

Major Revisions to the Special Events Ordinance after First Reading



Significant Changes

- * Neighborhood block parties are not subject to special events ordinance.
 - * Created a separate permit process in Chapter 14-8.
- * Requirements for “High Capacity Event Venues” removed from ordinance.

4-15-1 Definitions

- * Added:
 - * Amplified Sound Equipment
 - * Legacy Event
 - * Outdoor
- * Deleted:
 - * High Capacity Event Venue and related definitions.
- * Modified:
 - * Preliminary Recommendation: clarified by adding “decision by ACE”.
 - * Special Event: removed “inconsistent with the occupancy levels permitted on the property”
 - * Special Event District: changed to Special Event Impact Area.

4-15-21 Categories of Special Events

- * Slight change to Tier 1 from “5 hours” to one day.

4-15-22 Special Event Permit

- * Added “A special event permit is effective after all required inspections have been passed.”
 - * Adds clarity.

4-15-26 Insurance Required; Exceptions

- * Added types of city property
 - * Provides clarity

4-15-30 Special Event Application Fees and Deadlines

- * Allows ACE to make the decision about whether to waive deadlines.
- * Good cause AND the waiver does not cause unreasonable burden on the City.

4-15-31 Contents of Special Event Application

- * Deleted the information required for applications and states that the requirements will be set out in the Rules.
- * The earliest date an application can be submitted is now based on tier.
 - * Tiers 1 and 2: 150 days (new events)/180 days (for returning events).
 - * Tiers 3 and 4: 335 days (new events)/365 days (for returning events).
 - * Language amended to remove use of copyrighted names.

4-15-34 Approval or Denial of Special Event Application

- * Substituted “application” for “permit” for clarity.
- * Language clarified for:
 - * Sufficient traffic control
 - * Final action dates by ACE for Tier 1 & 2 events

4-15-36 Notice of Proposed Special Event Dates

- * Allows a legacy event to submit its special event dates for up to a five year period.
- * Still must comply with deadlines to submit applications and must also pay fees.

4-15-42 Sale of Goods, Food, and Beverage Within a Special Event

- * Made it clear that a person may only sell alcohol if authorized by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

4-15-44 Additional Requirements

- * Renamed section
 - * Substituted “Additional” for “Miscellaneous”
- * Re-ordered subsections.
- * Sustainability plan mandatory for only Tier 4 events.
 - * Tier 2 & 3 events to be placed in guidebook as recommended.

Article 7. High Capacity Venues

- * This Article was deleted in its entirety.

Changes to Chapter 14-8

- * Re-ordered the Articles.
 - * Article 1: General Provisions and Enforcement
 - * Article 2: Closure Permits for Special Events
 - * Article 3: Closure Permits for Neighborhood Block Parties.
- * In Article 1: added “Previous Violation” and “Review and Reporting Requirements.”

Article 3: Closure Permits for Neighborhood Block Party

- * Included in Chapter 14-8 because requires a road closure.
 - * Definition: an event that requires closure of a residential street and is open only to attendees from the immediate area.
- * Application
 - * Deadline: 10 days prior to event
 - * Proof that owners/occupants of property that will be impacted by the block party have been notified.
- * Additional requirements
 - * Barricades
 - * Insurance/Indemnification
 - * No closures of intersections



Notification Process

Proposed Tiered System in Pending Special Event Ordinance

Tiers 1 and 2

- Smaller impact = shorter deadlines
- Hand walk notices/door hangers
- Signed petition
- Signs posted

Tiers 3 and 4

- Larger events = bigger impacts

Approval and Notification Challenges

- Separating the approval process from the notifications
- Align deadline between street closure approval/notifications and amplified sound applications
- Short turn around events
- Commission and Council review increase appeal processes

Ideas for Revised Process

- * Opt-in electronic notification of application review
 - 30 days after application submission for street event closure
 - If amplified sound is within a street closure, both notifications will follow the street closure notification process
- * Separated approval process from notifications for Tier 3 and Tier 4 events
- * Incorporating 3-1-1 as a part of the process (before, during and after event)
- * Review event input by ACE management for approval or disapproval
- * Appeal team of Department Directors
- * Postcard notification to affected persons
- * 30 days prior to event