

7-1-3. - BLOCK PARTY PERMITS.

(A) Purpose. The street in the possession of the City are primarily for the use of the public in the ordinary way. However, under proper circumstances, the City Manager or his/her designee may grant a permit for street use, subject to reasonable municipal regulation and control. This Section is enacted to regulate and control the use of streets pursuant to a block party permit, to the end that the health, safety, and general welfare of the public and the good order of the City can be protected.

(B) Definitions. As used in this Section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

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| <i>BLOCK PARTY.</i> | A Gathering in a residential district only of abutting neighbors and their relatives and friends within the City street right-of-way or other public thoroughfare which has been temporarily closed for the occasion. Block party permits will only be issued during the periods of May 1 through September 30. |
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(C) Prohibition. No person will encroach upon, occupy, obstruct or encumber any public street or highway, or part thereof, for the purpose of participating in a block party unless authorized to do so in accordance with this Section.

(D) Application for Permit. A written application for a block party permit by persons or groups desiring the same must be made on a form by the City Manager or his/her designee and will be filed with the City Manager or his/her designee at least ten (10) business days prior to the event. The application must include the following information:

1. The name, physical address, e-mail address, and telephone number of the applicant or applicants. The applicant must be a City resident.
2. If the proposed street use is to be conducted for, on behalf of, or by an organization, the name, address and telephone number of the headquarters of the organization and of the authorizing responsible heads of such organization.
3. The date and duration of time for which the requested use of the street is proposed to occur. A block party permit will only be issued for one (1) day and must not start earlier than 10:00 a.m. and end no later than 9:00 p.m.
4. An accurate description of that portion of the street proposed to be used.
5. Statement verifying that all persons within the affected block have been notified by the applicant of the block party and that no more than three (3) objections to the closing of the street or the proposed activities have been presented to the applicant.

6. The proposed use, described in detail, for which the block party permit is requested.
- (E) Review by Public Works Director. Before any application for a block party permit is considered by the City Manager or his/her designee, the application must be reviewed by the Public Works Director for his/her recommendation as to the effect that the temporary closing of the street will have on the public safety and traffic movement in the area during the time the street may be closed.
- (F) Mandatory Denial of Street Use Permit. An application for a block party permit shall be denied if:
1. The proposed street use is primarily for private or commercial gain.
  2. The proposed street use would violate any Federal or State law or any ordinance of the City.
  3. The proposed street use will substantially hinder the movement of police, fire, or emergency vehicles, constituting a risk to persons or property. Permits will only be granted to close non-through streets such as cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets. A permit will not be granted to close a main thoroughfare in the City.
  4. The application for a block party permit does not contain the information required in this Section.
  5. The application requests a period for the use of the street that would last later than 9:00 p.m.
  6. The proposed use could equally be held in a public park or other location.
  7. The application may be denied for any other reason or reasons that it is determined that the health, safety, and general welfare of the public cannot be adequately protected and maintained if the permit is granted.
- (G) Responsibilities of the Applicant.
1. Acceptance of a permit makes the applicant primarily liable for damages to persons or property cause by reason of the closing. The applicant further agrees to pay an amount sufficient to reimburse the City for any damages done to the street surface, right-of-way or any other cleanup required after the event. The street surface must not be altered in any manner. The City is not liable for any damage caused by the street closing.
  2. The applicant is responsible for procurement, placement, and maintenance of barricades used to barricade streets under this Chapter. No block party may commence or continue unless barricades are properly placed and maintained. The applicant acknowledges that under no circumstances will the street or right-of-way be blocked that would prohibit access for emergency vehicles. If a permit is granted, the Public Works Agency will deliver a sufficient number of marked barricades to the address of the applicant. The barricades must be returned to the point of delivery for pickup by the City on the next business day.
  3. Music or noise must be kept at a reasonable level so as not to disturb others. Amplified noise or music is prohibited at such block parties.

4. The applicant is responsible for clearing litter and debris from the street after the conclusion of the event.

5. Any damages associated with a block party permit will be invoiced to the applicant.

(H) Termination of Block Party Permit. A block party permit for an event in progress may be terminated by the Police Department if the health, safety, and welfare of the public appears to be endangered by activities generated as a result of the event or the event is in violation of any of the conditions of the permits or City Code of the City of Evanston.

(I) Violations and Penalties. Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter is subject to a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

(Ord. No. 25-O-18, § 1, 5-14-2018)