



CITY of CALABASAS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: MARCH 15, 2021

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: MARTY HALL, ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ON 2021 SOCIALLY DISTANT CITY EVENTS

MEETING DATE: MARCH 24, 2021

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council discuss and provide direction to staff on socially distant City events.

BACKGROUND:

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Calabasas has followed California State and Los Angeles County protocols and guidelines in relation to public recreation and events. Early on, the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order prohibited in-person activities prompting staff to create online programming for residents in need. On August 30, 2020, California implemented the Blueprint for a Safer Economy establishing criteria for loosening and tightening restrictions on activities, and thereby assigning Los Angeles County to the Purple (Widespread) tier. Under Purple guidelines, in-person events were permitted, but were limited to programs in which the public remained within an enclosed vehicle.

With the aforementioned restrictions, the Community Services Department hosted the following events between March, 2020 and March, 2021:

- Independence Day Trolley Tour, House Decorating Contest & Fly-over
- Senior Drive-in Bingo Event
- Park Nature Scavenger Hunt

- Silly Walk at De Anza Park
- Spooky Kooky Halloween Photo Bingo, Decorating Contest & Treat Street
- Love Rocks Pop Up Rock Garden
- Cruise Into Spring Senior Parking Lot Trivia Night

On March 12, 2021, Los Angeles County met the metric to begin lifting restrictions on activities, moving from the Purple (Widespread) tier to the Red (Substantial) tier. Looking ahead, LA County will need to meet the following criteria in order to lift additional restrictions:

Orange (Moderate) tier case rate range will shift to 2-5.9 cases per 100,000.

Yellow (Minimal) tier case rate range will shift to less than 2 cases per 100,000 and when 4 million doses have been administered statewide.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

News that Los Angeles County has advanced from Purple (Widespread) tier to the Red (Substantial) tier has yielded little change to public events. According to the California Department of Public Health, outdoor festivals and events with live audiences are prohibited statewide until the county has reached the Orange (Moderate) tier. Even then, capacity is extremely limited with a maximum capacity of 25% in the final tier.

RED TIER	ORANGE TIER	YELLOW TIER
No Live Audiences	Outdoor Only Capacity Limited to 20% Reservations Required	Outdoor Only Capacity Limited to 25% Reservations Required

Community Services staff are now operating under the assumption that the City’s traditional Fourth of July Fireworks and Pumpkin Festival will not be permitted in 2021. Instead, attention has been redirected to produce smaller events that evoke a sense of community and tradition, while keeping the health and safety of the residents as the top priority.

Spring events will follow Red Tier guidelines. Staff has swapped the traditional egg hunt for a “Hop n Go Bunny Trail” where single household families can take photos along the decorated De Anza trail and receive their own take home egg hunt kit. On Mother’s Day Weekend, staff will host a Wonderland themed Drive-in Family Bingo event with live characters, games and take-home treats.

Once the County advances to the Orange tier, in-person events with reserved seating areas are allowed so long as social distancing efforts are implemented. Staff intends to host live concerts, animal and magic, and other family friendly performances where the ground is marked to delineate required spacing. Community Development has confirmed that De Anza Park has the capacity to safely host more than 500 residents and still meet the State's 20% limitation.

An Independence Day concert at De Anza Park might be possible if LA County reaches the Orange Tier by May. If not, Staff will safely implement an alternative drive-through program with spirit prizes and citywide contests.

In lieu of the Pumpkin Festival, the City and Chamber of Commerce could look to host a "Taste of Pumpkin" at the Calabasas restaurants along Calabasas Road. Patrons can purchase specialty food items and drinks while helping boost business sales. Banner contests, pumpkin carving contests, street entertainers, and art displays are all ways to incorporate the spirit of the festival without the risks and support the local economy during recovery.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Hop and Go Bunny Trail	10-516-5252-13
Community Events through June 30	10-516-5252-25

REQUESTED ACTION:

It is recommended that the City Council discuss and provide direction to staff on socially distant City events.

ATTACHMENTS: None.