

Draft Special Events Ordinance



Presentation Outline

- ▶ Council Resolution No. 20120524-089
- ▶ Implementation of Council Resolution No. 20120524-089
- ▶ Draft Ordinance
 - ▶ Boards and Commissions
 - ▶ Council Actions
 - ▶ Elements of the Draft Ordinance
 - ▶ Post-First Reading
 - ▶ Updated Draft for 2nd and 3rd readings
- ▶ Questions



Council Resolution No. 20120524-089

- ▶ Approved on May 24, 2012
- ▶ Issues raised in the Resolution:
 - ▶ No single, publicized point of contact, nor a single responsible department or office
 - ▶ Multiple requirements found in multiple sections of City Code for events
 - ▶ No scalability in permitting based on size of events



Council Resolution No. 20120524-089

- ▶ Resolution directed the City Manager to, in part:
 - ▶ Create a special events team - Austin Center for Events
 - ▶ Identify any budgetary, ordinance, or staffing changes that would be necessary to implement the creation of a special events team and provide the necessary amendments.



Implementation of Resolution No. 20120524-089

- ▶ Several City departments moved into one suite at One Texas Center in September 2012, which is now the Austin Center for Events (ACE).



Implementation of Resolution No. 20120524-089

- Created a comprehensive online application.
- Created a system to record and track event applications.
- Created a consolidated website:
<http://www.austintexas.gov/citystage>
- Generated RSS Feeds
- Created the Special Events Guidebook



Implementation of Resolution No. 20120524-089

- ▶ Drafted an ordinance that:
 - ▶ Codifies the Austin Center for Events
 - ▶ Creates a new City Code chapter for special events.
 - ▶ Focuses Chapter 14-8 (*Temporary Closure for Right of Way Events*) on roadway closures and neighborhood block parties.
 - ▶ Repeals Section 14-6-3 (*Temporary Closure for a Street Festivity*).
 - ▶ Adds requirements to Section 10-3-96 (*Temporary Food Handlers*)
 - ▶ Initiates a code amendment for special event signs.



Draft Ordinance: Boards and Commissions

- ▶ Fall 2013 - City staff presented the draft ordinance to following Boards and Commissions:
 - ▶ Urban Transportation
 - ▶ Public Safety
 - ▶ Music
 - ▶ Downtown Commission
 - ▶ Parks and Recreation Board
 - ▶ Music Commission



Draft Ordinance: Council Action

- ▶ October 24, 2013
 - ▶ Council approves the draft ordinance on first reading.
- ▶ November 21, 2013
 - ▶ Council considered a resolution to create a Council subcommittee to discuss possible changes to the draft ordinance but later withdrew the resolution.
- ▶ February 13, 2014
 - ▶ Council adopts an ordinance regulating temporary signs during special events.



Draft Ordinance:

A special event

- ▶ A special event is an event that:
 - ▶ Has 100 or more attendees per day at a city facility
 - ▶ Exceptions: Convention Center, Long Center, City Hall, or Palmer Events Center;
 - ▶ Impacts a city right-of-way; or
 - ▶ Is temporary, 100 or more attendees per day, and
 - ▶ requires a temporary use permit or a temporary change of use permit and
 - ▶ Includes one of the following:
 - ▶ Temporary structures
 - ▶ Sound equipment; or
 - ▶ Food or alcohol



Draft Ordinance: Tiers

- ▶ Creates a tiered approach to processing applications for special events.
- ▶ Events with a smaller impact
 - ▶ Tier 1: No alcohol and small footprint
 - ▶ Tier 2: Max attendees 2,500 or closes 2 blocks of city right of way
- ▶ Events with a larger impact
 - ▶ Tier 3: Default tier
 - ▶ Tier 4: Involves 2 or more city facilities plus city right-of-way or requires at least \$100,000 in city services, staff time, and equipment.



Draft Ordinance: Deadlines

- ▶ Tier 1:
 - ▶ Submit at least 3 business days before event
 - ▶ Approve at least within 1 business day of event
- ▶ Tier 2
 - ▶ Submit at least 30 calendar days before event
 - ▶ Approve at least within 1 business day of event



Draft Ordinance: Deadlines

- ▶ Tier 3
 - ▶ Submit at least 120 calendar days
 - ▶ Preliminary recommendation due within 10 business days of submittal.
 - ▶ Approve at least 30 days before event.
- ▶ Tier 4
 - ▶ Submit at least 180 calendar days before event
 - ▶ Preliminary recommendation due within 10 business days of submittal
 - ▶ Approve at least 30 days before event



Draft Ordinance: Special Event Permit

- ▶ Special Event Permit satisfies requirements for sound and temporary use permits.
- ▶ Does NOT satisfy requirements for other permits (food handlers, tent, pyrotechnics, etc.)



Draft Ordinance: City Costs

- ▶ City will charge event organizer actual cost of City services provided.
 - ▶ Exception: Costs of City personnel present to protect attendees from counter-demonstrators or members of the public who are hostile to the event.



Draft Ordinance: Special Event Impact Area

- ▶ Allows Austin Center for Events to limit the number of permits within the Impact Area based on capacity, public health, safety, and welfare



Draft Ordinance: Appeals Process

- ▶ Appeals Team
 - ▶ Inter-departmental team comprised of directors of city departments that participate in the Austin Center for Events.
 - ▶ Appeal must be submitted within 10 days of denial.
 - ▶ Appeal Team must act on appeal within 10 business days.



Draft Ordinance: Event Requirements

- ▶ Waste management plan (all)
- ▶ Sustainability plan (Tiers 2-4)
 - ▶ Waste management plan
 - ▶ Waste reduction and recycling plan
 - ▶ Emission reduction plan
 - ▶ Bicycle parking and encouraging alternative transportation plans
- ▶ ADA compliance plan (when event interferes with accessibility on city streets and at city facilities)



Draft Ordinance: Event Requirements

- ▶ Public Safety Plan (all Tiers)
 - ▶ Police
 - ▶ Fire
 - ▶ EMS
 - ▶ Traffic control
 - ▶ Private security (if hired by event organizer)



Draft Ordinance: High-Capacity Venues

- ▶ Created a regulatory scheme to permit venues that operate as high-capacity venues.



Draft Ordinance: Enforcement

- ▶ Criminal offense to violate the chapter or a requirement of the permit.
- ▶ Permit revocation (includes appeals process)



Draft Ordinance: Post-First Reading

- ▶ Staff requested suggestions to improve the draft ordinance from event organizers and stake holders.
- ▶ Staff changed the draft ordinance.



Draft Ordinance: Updated for 2nd and 3rd Readings

- ▶ Some application requirements will be included in administrative rules.
- ▶ Tied approval to “application” instead of “permit” to align with actual City practice.
- ▶ Allowed for “legacy events” to give notice of proposed special event dates for a five year period.
- ▶ Limited sustainability plan requirement to Tier 4 events.
- ▶ Redrafted Chapter 14-8 (*Right of Way Events*) to include neighborhood block parties.
- ▶ Removed high-capacity venues from ordinance.



Questions?

