You talked.

We listened.

Over the last nine months, the Office of Special Events (OSE) has been working behind the scenes to update its policies and procedures, permitting methodology, and fee schedule – all to reduce the negative impact that special events, commercial filming, and neighborhood farmers markets have on residents and businesses, while balancing the positive economic impact and benefit these permitted activities provide Dallas residents and businesses. Process enhancements have also been developed to create a more efficient application and permitting process for applicants, which includes a more equitable fee structure that assesses fees based on the complexity of the event, and not solely on attendance.

In addition to the improvements and enhancements listed above, Chapter 42A of Dallas City Code, which governs Special Events, Neighborhood Farmers Markets, Commercial Filming, and Street Pole Banners, has also been amended and updated to better govern permitted activities and to allow for enforcement of permit requirements. Included in the scope of this project were, multiple surveys to residents, businesses, and various stakeholders; research into permitting industry best practices; completion of a fee study with local and national comparisons; and roundtable meetings with interested parties to identify and address specific challenges which face Dallas’ residents, merchants, and permit applicants.

Changes and enhancements are planned which will address the top three challenges (parking shortages; road closures and detours; and lack of advanced notification prior to street closures) expressed by residents and businesses through surveys, meetings, and phone calls.

Specific enhancements to address these and other challenges include, but are not limited to:

- restrictions of when and how long parking can be temporary blocked
- standardized “no parking” signage requirements
- promotion of ride share options for events
- changes to when and how long street closures will be approved for events, markets, and filming
- restriction of “moving” events to the least disruptive times
- more robust and scalable notification requirements
- standardized maps to illustrate more useful information, such as, closures, detours, and alternate routes
- designation of event-specific points of contact for issues in real time
- OSE High Impact Area designation to provide additional assurances to quality of life for highly-utilized areas

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Changes and enhancements are planned which will address challenges (COI submission and approval difficulties, timely receipt of application requirements, "one size fits all" fee schedule, hard-copy indemnification requirements, etc.) expressed by previous and former applicants through surveys, meetings, and phone calls.

Specific enhancements to address these and other challenges include, but are not limited to:

- retainer of COI through effective date (excluding changes to the application which present new risk)
- auto-populating online application
- consolidated City Code, combining all requirements for permitted activities to a single chapter
- creation of additional estimated attendance tiers providing more options
- creation of new tiered notification requirements which require less/more notification based upon impact
- updated fee schedule with a la carte pricing methodology – pay only for what you use
- creation of a new retro-active B Roll permitting option
- simplified online and automated indemnification process

Planned changes are not slated to take effect until Spring of 2019, and as so, we invite you to take a look at the recent briefing that was presented to the City of Dallas', Quality of Life, Arts, and Culture Council Committee. Should you have any questions or wish to provide any additional feedback, please contact OSE by e-mail at cctoseadmin@dallascityhall.com or by phone at (214) 939-2701.

You may view the briefing by clicking this link: Office of Special Events Committee Briefing