



City of Denton

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

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

ACM: Christine Taylor

DATE: May 19, 2026

SUBJECT

Consider 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 sections 25-252 through 25-256, to create a one-year pilot program to establish application and permitting processes for 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. The Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board recommends adoption (5-0).

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:** A 30 day window is adequate 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 residential neighborhoods, maximum 8-hours (between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.), maximum of 200 attendees.
- **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 are recommended to 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.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the proposed Ordinance establishing the Neighborhood Block Party Pilot Program.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

On April 17, 2026, Community Partnership Committee provided direction for staff to present the item to Park Board and City Council for consideration. On May 4, 2026, Parks, Recreation, and Beatification Board recommended adoption of the ordinance (5-0).

EXHIBITS

- Exhibit 1- Agenda Information Sheet
- Exhibit 2- Ordinance
- Exhibit 3- Presentation
- Exhibit 4- Block Party Planning Guide

Respectfully submitted:
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