



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

CM/DCM/ACM: Christine Taylor

DATE: May 4, 2026

SUBJECT

Consider recommending adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton temporarily amending Chapter 25 streets, sidewalks and public places, Article V Special Events, adding Division 6, neighborhood block parties section 25-252 through 25-256 to create a one-year pilot program to establish application and permitting processes for the implementation of a streamlined process for neighborhood block parties commencing June 1, 2026 and expiring June 1, 2027; providing a savings clause; providing a severability clause; providing codification; and providing an effective date.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, the City adopted **Code of Ordinances Sec. 25-245** to encourage neighborhood block parties as a means of fostering community engagement. The ordinance established a simplified permitting process, waived special event fees, and exempted block parties from insurance requirements under certain conditions.

To improve clarity and accessibility, Parks and Recreation staff developed a new streamlined process to guide residents through hosting a block party with street closures while maintaining public safety and ordinance compliance.

DISCUSSION

- **Neighborhood Block Party Criteria:** Clearly distinguish neighborhood block parties from special events.
- **Application Requirements:** Residents must submit an online permit application.
- **Documentation:** Current requirements are disproportionate to the scale and impact of block parties.
- **Review Timeline:** The 14-day window is insufficient for interdepartmental review.
- **Temporary Road Closures:** Target low-impact street segments to minimize traffic disruption and maintain emergency access.

Streamlined Process Highlights:

- **Eligibility:** Resident-hosted events held within single-family residential neighborhoods, maximum 8-hours (between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.), less than 200 attendees, no amplified sound or commercial activity.
- **Documentation:** Site map, temporary road closure request, and a signed notification form from residents on the impacted street.
- **Submission:** Online via Block Party Permit Smartsheet, minimum 30 days in advance.
- **Review:** Coordinated by Parks and Recreation, Transportation Services, and Public Safety departments.

- **Traffic Control Equipment:** Type II barricades may be used at access points as an organizer-friendly, cost-effective option. Additional traffic signage (detour, special event signs, etc.) is not required.

This approach promotes community-building while ensuring safety, emergency access, and neighborhood notification.

OPTIONS

Recommend, recommend with edits, or not recommend.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend approval of the pilot program.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

On April 17, 2026, Community Partnership Committee provided direction for staff to take the item to Park Board and City Council for consideration.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2 - Presentation

Exhibit 3 - Block Party Planning Guide

Exhibit 4 - Draft Ordinance

Respectfully submitted:

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