



Item Number: 1

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: July 16, 2024

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole
LIAISON: Mark Washington, City Manager

FROM: Evette Pittman, Special Event Manager
Special Events

SUBJECT: **Resolution Authorizing Certain Special Events Subject to Chapter 53 of the City Code**

The attached resolution identifies certain special events planned to occur in 2024. The attached document entitled Attachment A identifies the name of each event, location, sponsor, date, and time as well as confirmation that the insurance requirement will be met. In addition, the resolution identifies any rule or City Code provision that shall be suspended within the boundaries of the event while such event is being held.

All events will be permitted under the current state executive and emergency orders and an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that details the event organizer's plans to mitigate measures including severe weather will be required. The EAP will be reviewed by both the Office of Special Events and the Grand Rapids Fire Department, with guidance from the Kent County Health Department.

Event Organizer Lyndsey Schirle with RLV Homes is requesting a Special Event Permit to inflate a tethered hot air balloon at Riverside Park located at 2001 Monroe Ave NE, on Friday, July 26, 2024. The public will be permitted to walk in the tethered hot air balloon between 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM.

Destination Consultants and SpartanNash are requesting permission for a commercial-grade fireworks display discharged from Gillett Bridge (Inter-Urban Bridge- public property) located between the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and Ah-Nab-Awen Park over the Grand River on Tuesday, July 23, 2024. The commercial-grade fireworks will be discharged by a licensed pyrotechnic between 10:00 PM and 11:00 PM (weather depending) and will last approximately 12-minutes. GRFD and GRPD have approved of and will monitor the display.

NorthPointe Christian School is requesting permission for a consumer-grade fireworks display discharged from the NorthPointe Christian School Field located at 3101 Leonard St NE, on Thursday, August 29, 2024. The consumer-grade fireworks will be discharged by a licensed pyrotechnic between 9:00 PM and 10:30 PM (weather depending) and will last approximately 15-minutes. GRFD and GRPD will approve of the display.

This resolution would suspend Section 9.907 of Chapter 173 Fireworks of Title IX-Police Regulations and would approve Special Event Permits involving the use of commercial-grade fireworks in Grand Rapids on Tuesday, July 23, 2024; and consumer-grade fireworks on Thursday, August 29, 2024. The requirements of the Grand Rapids Fire Department, Grand Rapids Police Department, Parks Department, and Office of Special Events as well as insurance requirements will be met before the special event permits are issued.

Chapter 53 of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids enables the City, in cases of major special events, to define the event boundaries and to provide the event organizers with the authority to manage activities within said boundaries.

Please consider this resolution on the July 16th, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Your COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE recommends the adoption of the following resolution Authorizing Certain Special Events Subject to Chapter 53 of the City Code, including the occurrence of permitted special events from July 16 through December 31, 2024; the inflation of a tethered hot air balloon at Riverside Park located at 2001 Monroe Ave NE, on Friday, July 26, 2024; the discharge of commercial-grade fireworks from Gillett Bridge (Inter-Urban Bridge- public property) located between the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and Ah-Nab-Awen Park over the Grand River on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, for Destination Consultants and SpartanNash; and a consumer-grade fireworks display discharged from the Northpointe Christian School Field located at 3101 Leonard St NE, on Thursday, August 29, 2024, as special events subject to Chapter 53 of the City Code, and suspending Section 9.907 of Chapter 173 entitled Fireworks, permitting the use of consumer-grade fireworks on public property.

WHEREAS:

1. The City Commission has determined that the following special events are of general interest and importance to the community, and
2. The organizers of the following events have submitted applications seeking authorization for such events to be conducted at the dates, times, and locations indicated; and
3. Event organizers have submitted insurance and emergency action plans in adherence to city and county regulations and state executive and emergency orders; and
4. The Office of Special Events, Parks Department, Grand Rapids Police Department, and Grand Rapids Fire Department will respectively review and approve of the activities; and
5. RLV Homes will inflate a tethered hot air balloon at Riverside Park on Friday, July 26, 2024, between 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM; and
6. Title IV of the City Code entitled Streets and Sidewalks, Chapter 53 entitled Special Events, Section 4.210 entitled Chapter to Control, Penalties, provides in pertinent part that it has the force of law and shall control and supersede any other general ordinances, licenses, or regulations for the duration of said special events; and
7. A licensed pyrotechnic for Destination Consultants and SpartanNash will discharge commercial-grade fireworks from Gillett Bridge (Inter-Urban Bridge- public property) on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, between 10:00 PM and 11:00 PM; and

8. A licensed pyrotechnic for NorthPointe Christian School will discharge consumer-grade fireworks from the NorthPointe Christian School Field on Thursday, August 29, 2024, 9:00 PM and 10:30 PM; and
9. Title IX of the City Code entitled Police Regulations, Chapter 173 entitled Fireworks, Section 9.907 entitled Firework Safety prohibits the use of fireworks on the above dates: therefore

RESOLVED:

1. That the special events detailed in Attachment A are hereby authorized and are made subject to the provisions of Chapter 53 of Title IV of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids for the duration of such events at the times and dates indicated herein; and
2. The inflation of a hot air balloon presented by RLV Homes detailed in Attachment A and B shall be deemed a Special Event pursuant to Chapter 53 of the City Code; and
3. The discharge of commercial-grade fireworks by a licensed pyrotechnic presented by Destination Consultants and SpartanNash detailed in Attachments A and B shall be deemed a Special Event pursuant to Chapter 53 of the City Code; and
4. The discharge of consumer-grade fireworks by a licensed pyrotechnic presented by NorthPointe Christian Schools detailed in Attachments A and B shall be deemed a Special Event pursuant to Chapter 53 of the City Code; and
5. That Title IX, Chapter 173, Section 9.907 entitled Use of Consumer Grade Fireworks Prohibited be suspended by Chapter 53 of the City Code entitled Special Events, and that use of consumer-grade fireworks on the public property on the dates and times stated above shall be approved; and
6. That the rules or ordinance provisions referenced in the table attached hereto as Attachment A are hereby suspended for the duration of the events referenced therein.

CORRECT IN FORM

DEPARTMENT OF LAW