

# CHAIRS, BLANKETS AND BOOZE

2019 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

1.9.19 City Council Study Session

## MARKING TERRITORY CURRENT PRACTICE



- Concerts are held at Constitution Park on **Saturday**, with music starting at 7:30 PM
- Beginning at 5:00 PM on the **Thursday before** the Saturday night concert, concert goers would reserve their seating using chairs and blankets and leaving them in the Park.
- Two large spaces closest to the stage were reserved by CAC for concert sponsors.
- A CAC volunteer would monitor the placement of the chairs and blankets and ensure their safety.
- Boy Scouts would camp overnight on Friday night for security.

# MARKING TERRITORY

## PROS AND CONS



- Pros:
  - Early reservation of spots means people are not in a mad rush to get to the Park too early before the concert, and during band/sound/lighting set-up
  - People usually pick the same location year-after-year, concert-after-concert, so locating your party is easy – you’re at “your spot”.
- Cons:
  - Park is unavailable for other use for two days.
  - Staffing capacity is limited: PVRPD typically has their movies on Friday night.
  - Some people will spend all Thursday in the Park to secure their spot, leaving at 5:00 PM. The City often receives complaints from people who must work on Thursday that all the good spots are gone before they get there.
  - City Hall parking lot impacted: people double parking on Thursday and Friday to put chairs/blankets out; staff sometimes cannot leave City Hall and return for lack of parking.

# MARKING TERRITORY

## ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS



- Concerts in the Park is an experience and tradition with rituals and routines. It’s more than just the music.
  - People enjoy the expectation of being in “their spot”
  - Place change is difficult: Students usually sit in the same unassigned seats; most churchgoers sit in the same pews/chairs.
  - Change is uncomfortable and usually meets with resistance unless a benefit is seen
- Concerts in the Park is a free event for everyone.
  - Do people feel like the current system is fair?
  - Do they feel like they have a shot at getting a “better” spot?

# MARKING TERRITORY

## OPTIONS



- Continue the current practice of 5:00 PM Thursday night chair/blanket placement, but without security. People put their stuff out at their own risk.
  - Place signs in the park informing public that City/PVRPD assume no risk
  - Doesn't stop people from sitting in park all day Thursday until 5:00 PM
  - Saves staff/volunteer responsibility to monitor
- Allow Friday night 5:00 PM placement, with no security.
  - Any chairs/blankets left before 5:00 PM Friday would be folded up and set aside
  - Doesn't stop people from sitting in park all day Friday until 5:00 PM
  - Allows for use of park on Thursday
- First come, first serve on Saturday, with no security.
  - May be a problem while band/sound/lighting loading in and setting up.
  - Doesn't impact City Hall Parking during business hours
  - People will most likely place chairs/blankets after City Hall closes on Friday night – but if they disappear, they were warned.

**DISCUSS/DIRECT**  
 MORE TO COME ...



## BYOB!



- Attendee-supplied alcohol is unregulated. People can bring and consume any type of legally available alcoholic beverage without restriction.
- Although the consumption of alcohol is prohibited in City parks, CMC 10.44.030 allows for exemption via Special Event Permit.
- Sheriff's Deputies enforce drunk in public laws and will remove anyone who is intoxicated and disorderly.
- In the whole history of the event, no one can recall a claim against the City due to someone consuming alcohol at the event
- City Attorney has opined that the City bears little to no liability since the City is not serving the alcohol; i.e. "Social Host" liability
- CJPIA agrees with the City Attorney.
- PVRPD's Risk Pool agrees with City Attorney and CJPIA.
- If banned or regulated, will require more security/law enforcement, or the use of a beer/wine garden. May not be practical given the Park is an open, non-secured site, and the park is site constrained.

**DISCUSS/DIRECT**  
THEN YOU'RE DONE.

