed ordinance is required to implement a contract or an agreement, including, but not limited to, any Federal, State, local, or private grant or other financial assistance accepted by the county government;
- The proposed ordinance is an emergency ordinance;
- The ordinance relates to procurement; or
- The proposed ordinance is enacted to implement the following:
  - a. Part II of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, relating to growth policy, county and municipal planning, and land development regulation, including zoning, development orders, development agreements and development permits;
  - b. Sections 190.005 and 190.046, Florida Statutes, regarding community development districts;
  - c. Section 553.73, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Building Code; or
  - d. Section 633.202, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

**Summary of Proposed Ordinance and Statement of Public Purpose to be Served:**

The proposed ordinance amends MCC Sec. 18-27(h) in order to increase the entry and boat ramp fees for non-residents. Currently, the fees for non-residents are as follows:

- (1) On weekends, \$8.00 per person for adults (ages 18 to 64 years); \$5.00 per person for youth (ages three to 17 years) and seniors (65 years and over); and free for any infant up to three years of age.
- (2) On Monroe County holidays, which shall include the entirety of any accompanying weekend days, and the two-day annual July lobster mini-season, the admission fees for Harry Harris Park are as follows: \$15.00 per person for adults (ages 18 to 64 years); \$10.00 per person for youth (ages three to 17 years) and seniors (65 years and over); and free for any infant up to three years of age.
- (3) A \$40.00 boat ramp fee for watercraft vessels with trailers.
- (4) Park admission fees are waived for active-duty military members, disabled veterans, and their immediate family members, i.e., surviving spouse, child, or parents, and other individuals as identified in F.S. § 125.029 (with proper I.D. provided).

The proposed ordinance would instead implement a \$15.00 per vehicle charge in lieu of the per person fees for weekends and holidays. Additionally, the boat ramp fees would be \$40.00 for non-holiday weekends and \$60.00 for Monroe County holidays (including the entirety of any accompanying weekend days) and the two-day annual July lobster mini-season. The exception for active-duty military members, disabled veterans, and their immediate family

<sup>1</sup> Business impact statement must be posted on the county's website no later than the date the notice of proposed enactment is published.

<sup>2</sup> F.S. 125.66(3)(c)(2023)

members as well as those individuals identified in F.S. § 125.029 (with proper I.D. provided) would remain.

All of the above fees pertain only to non-county residents. County residents may enter Harry Harris Park and use the boat ramp free of charge.

The use of the Harry Harris Park in Tavernier, Florida ("Park"), by Monroe County residents and non-residents has continually increased during recent years, creating more maintenance and upkeep responsibilities along with necessitating future enhancements. A significant portion of the maintenance and upkeep of Harry Harris Park is funded through property taxes and Monroe County residents, through property taxes, have already contributed to the funding of the Park maintenance and upkeep so it would be manifestly unfair to charge residents an additional admission fee. Thus, the increased admission fee for non-residents will benefit both residents and non-residents by providing increased funding for future enhancements to the public Park. It is necessary and in the public interest to facilitate the maintenance and improvements of the public Park.

**Estimate of Direct Economic Impact on Private/For Profit Businesses:**

- a. Estimate of Direct Business Compliance Costs: Raising the fees for non-residents is not intended to impact any businesses in Monroe County.
- b. New Charges/Fees on Businesses Impacted: Neither residents nor businesses whose principals reside in Monroe County should be affected by this ordinance.
- c. Estimate of Regulatory Costs: The proposed change in the residential construction fee presents no significant foreseeable or anticipated cost or decrease in the County's regulatory costs. The proposed ordinance does not add any additional enforcement or regulatory requirements for County Staff beyond that which are in the existing code or are currently provided by the County, therefore there are no additional regulatory costs. Because the fees are charged to all non-residents, and the fees are not intended for businesses, it is not possible to determine if there are any increased costs to non-resident businesses but any increase should be negligible. The proposed Ordinance would increase the current fees as described above. It is estimated this increase will add an additional \$9,792.00 in annual revenue to help offset the costs of operations, maintenance and improvements to the Park.

**Good Faith Estimate of Number of Businesses Likely Impacted:** The estimated number of businesses likely to be impacted by the ordinance cannot be quantified at this time because the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the proposed changes will depend on how many businesses with non-resident principals seek to enter the Park and/or make use of the Park Boat Ramp following the effective date of the ordinance.

**Any Additional Information:** The proposed ordinance is a generally applicable ordinance that applies to all persons similarly situated (individuals as well as businesses) who are non-residents and, therefore, the proposed ordinance does not affect only businesses.