



ESTABLISHMENT OF A NON-PUBLIC FORUM DURING FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

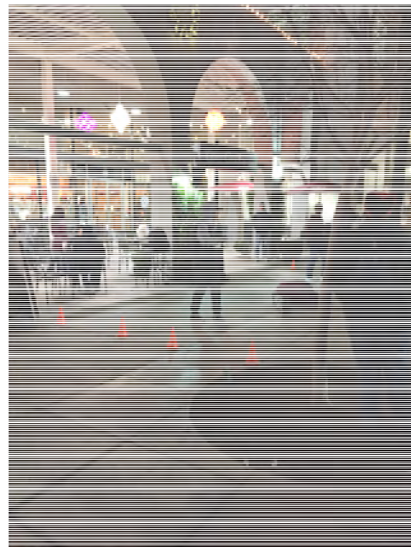
Museum & Cultural Affairs
Department

Governmental Affairs Committee
June 7, 2017

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BACKGROUND

1. Many performers and religious individuals draw a crowd and end up blocking paths of travel on the Pedestrian Mall, surrounding streets and even spill onto City streets at times
2. Over the last three years the number of performers has grown substantially along with the attendance of the Festival.



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BACKGROUND



3. This has inhibited police and fire from quickly responding to calls for service in the Festival area
4. Staff has had no mechanism to keep pedestrian pathways clear and flowing to ensure attendees are safe and have an enjoyable experience

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DISCUSSION

It is the intent of the City to:

1. Limit performers from performing on non-High Traffic Days only during the Festival. It is the further intention of the City to balance the regulations and governmental interest with the recognized rights of performers to practice freedom of speech and freedom of expression to their intended audiences; and
2. For performers to be afforded ample alternative channels of communication, expression and reasonable access to perform on Less Congested days and times during the Festival so that the performers may reach their intended audience.

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NON-PUBLIC FORUM AREAS

1. Switch-On Ceremony:

The Pedestrian Mall and the surrounding streets, sidewalks and right-of-ways for the area bounded by the intersections of Market Street and University Avenue, University Avenue and Orange Street, Orange Street and Fifth Street, Fifth Street and Market Street and on Mission Inn Avenue from Market Street to Lime Street.

2. High Traffic Days:

Thursdays and Fridays after 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays after 12:00 p.m. on the Pedestrian Mall and surrounding The Mission Inn, including all sidewalks and right-of-ways on Mission Inn Avenue from the Pedestrian Mall to Orange Street, all sidewalks and right-of-ways on Orange Street from Mission Inn Avenue to Sixth Street, and all sidewalks and right-of-ways on Sixth Street from Orange Street to the Pedestrian Mall.



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PUBLIC FORUM AREAS

Unless listed, the Pedestrian Mall and surrounding streets are considered open and available as a public forum to performers during the Festival.



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PENALTIES

Violation of any provision of this would be deemed a misdemeanor and shall be punishable in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.01.110 of the Riverside Municipal Code.

Code Enforcement and/or Riverside Police Department would enforce in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.01.110 of the Riverside Municipal Code.



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IMPLEMENTATION

1. Provide training to key partners and personnel from RPD, contracted security company, Riverside Downtown Partnership, key volunteers and event staff.
2. Signage Placement on each block



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IMPLEMENTATION (CONT.)

3. Communication prior and during event:
 - a. Press Releases
 - b. Website
 - i. City
 - ii. Festival of Lights
 - c. Social Media
 - d. Speaking Engagements
 - e. FOL Business Meeting
 - f. FOL Vendor Meeting
 - g. Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Communications
4. Flyers for staff to provide to performers



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Governmental Affairs Committee recommend to the City Council adoption of an Ordinance adding Chapter 13.21 to the Riverside Municipal Code Chapter establishing a non-public forum on the Pedestrian Mall during High Traffic Days.

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