



WILDWOOD

"Planning Tomorrow Today"

May 5, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Wildwood Celebration Commission Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: COVID-19 Considerations (**Wards - All**)

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
Steve Cross, City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner
Gary Crews, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Bree Kelchen, Recreation Specialist

The Wildwood Celebration Commission (WCC) selected the date of Saturday, September 25, 2021, for the Celebrate Wildwood Event in early 2021. The decision to set a date was premised on a combination of a number of factors, including developments relative to the virus, exposures, and vaccination levels with the larger St. Louis Metropolitan Area, all of which can be summarized as follows:

1. The St. Louis County Department of Public Health has expressed concerns that testing for the Coronavirus has dropped dramatically over the period from the start of pandemic to now, from 275 tests per day to 25. According to the Department of Public Health, testing is the best way to contain the virus.
2. The average rate of COVID-19 incidence is increasing among people aged 59 years and younger and decreasing among people aged 60 years and older. This divergence is likely a reflection of high vaccination rates among older adults. While this trend is an encouraging sign, the increase among the rest of the population is greater than the decrease among people aged 60 and older, who only account for 24 percent of St. Louis County's population – most of the population is still susceptible to infection.
3. The St. Louis County's seven-day PCR positivity rate is currently 6.4 percent (04.15.2021).
4. The vaccination regiment has now been provided to 33% of the total 995,000 residents of St. Louis County. This percentage amount represents the first dose.
5. The St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force has estimated that seventy-five percent (75%) of St. Louis Area residents will be vaccinated by mid-July 2021 (was June 20, 2021). That percent

of residents will be at the minimum level to be considered to meet "herd immunity," a key for relaxing COVID-19 restrictions.

6. The Department, in reaching out to many of the past vendors and suppliers to Celebrate Wildwood to arrange for their participant or service at this year's event, it has been told the upcoming Fall season of events and other activities is quickly returning to pre-pandemic levels, at least in terms of scheduling.
7. The City has cancelled all events or rescheduled several of them through the end of June, with an anticipated start up is July 18, 2021 (a concert).

As the Department has undertaken over the last few months, it continues to monitor the success of vaccinations for all Americans, but, more importantly, those residents of the St. Louis County/St. Louis Metropolitan Area and the impact of the event in terms of it being conducted, as planned. Certainly, if changes occur, modifications to the event can always be incorporated to better address conditions at that time. It is important to note the Department is emphasizing to all participants, whether a vendor, restauranter, artist, crafter, musician, support staff, or visitor, that changes should be anticipated, if not expected, in 2021 due to the pandemic.

The Department of Planning and Parks is still completing its first draft of the operational plan for Celebrate Wildwood 25+1 and such will be provided in draft form to the Commission Members for comments and input, when it is completed. This plan is a requirement of the St. Louis County Department of Public Health. If the plan is accepted by this agency, then all of us can have a sense of safety and security for this event, given the protocols used by St. Louis County in their review of them.

If any of the Commission Members have any questions or comments in this regard, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. A presentation is planned on this matter at tonight's meeting as well. Thank you for your consideration in this regard and support of this event during the last year, relative to COVID-19.