




CITY OF NEWPORT  
CITY MANAGER  
Colin K. Kennedy, MPA

To: Council Chair Charles Holder and Members of the City Council  
FROM: Colin K. Kennedy, MPA, City Manager   
Date: January 14, 2025  
RE: Docket of January 22, 2025 - Transportation for Large  
Special Events

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As per Council Resolution No. 2024-85, attached is a communication from staff in regard to transportation for large special events.

/paf  
Attachment

**Office of the City Clerk  
M E M O R A N D U M**

January 14, 2025

TO: Colin Kennedy  
City Manager

FROM: Laura C. Swistak  
City Clerk

SUBJECT: Transportation for large special events

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Pursuant to Resolution No. 2024-85, the following recommendations are being provided regarding transportation and parking for large special events:

1. Implement seasonal shuttle services from May 1- October 31- *included in the Transportation Master Plan and in progress with Trish Reynolds and Strategic Plan working group;*
2. Amend special event ordinance to require any large events that have never been held to file the application within six months of the event and for repeat events, within three months and expand the definition of exhibition and increase license fees- *drafts forthcoming for City Solicitor review;*
3. Research a possible impact fee for large events structured on a per attendee fee when it reaches a certain amount of attendees;
4. Require the holder of large events to provide off-site parking and shuttle service when there is not ample onsite parking at the event- possible locations for off-site parking – Pell (Colleen Jermain has given permission); C.C.R.I. (I have a meeting scheduled early January to discuss);
5. Research the potential for a temporary use permit via Zoning Board for wedding venues and other large private events.

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

**RESOLUTION**

**OF THE**

**COUNCIL**

**No.2024-85**

WHEREAS, Newport is home to 25,000 residents spread out across a relatively small 7.7 square miles;

WHEREAS, Newport is known across the globe for its rich cultural heritage, historic treasures, and natural beauty, attracting an estimated 3 million visitors each year;

WHEREAS, Newport is host to a wide variety of special events that enrich the community for both visitors and residents alike, simultaneously contributing greatly to our economy and placing an ever-increasing demand upon City resources and infrastructure;

WHEREAS, The summer of 2024 has been particularly challenging for residents who all too often must negotiate heavily traveled main and side roads during special event weekends, negatively impacting air quality and the quiet enjoyment of our residential neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the City Council to ensure that these events remain compatible with surrounding neighborhoods by minimizing traffic and congestion on City roads;

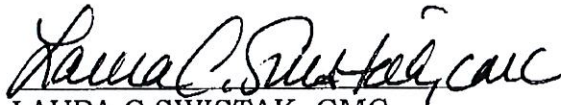
WHEREAS, Several large-scale events, including the U.S. Senior Golf Tournament held in June of 2024, have demonstrated that it is possible to minimize the impact of high attendance events on Newport residents by implementing strategies already identified in the 2022 Transportation Master Plan, including the use of off-site parking, resident-only corridors, and wayfinding programs to alleviate traffic across the City;

WHEREAS, The Transportation Master Plan clearly identifies other specific steps the City can take to address the transportation and parking concerns of residents, including working with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to activate the new interceptor parking lot on JT Connell Highway and establishing standards to guide the development of mobility hubs and encourage alternate mobility options; NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED: that the City Administration direct staff, including representative from the City Clerk's Office as well as the Planning, Public Services, Police, and Fire Departments to present recommendations to the City Council to amend the City's Special Event policies in order help reduce congestion and address other quality of life issues caused by high attendance events.

LYNN UNDERWOOD CEGLIE  
JEANNE MARIE NAPOLITANO

IN COUNCIL  
READ AND PASSED  
**AUGUST 14, 2024**

  
LAURA C SWISTAK, CMC  
CITY CLERK