

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

ITEM NO. D(5)

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

MEETING DATE: April 4, 2006

**SUBJECT: A Request to Set a Public Hearing for the Temporary Closing of the 100 Block of Weaver Street on Sundays**

<b>DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: YES</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> <b>A. Resolution</b> <b>B. Street Closing Permit Application</b> <b>C. Traffic Control Map</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b> <b>CONTACT:</b> <b>George Seiz, Dir. Of Public Works</b> <b>(918-7427)</b>

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Board of Aldermen to set a public hearing for the temporary closing of the 100 block of Weaver Street, from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm on Sunday(s) in conjunction with the Weaver Street Market event called "Sunday Brunch and More". The specific Sunday(s) for the closing are to be determined by the Board.

**INFORMATION**

At a recent meeting of the BOA, the Mayor and Board expressed interest in a trial period for closing off the 100 block of Weaver Street, on Sundays, during the "Sunday Brunch and More" event at Weaver Street Market. Live music is presented on the lawn area from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. These Sunday events run from approximately late March into November. It was noted at this regular meeting that a public hearing would be required for the temporary closing of the street.

For private events, the sponsor of the event has typically been held responsible for all costs incurred for the public hearing, as well as costs for services provided by the Police Department and the Public Works Department (traffic control and protection). The Town has typically absorbed the cost for traffic control and protection for Town sponsored events such as Carrboro Day, 4th of July, and the Musical Festival.

The following information is also submitted for consideration:

- 1) The entertainment portion of the event goes from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, however, it will be necessary to close down the road at least ½ hour before 11:00 am (as people gather) and re-opened ½ hour after 1:00 pm (time to clear the street). Therefore, the road will actually be closed from about 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.
- 2) There is significant traffic control and protection required because of the need to merge two lanes of westbound traffic on Main Street (see attached map). It will take 3 Public Works employees to place barricades and other traffic control (e.g. signs, arrow board).
- 3) Because the closure period extends past the noon hour when traffic typically picks up on Sunday, an off-duty Police Officer will be required, in combination with other officers already on duty, to help with traffic control (e.g. keep intersections at Weaver & Greensboro, Weaver & Roberson clear).
- 4) Some litter patrol and clean up of the street and right-of-way will most likely be needed at the conclusion of the event.

- 5) There are six parking spaces in the 100 block of Weaver St, which would not be used while the street is closed.
- 6) The Century Center is host to many Sunday events (e.g. religious meetings, fundraisers) from April through November that takes place during a portion or all of the proposed closing period.
- 7) There are several significant events on Sundays during the course of the summer which also impact traffic on Weaver and Main street: Carrboro Day, May 7; Mothers Day /UNC Graduation weekend, May 14; Poetry Alive, June 18; Music Festival, September 24.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The estimated costs for providing the necessary traffic control and safety are:

Public Works overtime and equipment -	\$400 - \$500
Rental of flashing arrow board -	\$170
Police overtime -	\$100
Publication of public hearing notice -	\$30

Approximate cost per event - \$700 to \$800

Approximately six (6) staff hours will be needed by the Public Works Department on Friday to organize and load signs/barricading. This will save time on Sunday. Staff time will also be needed to hand deliver notices about the street closing to affected properties on Weaver and Main Street.

**RECOMMENDATION**

As noted in the information section above, the Town has typically absorbed the cost of traffic control and protection for Town sponsored events such as Carrboro Day, 4th of July, and the Musical Festival. For private events, the event sponsor is responsible for all costs incurred for the public hearing as well as for Police and Public Works. In this instance the Board, not Weaver Street Market, has made the request for the street closing. Having the Town absorb the costs associated with this private event would be somewhat of a departure from past practice.

Town staff needs to know which Sunday, or Sundays, the Board would prefer for the trial street closing so the public hearing information can be completed and proper notice given. If just one Sunday is chosen for the trial, the Board may want to consider a rain date to avoid holding another public hearing.

If the Board of Aldermen chooses to move ahead with this request, it is recommended that the Board adopt the attached resolution setting a public hearing.