

**RESOLUTION NO. 20220127-089**

**WHEREAS**, Council approved Resolution No. 20210902-049 reconstituting the Special Event Task Force (SETF) that is tasked with assessing the efficacy of Ordinance No. 20180510-018, the associated rules, and Austin Center for Events processes; and

**WHEREAS**, the SETF was tasked to provide to Council an interim report on their progress and subsequently provided that through memorandum on November 17, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the interim report, attached as Exhibit A, provided some initial recommendations that provide minor technical clarifications that will better align the ordinance with the Fire Code and reduce confusion about applying the ordinance in certain cases; and

**WHEREAS**, the deadline for special events applications during the upcoming Spring Festival Season is February 7<sup>th</sup>, and timely adoption of the interim recommendations could be helpful in improving the application process;  
**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The Council directs the City Manager to draft an amendment to City Code Chapter 4-20 (*Special Events*) that modifies:

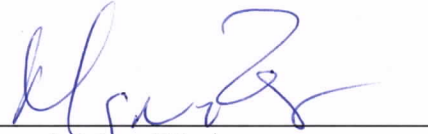
1. The definition of special event to change the minimum number of attendees from 100 to 50 and to replace "per day" with "at any time"; and
2. The description of a Tier 2 special event to remove the number of days and replace "per day" with "at one time".

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Council directs the City Manager to bring back an ordinance for Council consideration no later than February 3, 2022.

**ADOPTED:** January 27, 2022

**ATTEST:**



Myna Rios  
City Clerk



## Exhibit A

### SPECIAL EVENTS TASK FORCE - RECOMMENDATION 20211117-2A

Date: 11/17/2021

Subject: Recommended Changes to the Special Events Ordinance

Motioned By: Jeff Smith

Seconded By: Laurel White

#### **Recommendation:**

Modify sections 4-20-1 and 4-20-21 of City Code (Special Events)

#### **Description of Recommendation to Council:**

#### **RECOMMENDATION #1**

4-20-1 (14) SPECIAL EVENT means an event that

- (a) Has ~~100 or more attendees per day~~ 50 or more attendees at any time at a city facility, other than the Austin Convention Center, Long Center, City Hall, or Palmer Events Center;
- (b) Impacts a city street, sidewalk, alley, walkway, or other city public right-of-way other than as permitted under Chapter 14-6 (*Temporary Street Closures*); or
- (c) Is temporary, involves ~~100 or more attendees per day~~ 50 or more attendees at any time; and
  - (i.) Is inconsistent with the permanent use to which the property may legally be used, or the occupancy levels permitted on the property; and
  - (ii.) Includes one of the following: set up of temporary structures, including, but not limited to, tents, stages, or fences; use of sound equipment in an area described in Section 4-20-43(A); or provision of food or beverages, including alcohol.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #2**

4-20-21 CATEGORIES OF SPECIAL EVENTS

(B) A Tier 2 event is a special event that:

- (1) Is an assembly lasting at a city facility that estimates attendance at less than 2,500 attendees per day; or
- (2) is an assembly ~~lasting four days or less~~, that is held primarily on private property, and that estimates attendances at less than 2,500 attendees per day; or

(3) is stationary and impacts up to two blocks of a street sidewalk, or city right of way.

### **RECOMMENDATION #3**

#### **4-20-21 CATEGORIES OF SPECIAL EVENTS**

(B) A Tier 2 event is a special event that:

- (1) Is an assembly lasting at a city facility that estimates attendance at less than 2,500 ~~attendees per day; or at one time.~~
- (2) is an assembly that is held primarily on private property and that estimates attendances at less than 2,500 attendees ~~per day; or at one time~~ is stationary and impacts up to two blocks of a street sidewalk, or city right of way.

#### **Rationale:**

### **RECOMMENDATION #1**

This change would bring the Special Events definition into alignment with the International Fire Code definition of an event. This would also expand the protections in Chapter 4-20 for applicants with event attendance from 50-99 people.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS # 2**

The administrative difference between an event lasting 4 days versus 5 days or more is the application deadline. In instances where the only difference is the number of days, ACE has been waiving the application deadline down to 30 days if requested. This would not increase amplified sound usage as that can only be permitted for 4 consecutive days in a 30-day period.

### **RECOMMENDATION #3**

ACE staff, including the public safety departments, are primarily concerned with the number of attendees at one time when performing reviews and preparing staffing. This change allows for more events to be permitted under Tier 2.

#### **Vote**

For: James Russell, Jeff Smith, Heath Riddles, Mandi Thomas, Ingrid Weigand, Laurel White

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Bobby Garza, Cindy Lo, Shelley Phillips, Frances Thompson, Dan Carroll

Attest:

*Brydan Summers*

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Brydan Summers  
Special Events Task Force Liaison  
Development Services Department