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9-23-23

Gloria Sitton

From: Yvonne Callahan <yvonneweightcallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 4:10 PM
To: Gloria Sitton
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Docket Item # 8

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Dear Mr. Mayor and members of City Council:

I would respectfully request that this matter related to special events be deferred.

The overarching purpose of these revisions are to allow staff to permit special events on a weekly basis during the year.

It is so poorly written that it will cause more confusion than clarity. There is no real rush to getting this approved, since it will not be of any usefulness until next summer, if then.

A little more time can therefore be devoted to making this better.

I would suggest you review the attachment to this docket item which is described as a red lined version of the proposal.

On page 3, the (red-lined attached) draft provides 5 circumstances for which a special use permit may be required. However, there is no clarity as to whether one, or two, or three, or all conditions are applicable—they are only listed. Must one be seeking approval to use a city park and be for 500 people? Can one need approval to use a city park if only 25 people will attend? If food is to be served, must that also occur in a city park?

On page 6, it is stated that weddings with "attendance over 50 people" (*sic*) and/or that require use of a city park or other public space shall be required to obtain a special use permit.

The conjunctive phrase—badly needed on page 3 leads one to conclude that a wedding attended by more than 50 people in a church must have a special use permit. While staff says that no such permit would be required except when public spaces are also used, why not state that instead of what is there now?

On page 12, the statement is made that any decisions on refunds made by the City Manager or the City Manager's designee are final. Again, I've been told by staff that any decision of a designee can be appealed. If so, why not just state that here? All citizens should have the right

to appeal such a decision to the City Manager and not be subject to the possible whims of a Deputy City Manager.

On page 20, after lengthy recitations concerning street closures for parades, marathons, etc. there is a one sentence statement that "block parties not associated with an event do not always require a special use permit".

Elsewhere, the statement is made that upon application to permit a street closure for a block party, the applicant must include with the application proof of insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 in insurance coverage, naming the City as a party.

Staff's reply to my critique of this provision was that it has always been in effect and indicated that clarification was being sought from T & ES.

I've heard nothing since then, although promises were made to get back to me on this subject. That never happened and it was sent on to you for approval. Thus, you are being asked to approve a document that is rife with incomplete drafting and procedural uncertainties.

One of the problems here is that a simple block party has been placed in the category of a parade or a marathon race through the City. Assuming the City doesn't intend to effectively prohibit block parties, I would urge you to make it clear that block parties do not require insurance, perhaps by clarifying that if they are one block long, organized by residents of that block, and are of limited duration in time, there is no such requirement.

A few years ago, my neighbors and I held a block party, and there was no requirement from the City for us to obtain such insurance. (I might add as well that T & E S staff were very helpful throughout the entire process.) If the 50 or so residents of my block wish to close our street for a few hours, we should not have to get a \$1,000,000 insurance policy to do so. Indeed, that will become an insurmountable barrier to an innocent neighborhood get together.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yvonne Weight Callahan

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