



Legislation Text

File #: 16-462, **Version:** 1

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SUBJECT: Street Closure #16-15 Merced County Office of Education "Lights On After School" (15th Annual)

REPORT IN BRIEF

The Merced County Office of Education requests the use of City streets and Bob Hart Square to host "Lights on After School" on Thursday, October 20, 2016, from 1:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion approving the street closures of W. Main Street between M and K Streets, Canal Street between W. Main and W. 18th Streets, and the use of Bob Hart Square from 1:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. as requested by Merced County Office of Education for "Lights on After School" on Thursday, October 20, 2016, subject to the details and conditions outlined in the administrative staff report.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve, as recommended by staff; or,
2. Approve, subject to modifications as conditioned by Council; or,
3. Deny the request completely; or,
4. Refer back to staff for reconsideration of specific items as requested by Council; or,
5. Continue item to a future Council meeting (date and time to be specified in City Council motion).

AUTHORITY

City of Merced Charter Section 200; California Vehicle Code (CVC) Sections 21100(a) and 21101(e), the latter as follows:

"21101. Local authorities, for those highways under their jurisdiction, may adopt rules and regulations by ordinance or resolution on the following matters:

"(e) Temporarily closing a portion of any street for celebrations, parades, local special events, and other purposes when, in the opinion of local authorities having jurisdiction or a public officer or employee that the local authority designates by resolution, the closing is necessary for the safety and protection of persons who are to use that portion of the street during the temporary closing.

CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Not applicable.

DISCUSSION

Event Description:

“Lights on After School” is a national program that began in Merced fifteen years ago with the Merced County Office of Education (MCOE). The program’s main goal is to spread awareness about the need and availability of after-school activities and programs in the community. The MCOE is collaborating with several non-profit organizations, local agencies, and private businesses to host this event in Merced’s Downtown (Attachment 1). The event will include informational booths and activities/games along Main Street and Canal Street, a DJ booth in front of Bob Hart Square, and a walking-parade through the closed section on Main Street. Parking for the event is provided by multiple public parking lots in the Downtown Parking District.

Requested Streets:

The applicant requests the closure of the following streets on the day of the event, from 1:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., as shown on Attachment 1, subject to the details and conditions outlined in the “Conditions of Approval” section of this report.

- W. Main Street, both travel lanes, from M Street to K Street.
- Canal Street, both travel lanes, from W. Main Street to W. 18th Street.

Temporary barricades will be placed at the intersections of M Street and W. Main Street, K Street and W. Main Street, Canal Street and 18th Street, and across Arbor Lane.

At least seventy-two hours (three days) prior to the street closures, the event organizers are required to notify nearby businesses and residences within one half-mile of the affected streets (Condition #6). To ensure this is done, event organizers are required to provide staff with confirmation that this notification was given. Staff has prepared a standard form that the event sponsor shall complete, photocopy, and distribute to businesses and residences within the stated area (Attachment 3). A copy of this form shall also be signed and submitted to Planning Department staff, affirming that the required businesses and residences were notified.

Conditions of Approval:

The event and street closure will be subject to the following conditions, if approved:

1. By applying for the street closure request, the Permittee shall agree to indemnify, protect, defend (with counsel selected by the City), save, and hold City, its officers, employees, agents, and volunteers harmless from any and all claims or causes of action for death or injury to persons, or damage to property resulting from intentional or negligent acts, errors, or omissions of Event Sponsor or Event Sponsor’s officers, employees, agents, volunteers, and participants during performance of the Event, or from any violation of any federal, state, or municipal law or ordinance, to the extent caused, in whole or in part, by the willful misconduct, negligent acts, or omissions of Event Sponsor or its officers, employees, agents, volunteers, or participants, or resulting from the negligence of the City, its officers, employees, agents, and volunteers, except for loss caused solely by the gross negligence of the City. Acceptance by City of insurance certificates and endorsements required for this Event does not relieve Event Sponsor from liability under this indemnification and hold harmless clause. This indemnification and hold harmless clause shall apply to any damages or claims for damages whether or not such insurance policies shall have been determined to apply.

2. Prior to engaging in the event, Event Sponsor shall provide the City with a Certificate of Liability Insurance evidencing coverage in an amount of no less than \$500,000 for property damage and \$500,000 for personal injury or a minimum combined single limit coverage of \$500,000. Said policy shall stipulate that this insurance will operate as primary insurance and that no other insurance will be called on to cover a loss covered thereunder. Additional insured endorsements evidencing this coverage, naming the City of Merced, its Officers, Employees, and Agents as additional insureds, must be submitted to the City prior to the event. This certificate shall provide that thirty (30) days written notice of cancellation shall be given to the City. Certificates of Insurance shall also be provided for Automobile insurances of all automobiles used for the event. If the Event Sponsor has any employee(s), full workers' compensation insurance shall be provided with a limit of at least \$100,000 for any one person as required by law.
3. The event sponsor shall obtain, at its sole cost and expense, special events coverage insuring the City and its officers, employees, volunteers, and agents from any and all claims relating to the project. Special events coverage may be obtained through private insurance or is available through application with the City Clerk's office (385-6866).
4. Failure to comply with any law, rule, or regulation applicable to the use of said streets shall be grounds to revoke any such permit and, in such circumstances, the Chief of Police shall immediately revoke said permit. The Event Sponsor or permit holder, in such case, shall have the right to appeal said revocation to the City Council.
5. Event sponsor shall be responsible for placing and removing all traffic barricades and posting of parking restrictions where street is closed. "No Parking" signs shall be posted at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to towing of vehicle(s) per California Vehicle Code Section 22651(m).
6. Event sponsor shall contact all businesses and residences affected by the street closures, advising them of the hours, conditions, and reason thereof within one half-mile of the closure area at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the event. Event Sponsor shall provide the City with confirmation that the proper notification was given (Attachment 3).
7. Event sponsor shall provide and maintain a minimum 22-foot-wide emergency vehicle access path to and through the interior of the closure area at all times. Fire hydrant access shall not be blocked at any time whatsoever.
8. Event sponsor shall provide adequate supervision and security throughout the area to ensure the safety of the participants and the public gathered, as required by the Police Department.
9. The Merced City Police Department or their designee has the authority to immediately cancel all activities requested with this street closure if there is a police or other emergency incident in the area.
10. Event sponsor shall be responsible for removing all equipment and disposing of any trash and debris within and around the closure area that is generated from the event prior to the expiration of the closure permit.
11. Alcoholic beverages may not be served or sold at this event.
12. All other provisions addressed in Ordinance #1941 Chapter 12.42 (Temporary Street Closures)

shall apply.

Recommendation:

In summary, City Staff is recommending approval of the requested Street Closure and use of Bob Hart Square, subject to the conditions above.

IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES

No appropriation of funds is needed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Location map
2. Site Plan
3. Notice of Pending Street Closure