

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY, FL

NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY PERMITS

The Orange County Board of County Commissioners recently approved a block party ordinance for the protection of residents and property during neighborhood events. The primary purpose of the ordinance is to alert emergency responders and other appropriate agencies that the event is occurring and the roadways in the immediate area will be obstructed to vehicular traffic, so that preparations can be made in the event of an emergency.

For a neighborhood block party (100 persons or less), a completed application is needed together with a site plan, showing the roadways affected by the block party street closure. The application must be submitted to the Orange County Fire Marshal's Office for review and approval at least 10 days before the event.

Listed below are a few of the county ordinance requirements affecting neighborhood block parties:

- Neighborhood block party permits are limited to no more than four per year
- A \$25 non-refundable application fee
- A majority of the homeowners or renters living in the portion of the roadway affected by the street closure must sign the petition of non-objection form which is included with the block party application
- A block party must take place only within a single family residential area.
- A block party may only take place on a local street and not on a collector road
- Commercial street vendors are prohibited at neighborhood block parties

Follow a few simple steps to plan a successful neighborhood block party or special event. These are:

- Become familiar with Orange County regulations regarding block parties or general assemblies
- Seek neighborhood partners
- Gather people's contact information & interests
- Find a well known, accessible neighborhood location
- Obtain the appropriate county permits
- Get the word out
- Be sure to select activities to help everyone meet and greet each other
- Follow up - Evaluate your event and determine what worked / did not work about the event.

For more information about neighborhood block parties contact Sharon Cutler, Orange County Fire Marshal's Office, or Carla McClendon, Neighborhood Services Division, 407-836-5606.

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