

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: February 8, 2022

To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

From: Jay Boodheshwar, Deputy Town Manager

Re: Proposed Amendments to Further Restrict the use of Public Property for Private Special Events

Date: January 28, 2022

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Town Council review the information below, pertaining to potential amendments to Chapter 106, Article VII, to further restrict the use of public properties for private special events on public property, and provide direction to staff.

GENERAL INFORMATION

At the December 14, 2021, Town Council meeting staff expressed concern to the Mayor and Town Council about the potential proliferation of organized private special event usage of parks and other public spaces that may begin causing adverse impacts to the community. Specifically, staff warned that an increased number of events would cause quicker wear and tear on our public spaces, create additional traffic challenges with larger events, and expose the Town to additional liability.

After a brief discussion, Council agreed with the concerns expressed and requested that staff identify potential changes to the code that would further restrict the use of public properties and present them to the Council for consideration. Staff consulted with the Town Attorney to determine how restrictive code changes could be. While it was determined that a complete prohibition from issuing special events permits to non-residents is not advisable, it was determined that preference could be given to residents in terms of application timing and fees charged. See attached memo.

The attached sections of Chapter 106, Article VII include proposed language changes that would limit the number of events on each property to one (1) per month instead of one (1) per day, give more timing preference to residents applying for special event permits, and prohibit the use of Memorial Park and Lake Drive Park for non-governmental events. None of these proposed changes would prohibit the normal drop-in/passive use of any public properties by residents and non-residents alike.

In addition to the proposed code changes, staff recommends modifying the current fee schedule to increase the application fee, damage deposits, and non-resident usage fees. (Usage fees are not currently charged to residents and town-based non-profits.)

If Council agrees with some or all of the proposed changes and the fee increase recommendations, staff will return to a future meeting with an ordinance to codify the changes and a resolution to amend the current fees.

Attachments

cc: Department Directors
John Randolph, Town Attorney