

From: Scott Spradley
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:28 PM
To: David Alfin <DAffin@palmcoastgov.com>
Subject: 4th of July: Palm Coast

Hello David:

I hope you are feeling better, and I am looking forward to that lunch date in the near future.

In the meantime, I heard late this afternoon that the City of Palm Coast is entertaining the idea of moving the date of its traditional Fireworks Celebration from July 3 to July 4. I had heard last week of plans to change the venue, only, from City Place to the Airport, but to leave the date unchanged.

I am concerned about the possibility of the City moving the date of its Fireworks Celebration to the 4th, as that will collide with the Flagler Beach Fireworks Celebration. My concerns having nothing to do with the possible lessening of the crowd in Flagler Beach—in fact, that would ease the pressure on a logistically challenging event, anyway.

My concern is with the logistics associated with traffic; with ingress and egress to and from the events; but my primary concern is with the dilution of available law enforcement personnel if they are required to service to both events in different locations at the exact same time. I really don't think it is possible to provide adequate coverage to simultaneous 4th of July events.

By way of background, and coincidentally, I am the Chair of the City of Flagler Beach Ad-Hoc Fourth of July Findings Committee. We were appointed by the City Commission in August and have been meeting bi-weekly since then. I am scheduled to give our final report to the City Commission this Thursday evening, in fact. The final report is a part of the agenda packet for the Commission and is thus public record, and is attached.

A major part of our discussions as a Committee centered on solutions to deal with the huge crowds, which have grown exponentially as the population here and throughout the County has exploded the past decade. Police Chief Matt Doughney provided critically important information to our discussions, and his contributions influenced our recommendations greatly. One message from the Chief was clear: even with contributions of personnel from other jurisdictions, including Sheriff Staley and Sheriff Chitwood, the police force is stretched very thin in its capabilities on July 4th, despite the devotion of all available manpower and assets to the task.

At one point in our meetings, mention was made of the possibility of working jointly with the City of Palm Coast for a mutual Fireworks Celebration, but that was quickly dismissed as attempting to provide a safe event simultaneously in two different locations isn't seen as being possible.

I have no idea how far along the idea is of the City of Palm Coast moving its Fireworks Celebration to collide with the Flagler Beach event. But I am hopeful you will give consideration to these important issues before this unworkable scenario (in my opinion) gains too much traction.

Thank you for your time, David, and I look forward to getting together for lunch!

Scott

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