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CITY OF SAINT PAUL | July 12, 2023

EVENTS & FESTIVALS

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Patch

Saint Paul, MN

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Community Corner

Many St. Paul Festivals Have
Cancelled This Year: Report

Many festival organizers are citing raising security prices by th
department as well as other new regulations, reports said.

Morgan Reddekopp, Patch Staff

Posted Mon, May 2, 2022 at 2:04 pm CT

KARE 11+

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KARE 11+ | KARE 11 INVESTIGATES | LAND OF 10,000 STORIES | SUNRISE | BREAKING

BREAKING THE NEWS

Little Mekong Night Market latest
event to announce cancellation in
St. Paul

For the last five to six months, organizers gave the green light for

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TwinCities.com PIONEER PRESS

a brand?
makes it happen. **bluehost**

th straight year as
rebrand

d a festival that reflects the post-Covid,
nographics of the neighborhood."

| Citing police costs, Little Mekong Night Market...

g Night Market joins growing list of

KARE 11

News | Weather

KARE 11+ | KARE 11 INVESTIGATES

CORONAVIRUS

UPDATED: Coro
cancellations, po
impacts in the Tw

This list is not complete but it will be continuously updated to cover
local events that are canceled or rescheduled to prevent the
coronavirus from spreading.

TWIN CITIES NEWS

St. Paul's Rondo Days canceled for fourth
straight year

WCCO NEWS

BY WCCO STAFF
JUNE 1, 2023 / 7:40 AM / CBS MINNESOTA

UNION DEPOT

NATIONAL NIGHT
UNION D
Tuesday, August

Sign up for Newsletters
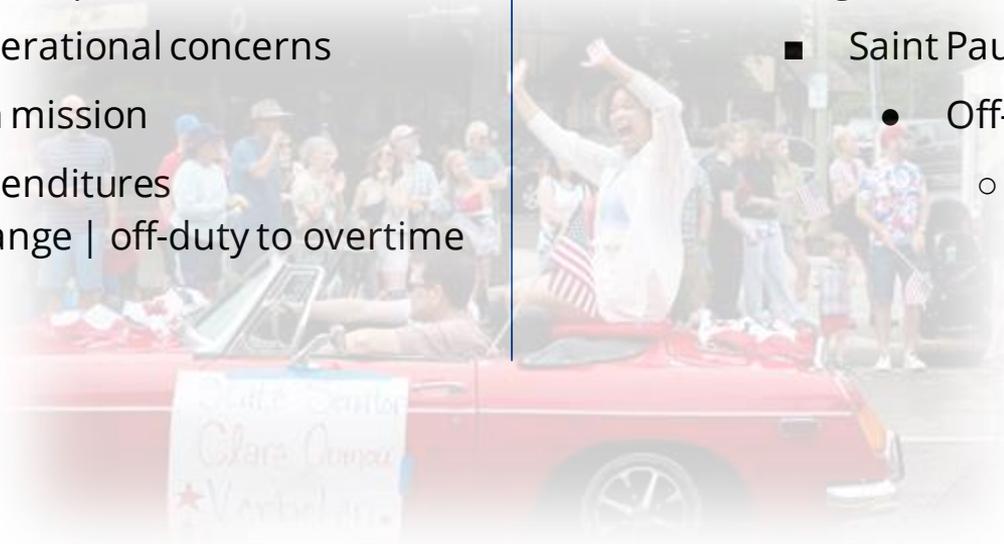SIGN UP

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OVERALL ARTICLE MESSAGING

- Pandemic cancelations
- Lacking sponsorship dollars
- Staffing and operational concerns
- Alignment with mission
- Increase in expenditures
  - Policy change | off-duty to overtime officers

CITY FUNDING TO OFFSET

- Cultural STAR
  - Sub-grant for non-profits
    - Saint Paul Festival Associations
      - Off-set Police Costs
        - $1000-$1500 max

- Significant increase in communications cross departmentally

- Need for consistency and transparency

- Smoother communications to event producers in a timely manner

- Explore current internal technology and utilize to capacity
  - Research more user-friendly options
  - Landing page with user-friendly tools

- Mayor's office intake of all event and festival requests

- Redesign of landing page to City website
  - One page that will host all links, applications and event guide

- Continue to work with and identify challenges in various departments with ordinance and policy for potential updates

Questions & Discussion

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EVENTS & FESTIVALS

SPPD Insights

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SPPD Responsibilities in Permitting

- Police Chief or designee per ordinance 366
- A majority of events are held to make a profit -> short notice timelines
- Special Operations assumed permit process in July of 2018
  - Utilized online web form for permit intake to streamline process
  - Technology provides immediate and efficient notifications to be made citywide across various departments
  - Technology enables PD to verify compliance with other city departments before final permit was issued - ***Limit Liability
  - Technology sends automated notices and copies of the signed permit to event organizer, citywide contacts and PD contacts
  - Technology generates a calendar used to track all events over the course of a calendar year and is able to be viewed virtually or embedded in a website

SPPD Utilizes Best Practices

- SPPD has researched nationwide best practices for event application, processes and safety measures
- One intake application that gets disseminated to all effected city departments (future)
- Compliance measures to ensure organizers are obtaining the necessary permits required for safety. These usually pertain to event vendors
- Resident and neighborhood notifications for effected street closures
- Guides how events are made secure. This applies to event organizers, event vendors, private security and government entities
- Guides matrixes used to determine staffing levels and locations
- Guides additional measures to be used at larger events (other government resources (EM, Feds), mitigation strategies (magnetometers, vehicle barriers, traffic control devices, etc)

SPPD Maintains Public Safety

- The safety and well being of event participants and attendees is paramount to this process
- Public gatherings in an open-air environment are soft targets and have been used for criminal acts, gang activity and terrorism
- Per state statute only licensed peace officers are able to provide traffic direction to drivers of motor vehicles (exceptions - work zone, school crossing and motorcycle ride)
- Reasons for police officer vs private security:
  - Crime deterrent
  - Multiple tools (de-escalation, intermediate, non-lethal, lethal, vehicle mitigation)
  - Radio communications – ability to force multiply
  - Response to incident

SPPD Maintains Public Safety, Continued

- Off Duty vs Department Policy OT
  - Department policy:
    - Command and Control over officers working outside 80 hours
    - Department policies to guide staffing
    - SPPD brand
    - Equity for officers staffing events
    - Consistency in costs for organizers and knowing exact costs up front
  - Off Duty:
    - Individual employee assumes liability
    - No equity for staffing
    - Costs are based on demand. Currently MPD off duty rates are $150-$400 per hour

Identified Challenges

- Ordinance was adopted in 2005
- Currently, there are two ordinances which pertain to special events:
  - 366 – Block parties and community festivals
  - 366A – Parades, races and public assemblies
- In practice all events are treated the same (best practice and advice from COA)
- The two ordinances are confusing to event organizers and have two different sets of rules for a similar task (street closing)
- Fee schedule
- Insurance requirements

Questions & Discussion

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