



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Morgan Lasater, Community Engagement Manager

mlasater@BurlingtonNC.gov

(o) 336.222.5073 (c) 336.693.2964

City of Burlington Cancels July 3rd in the Park in response to COVID-19

BURLINGTON, NC— After careful review by city staff and considering the current and projected Executive Orders by the Governor of North Carolina, the City of Burlington has made the difficult decision to cancel the July 3rd in the Park celebration hosted annually by the Burlington Recreation and Parks' B-town Events division. This annual event draws crowds of approximately 5,000 people to Burlington City Park as well as several thousand others that line the streets, private parking lots and lawns of other businesses and schools surrounding the park. The City of Burlington is currently operating under a Phase 2 State of Emergency Order that restricts crowds of over 25. While Phase 2 will likely evolve into Phase 3 by the start of July, it is projected that this phase will not likely bring a dramatic increase in the number of individuals permitted to gather in outdoor spaces.

Before deciding to cancel, event leaders held discussions with municipalities throughout the North Carolina, the NC Recreation and Parks Association as well as discussions with Recreation staff, the Burlington Police Department, Burlington Fire Department and the city's COVID-19 staff led advisement committee on reopening city programs and facilities.

It would not be in the best interest of the health of our community and our staff to host an event that will undoubtedly draw significant crowds when we have no way of ensuring that public health best practices could be successfully implemented or maintained.

Independence Day holds great meaning in our community, and so we encourage small groups, families and neighbors to mark the occasion. It might look different this year, but COVID-19 isn't taking the celebration of Independence Day away. We recommend visiting our local restaurants, having small family picnics at our parks, decorating your homes in red, white and blue and establishing new traditions as we continue to navigate the ever-changing ways in which we celebrate.

Despite the cancellation of the large celebration, B-town Events will still be contributing to Independence Day celebrations taking place at home. 4th of July Celebration Kits, available for school aged children, will include items to wear, wave, craft and snack on. In addition, the kit will include a coupon for a special treat from some of the local businesses usually present at July 3rd in the Park. Follow B-town Events on Facebook for more details on the 4th of July Celebration Kit drive-through distribution that will take place the week leading up to July 4th. We hope to provide a safe, yet fun experience geared towards the celebration of Independence Day.

The American Red Cross Blood Drive associated with this event annually will still take place on July 3rd from 10am-2pm.

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Our Mission:

“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

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