

BLOCK PARTY POLICIES

A "block party" means a one-day outdoor public event organized by the residents of a City block and held upon a City right-of-way for social or entertainment purposes. Block Party permits are limited to "Residential" districts as defined in the Zoning Code.

The activities that take place at a block party are up to the imagination of the residents and can include casual conversation, cook outs, pot luck dinners, games for children, and/or entertainment. Most block parties take place in the street and on the sidewalks of that block. To enhance the sense of community, the City allows the street to be closed to traffic.

The Pittsburgh Code requires that a permit be obtained from the City in order to obstruct traffic on any street or sidewalk. When a permit is obtained, the City will allow the street to be blocked and will provide barricades for this purpose.

In addition, having a Block Party Permit provides an exemption from some portions of the City's noise ordinance, thus allowing you to play music using amplifiers that would otherwise be prohibited in public.

Finally, Block Party Permits are exempt from the City's "Open Container" law, thus allowing public consumption of alcohol at an approved block party.

There are a number of other conditions placed on block parties:

1. Block Party permit applications must be submitted via the online application tool EventApp at least seven (7) business days before the block party date.
2. The block party must be endorsed by the residents of the affected street, even if they are not participating actively. Many of these block parties have taken place for a number of years. In these cases, the history shows that the residents support it. In the case of new requests, the Office of Special Events may ask for a petition demonstrating that the residents are aware of the proposed party and are in support.
3. Although the City does allow the street to be blocked off, anything set up on the street must allow access for emergency vehicles, if needed. Also, we ask that you cooperate with any residents of the block who need access to their homes or driveways during the event.
4. The City will deliver barricades at a location coordinated with the Permittee a day or two before the event. The residents are responsible for placing the barricades across the street at the approved time and for removing them at the end of the event.

5. Block Party Permits will only be issued to residents of the affected block. Applicants may be required to show photo identification and proof of residency.
6. Residents are responsible for cleanup of the street and sidewalks at the end of the party.
7. Permits will only be issued authorizing parties between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M. on weekends and holidays.
8. A block party is open to the public; no admission fees can be charged.
9. The Office of Special Events may revoke a permit if any information has been falsified. A future permit may be denied because a previous year's event did not comply with the conditions imposed.
10. Block parties cannot be issued for private events such as wedding receptions, birthday parties, graduations or family reunions.
11. If there is a Port Authority bus route on the street requested for the block party, prior coordination with Port Authority Transit to determine if a detour is possible is critical. Block Party permits cannot be written for streets with a PAT route unless a detour has been sought and approved.

Any and all questions can be directed to the Office of Special Events at specialevents@pittsburghpa.gov or 412-255-2493.

