

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

TO: Ed Lavallee, City Manager

FROM: Len Bramble, P.E., Assistant City Manager

DATE: January 11, 2018

SUBJECT: 2018 Special Events Displace from Downtown Due to April – November Construction

Background

Estimated to commence in April of 2018, a significant street and sidewalk reconstruction project will provide numerous challenges, among them several larger special events traditionally held downtown either in or on Centennial Park, West Venice Avenue, or West Miami Avenue. There are seven special events impacted by this oncoming construction. All seven event contact have been vigorously encouraged to consider alternative temporary locations for their events only for 2018. One of those has committed to an alternative location; the other six all prefer alternative sites as close to downtown as possible, and have largely identified Blalock Park & West Blalock Park as their much preferred alternative temporary location.

Staff has concerns regarding the utilization of Blalock and West Blalock Park for these events, including:

- The compatibility of the surrounding residential area with these special events
- The change in West Blalock Park over the years from open grassy areas to the Arboretum
- At least four of the six events include live music, alcohol sales, food preparation, and large crowds
- Two of the events (both Miami Ave. craft fairs) have smaller space needs but have moderate sized crowds
- Resolution No. 99-10 limits the number and scheduling of “intense events” to no more than three per year each sixty or more days apart

The attached paper contains more information about this issue.

In summary, staff is of the opinion that all four of the larger events are not well suited for being held at Blalock Park or West Blalock Park, and these events should be directed to either Maxine Barritt Park or the Airport Festival Grounds. The remaining two smaller events could be considered for Blalock Park or West Blalock Park, but concerns regarding Arboretum plantings and irrigation systems as well as the points listed above compel staff to recommend Maxine Barritt Park or the Airport Festival Grounds as better suited for these as well.

Requested Action

Provide direction to staff regarding the one-year temporary relocation of these six special events.