

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE  
TO IMPLEMENT CONTENT-NEUTRAL PERMITTING PROCEDURES  
FOR CITY STREETS AND CITY PROPERTY DURING  
THE 2020 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Republican National Convention (the “RNC”) will be held in Charlotte from August 24, 2020, through August 27, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the RNC is expected to bring approximately 50,000 visitors to Charlotte, some of whom will want to participate in parades, protests, public assemblies, and similar activities on public streets or on other public properties owned or controlled by the City;

**WHEREAS**, the RNC is expected to create a substantial and unusual level of demand for public spaces to use for such gatherings and expressive activities, and some requests for public space for such gatherings and activities may conflict with each other;

**WHEREAS**, unique security concerns and security procedures for the RNC, as well as the large crowds that will be drawn to Charlotte for the RNC, may further limit the public spaces available for public gatherings and expressive activities;

**WHEREAS**, the RNC is expected to present unique challenges for permitting public gatherings and expressive activities, such as a high volume of permit applications and possible conflicts among requests for public space, and the City can better manage those challenges, while protecting people’s constitutional rights and maximizing the transparency of the City’s processes, by implementing permitting procedures specific to the RNC;

**WHEREAS**, authorizing the City Manager or his designee to implement permitting procedures specific to the RNC will help ensure that the limited public spaces available during the convention are allocated for public gatherings and expressive activities in a fair, neutral, and transparent manner;

**WHEREAS**, the permitting procedures that the City Manager or his designee would be authorized to implement for the RNC would be limited to those that will help allocate public spaces for gatherings and expressive activities, and the City Manager and his designee would not be authorized to impose additional restrictions on how authorized public gatherings and expressive activities may be conducted;

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the City of Charlotte’s residents and of those who will visit Charlotte during the RNC for the City Council to authorize the City Manager to develop and implement permitting procedures specifically for public gatherings and expressive activities that will happen during the RNC on City streets or on other public property owned or controlled by the City; and

**WHEREAS**, this authority granted to the City Manager or his designee should apply only during the RNC, except that it also should apply for short periods before and after the convention because the demand for public spaces created by the RNC may begin before the RNC formally opens and may not end immediately when the RNC formally concludes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Charlotte that:

**Section 1:** This Ordinance applies to any protest, rally, picket, parade, assembly of people, or other activity of any kind that would: (a) occur on any public property owned or controlled by the City other than a public street, (b) constitute a parade or public assembly under Chapter 19, Article XI of the City Code or that otherwise could reasonably be expected to disrupt the flow of traffic on any public street, or (c) involve any use, on a public street or on any other public property owned or controlled by the City, of a mechanical or electrical device that amplifies sound (except for cell phones, walkie-talkies, and car stereos that are producing only sounds not audible outside of their respective vehicles).

**Section 2:** The City Manager or his designee may adopt, revise, rescind, and implement procedures for issuing permits or other approvals for, and otherwise regulating how public spaces are allocated for, any activities identified in Section 1 of this Ordinance. Among other things, these procedures may authorize City staff to deny permit applications or other requests for approval if requests for public space generally, or if requests for a particular public space, exceed reasonable availability. Any procedures implemented under this Ordinance must be reasonable, content-neutral, and in compliance with all applicable federal and North Carolina law.

**Section 3:** Any procedures implemented under this Ordinance may impose requirements not found in the City Code and may deviate from or conflict with otherwise applicable provisions in the City Code. To the extent of any such deviations or conflicts, the procedures implemented under this Ordinance will take precedence and will control. Except to the extent of any such deviations or conflicts, any applicable provisions in the City Code will continue to govern the activities identified in Section 1 of this Ordinance.

**Section 4:** This Ordinance will take effect immediately when adopted but will apply only to activities that happen or that are proposed to happen at any time from 12:01 am on August 21, 2020, until 11:59 pm on August 30, 2020. If the 2020 Republican National Convention is rescheduled, this Ordinance instead will apply only to activities that happen or that are proposed to happen at any time from 12:01 am on the third day before the rescheduled 2020 Republican National Convention will officially begin until 11:59 pm on the third day after the 2020 Republican National Convention officially concludes.

**Section 5:** This Ordinance is not intended to give anyone any private right of action against the City or against anyone else. This Ordinance does not repeal, fully or partially, any provision in the City Code.

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney