

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: December 14, 2021

To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

From: Jay Boodheshwar, Deputy Town Manager

Re: Review of Chapter 106, Article VII – Special Events on Public Property

Date: December 3, 2021

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Town Council review the information below, pertaining to special events on public property, and provide direction to staff regarding potential changes to Chapter 106, Article VII.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Over the year, Council has amended Chapter 106, Article VII numerous times to ensure that special event permits for organized activities on public property are properly screened for approval, managed, and limited, so that said events cause minimal adverse impacts to the community. Attached to this memo are the relevant sections of the Town Code that set forth the permitting regulations for special events on public property, as well as the current special events application.

The reason this item has been brought to the Mayor and Town Council for discussion is due to staff concerns with the potential proliferation of organized special event usage of parks and other public spaces that may begin causing adverse impacts to the community. We have concerns that increased events will cause quicker wear and tear on our public spaces, create traffic challenges with larger events, and expose the Town to additional liability. With that said, staff is seeking Council's input on potential changes to the code that would further restrict the use of public spaces for permitted special events and possibly prohibit the use of certain parks for events altogether unless it is a Town event.

The recent improvements to Memorial Park/Fountain, Bradley Park, and Lake Drive Park have captured the interest of on-island and off-island groups and individuals desiring to use these spaces for events, including but not limited to, fundraisers, birthdays, weddings, celebrations, etc. Staff feels it is prudent to explore the ability to limit permit-related usage of public properties to on-island organizations and residents only, with passive and normal use of public spaces remaining open to anyone regardless of residency. We currently limit the use of the Mandel Recreation Center to residents only and other communities do the same for public facilities. Other potential changes could limit the number of permits granted in a year, as well as the implementation of usage fees for residents and larger security deposits.

If Council agrees that changes to the code are prudent for the reasons outlined above, staff will work with the Town Attorney and return to a future Council meeting with proposed changes.

Attachment

cc: Department Directors
John Randolph, Town Attorney