



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



July 14, 2020

File ID: **20-0280**

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA AUTHORIZING THE WEEKLY WEEKEND CLOSURE OF THIRD AVENUE FROM E STREET TO CENTER STREET FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 15, 2020 – JANUARY 15, 2021

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

On May 5, 2020, in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the City Council approved Chula Vista's COVID-19 90-Day Economic Recovery Plan. One tenet of this plan is the exploration and establishment of business-friendly City policies and programs to create an environment that minimizes costs, burdens, and barriers for Chula Vista businesses. These efforts are guided by the City's pursuit to facilitate a safe re-opening and recovery of Chula Vista's local economy.

One specific feature of the COVID-19 90-Day Economic Recovery Plan, and the focus of this agenda item, is the City Council's approval of the "slow street" concept per SANDAG guidance which would allow the temporary closure of streets to create additional space for pedestrians to maintain social distancing as well as accommodate a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for future curb cafes and outdoor retail displays on Third Avenue. Staff has worked with the Third Avenue Village Association (TAVA) to discuss the feasibility and implementation of a slow street concept requiring the closure of Third Avenue. At the July 1, 2020 TAVA Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted to move forward with implementing the slow street concept with the closure of Third Avenue from E Street to Park Way on Saturdays at 2 pm through Sundays at 10 pm. This weekly closure would leave all east/west side streets (Davidson Street and F Street) open to emergency vehicles and to allow access to public parking. Staff supports this action with one amendment: to change the southern boundary of the closure from Park Way to Center Street per a recommendation from the Engineering Division.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The activity is not a “Project” as defined under Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act State Guidelines; therefore, pursuant to State Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3) no environmental review is required. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the activity also qualifies for an Exemption pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act State Guidelines.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

DISCUSSION

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Economic Development staff will work collaboratively with Engineering, the Police Department, the City Manager’s Office and TAVA to plan and safely execute the street closure. As an event, TAVA will be responsible for costs associated with operations (e.g. set up and take down of barricades and signage, vehicle towing, etc.). The start date of the closures will be dependent upon TAVA’s capacity and timing; however, approval of the street closures is proposed weekly for a six-month period from July 15, 2020 – January 15, 2021. City staff has determined upon review of TAVA’s Traffic Control Plan (TCP) for the Lemon Festival that the submittal of a new TCP will not be necessary. To encourage the feasibility of this action, staff is also proposing to waive the traffic control fee for TAVA.

After consultation with the Police Department, staff is recommending the nightly re-opening of Third Avenue with the removal of barricades to keep traffic flowing in the later evening hours and through the next morning, on Sundays, at 10 am. Barricades will be removed Saturday and Sunday nights after 10 pm and will be safely stored in a secure location. Staff will continue to coordinate on appropriate and safe implementation practices to allow for the Third Avenue street closure with any changes (e.g. dates, times) with the Police Department and City Engineer.

The street closure is subject to each participating business entering into a temporary Right of Entry License Agreement (**Attachment 1**) subject to approval by the City Engineer.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the property holdings of the City Council and has found that, Mayor Casillas-Salas has real property holdings within 500 feet of the boundaries of the property which is the subject of this action. Consequently, pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 2, sections 18700 and 18702.2(a)(7), this item presents a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, et seq.) for the above-identified member.

Staff is not independently aware, and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision-maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

Staff will be using SANDAG Shared Streets Pilot Program grant funds (awarded in June 2020) to purchase barricades and other necessary temporary traffic control devices for the street closure. Through the utilization of the existing Traffic Control Permit for Lemon Festival and because the closure of the street is not for an event but to facilitate social distancing and create a slow street environment, there are no additional fees associated with this action.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

Staff does not anticipate ongoing fiscal impacts.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Temporary Right of Entry License Agreement

*Staff Contact: Eric Crockett, Deputy City Manager
Miranda Evans, Economic Development Specialist*