

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster, California

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10/23/07
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Date: October 23, 2007

To: Mayor Hearn and City Council Members

From: Mark V. Bozigian, Assistant City Manager

Subject: **Introduction of Ordinance No. 889, Adding Chapter 9.40 to Title 9 of the Lancaster Municipal Code to Regulate Special Events**

Recommendations:

Introduce **Ordinance No. 889**, adding Chapter 9.40 to Title 9 of the Lancaster Municipal Code to regulate special events.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Background:

This ordinance is intended to strengthen the City and Sheriff's Department's ability to address special events which adversely impact the safety of the general public; unduly interfere with the free use of public streets, sidewalks, or other public property; or pose a danger to public or private property. While many special events do not result in adverse impacts, there are some that compromise public safety, pose a danger to surrounding properties, and result in unacceptable diversions of law enforcement and City staff resources. This is usually the result of a poorly planned event in terms of on-site and off-site security, inadequate ingress and egress, and a lack of adequate crowd control plans. The proposed Ordinance:

- States the intent and purpose of the Ordinance;
- Defines a "special event" as an event in any public or private venue, with more than 50 participants, where entertainment (as defined) is provided on a for-profit basis;
- Excludes from the Ordinance: any event at a private residence without an admission charge; events at member-only facilities; events sponsored by religious entities; for-profit activities at businesses currently licensed as such; non-profit or political fundraisers; other specified events not requiring extraordinary law enforcement services;
- Requires that a permit be issued by the City to conduct a special event, as defined;
- Requires that the permit application be submitted by the applicant no less than 60 days prior to the event and that the event not be advertised until a permit is issued;
- Specifies the content and requirements of the permit application;
- Specifies liability and property damage insurance requirements;
- Specifies grounds for denial of an application;
- Provides for an appeals process for the applicant in the event of a denial; and
- Provides for the imposition of fees for extraordinary law enforcement services.