



Department Source: Convention and Visitors Bureau

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: September 3, 2019

Re: Authorizing a Special Event Operations Agreement with Thumper Productions, L.L.C. for the 2019 Roots N' Blues N' BBQ Festival

Executive Summary

This resolution authorizes the operations agreement for the Roots N' Blues N' BBQ Festival, September 27-29, 2019 at Stephens Lake Park.

Discussion

Thumper Productions, L.L.C. has submitted a special events application for the 2019 Roots N' Blues N' BBQ Festival. Over 25,000 people attend this three-day festival which features 30 national, regional and local musicians and brings in thousands of visitors from across the United States. This is the 13th year for the festival, which started in downtown Columbia, and has been held inside Stephens Lake Park since 2013.

The City Special Event Committee has worked closely with Thumper Productions to address all aspects of the application and operations agreement and to develop plans and negotiate terms for the operations agreement, including, but not limited to: festival layout, traffic management, security plan, emergency plan, alcohol sales, insurance, fees, and solid waste.

Because of the size and scope of this festival and because it requires street closures, as well as city services and equipment, an agreement must be executed between the city manager and event organizer, and approved by the City Council, per Section 24-73(b) of the City Code.

Most aspects of the festival have remained unchanged from last year, with the following being the most notable changes:

*Gates will open 15 minutes earlier each day to allow event security to conduct more thorough checks of attendees entering the festival.

*Thumper will begin event setup in the park a day earlier than years past.

*City will not provide bus service or solid waste staffing as in years past.

*Per Fire Code, Crowd Manager Training will be required for a specified number of event security staff. The Columbia Fire and Police Departments will provide this training.

*Additional requirements have been added to the Alcohol Sales portion of the agreement.



*Thumper has increased the number of donated tickets to the City to be distributed to low-income households by 100, for a total of 400.

The City Event Committee and the Organizer will continue to work together prior to the start of the festival to ensure all plans are aligned with standard best practices and approved by the appropriate City staff and departments to ensure a safe and successful event for all involved.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: n/a

Long-Term Impact: n/a

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Economy, Secondary Impact: Public Safety, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Economic Development, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
Sept. 4, 2018	R139-18: Authorizing a Special Event Operations Agreement with Thumper Productions, L.L.C. for the 2018 Roots N' Blues N' BBQ Festival (...)
August 21, 2017	R120-17: Authorizing a Special Event Operations Agreement with Thumper Productions, L.L.C. for the 2017 Roots N Blues N BBQ Festival (...)
August 15, 2016	R114-16: Authorizing a Special Event Operations Agreement with Thumper Productions, L.L.C. for the 2016 Roots N Blues N BBQ Festival (...)

Suggested Council Action

Approval of the legislation