



BLOCK PARTY POLICIES

The Pittsburgh City 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.

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 and limited to one (1) city block.

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. Block parties are designed to take place in the street and on the sidewalks of the requested block. To enhance the sense of community, the City allows the street to be closed to traffic.

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 by attendees of legal age at an approved block party, only on the block identified by the permit.

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

1. Block Party permit applications must be submitted via the City's online application portal at least seven (7) business days before the block party date to allow for proper review and coordination of City services.
2. The block party must be endorsed by the residents of the affected street, even if they are not participating actively. Many 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 Film & Event Management may ask for a petition demonstrating that block residents are aware of the proposed block 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, and for notifying the Department of Public Works of any barricades missing prior to 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. Religious institutions (Churches, Synagogues, etc) may also apply for Block Party Permits for the block on which they are located, so long as all other requirements are met.
6. Residents are responsible for cleanup of the street and sidewalks at the end of the party and for disposal of all trash and recycling. Should City Public Works crews have to clean the street, the permit holder may be responsible for hourly wages and/or fines.
7. Permits will only be issued authorizing block parties between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M. on weekends and federal holidays. Block Parties can be permitted on Halloween as a means to help residents create safe trick-or-treating environments for neighborhood children.
8. A block party is to be open to the public; no admission fees can be charged.
9. The Office of Film & Event Management 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 party permits cannot be issued for private events, including but not limited to: wedding receptions, birthday parties, graduations or family reunions. Block Party permits also cannot be issued to create venues for artist markets, farmers markets, or other for-profit ventures. These events can apply for Special Event Permits per the conditions of those permits.
11. If there is a Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) bus route on the street requested for the block party, prior coordination with PRT to determine if a detour is possible is critical. Please contact PRT Road Operations Division at 412-566-5321 to coordinate. Block Party permits cannot be written for streets with a PRT route unless a detour has been sought and approved.

Any and all questions can be directed to the Office of Film & Event Management at ofem@pittsburghpa.gov or 412-255-2641.



City of Pittsburgh
Office of Film & Event Management
Department of Public Safety