

An Ordinance Establishing a Special Event Permit Requirement

WHEREAS, Hocking County recognizes the importance of public events in fostering community engagement, cultural expression, economic activity, and tourism within the County;

WHEREAS, such events have in the past created substantial hardship to first responders in attempting to assisting residents and others in need because of the high volume of traffic congestion on streets and private driveways throughout the County that were never designed for large amounts of traffic;

WHEREAS, such events have been demonstrated to have an impact on public safety, traffic flow, noise levels, and the use of public spaces;

WHEREAS, the County has a compelling interest in coordinating and regulating special events to ensure public health, safety, and welfare;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by Hocking County, Ohio

Section 1. Purpose

This ordinance establishes a permitting process for special events occurring within Hocking County to ensure proper planning, coordination, and public safety.

Section 2. Definition of Special Event

Any temporary gathering, activity, or organized event held on public or private property, including but not limited to parades, festivals, concerts, athletic events, block parties, public demonstrations, or agricultural tourism that:

- A. Is expected to attract more than 100 attendees; and
- B. Requires either street closures or traffic control;

Section 3. Permit Requirement

- A. **Generally.** No person shall conduct a special event without first obtaining a Special Event Permit from the County's Emergency Management Agency.
- B. **Exemption.** Funeral processions are exempt from the permit requirement.

Section 4. Application Process

- A. **Timeframes.** Applications must be submitted at least:
1. 30 days prior for events without street closures;
 2. 60 days prior for events with static street closures;
 3. 90 days prior for moving events (e.g., parades, races).
- B. **Submittals.** Applications must include:
1. Event description and location;
 2. Estimated attendance;
 3. Site plan and traffic control plan;
 4. Proof of insurance and indemnification of Hocking County emergency services;
 5. Cleanup and waste management plan;
 6. Payment of Fee – The cost of the special event permit shall be \$.
- C. An application packet containing the information within this Ordinance and any other information deemed necessary by the Hocking County Emergency Management Agency shall be created by the agency.
- D. Applications are to be made available at the offices of the Hocking County Emergency Management Agency and applications shall be filed with said agency.

Section 5. Permit Conditions

The County may impose additional reasonable conditions to:

- A. Protect public safety;
- B. Minimize noise, traffic, and congestion;
- C. Ensure compliance with all laws and ordinances;
- D. Require coordination with police, fire, and public works departments;

Section 6. Enforcement

- A. *Noncompliance*. Failure to comply with this ordinance may result in fines or other penalties as provided by law.
- B. *Revocation*. The County may revoke a permit for noncompliance or if public safety is jeopardized.
- C. *Penalties*. Violations of this ordinance may result in fines, denial of future permits, or other penalties as provided by law.