

NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Mari Cockerell, Communications Director

Ph: 325.676.6677, Cell: 325.513.9381, Email: mari.cockerell@abilenetx.gov

Mayor approves guidelines for outdoor events

ORGANIZERS ASKED TO FOLLOW 3 STEPS TO MINIMIZE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Abilene, Texas – In accordance with the most recent executive orders issued by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Abilene Mayor Anthony Williams has approved the following safety measures and approval process for residents and event organizers planning an outdoor event in excess of ten people.

An outdoor event in excess of ten people is automatically approved by the Mayor and may take place within city limits if the following safety measures are adhered to:

1. Event organizers encourage participants to social distance, or wear a face covering if distancing is not possible. The event organizer and participants are responsible for adherence and self-regulation of this requirement.
2. Event organizers make hand washing or hand sanitizing stations available at events with thirty or more attendees, with at least one washing or sanitizing station available for every thirty attendees. The event organizer and participants are responsible for adherence and self-regulation of this requirement.

If an organizer or resident is wishing to host an outdoor event with 300 or more attendees, they must follow the above stated safety measures, and:

3. Submit a written plan to maintain social distancing to the email address getapproved@abilenetx.gov. The plan will be reviewed by the Mayor, with notification of approval or denial made to the organizer or resident within three business days.

If organizers of an event of ten or more attendees are able to adhere to items 1 and 2, no email notification or approval from the Mayor is necessary. If organizers of an event of ten or more attendees are unable to adhere to items 1 and 2, or organizers anticipate 300 or more attendees at an event, they must follow item 3 and seek approval for the event from the Mayor via email at getapproved@abilenetx.gov.

The following events are not prohibited by Governor Abbott, and do not need approval from Mayor Williams: essential services, religious services, local government operations, child care services, youth camps, youth and adult recreation sports programs, professional and collegiate sporting events, swimming pools, water parks, museums, libraries, zoos, aquariums, natural caverns, rodeos, equestrian events, and amusement parks.

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