

Chapter 15

PUBLIC MEETINGS*

* **Cross References:** Group picnics, § 12-47.

Art. I. In General, §§ 15-1--15-20

Art. II. Public Meeting Reservations, §§ 15-21--15-30

ARTICLE I.

IN GENERAL

Sec. 15-1. Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

Public meeting. Any meeting, assemblage, parade, procession, ceremony, show, festival, exhibition, carnival, rally, pageant or demonstration of any kind, or any similar meeting, in or upon any street, park, sidewalk or other public grounds in the city dedicated or open for such purposes to the public generally.

Public meeting reservation. A reservation as authorized by this chapter.
(Code 1971, § 16-1)

Sec. 15-2. Furnishing of special equipment by city.

The director of public safety shall be empowered to enter into an agreement with the holder of a public meeting reservation for the provision of special equipment and services, such as bandstands, loudspeakers and electricity.
(Code 1971, § 16-2)

Sec. 15-3. Public conduct.

(a) No person shall unreasonably obstruct, hamper, impede or interfere with any public meeting for which a public meeting reservation has been issued, or with any person participating in such public meeting.

(b) Any person who engages in, aids, forms or starts any public meeting, for which a public meeting reservation has not been issued, shall not unreasonably obstruct or impede public travel, or unreasonably interfere with the normal use of the city's streets, sidewalks, parks or other public grounds.
(Code 1971, § 16-3)

Sec. 15-4. Penalty.

Any person violating the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.
(Code 1971, § 16-4)

Secs. 15-5--15-20. Reserved.

ARTICLE II.

PUBLIC MEETING RESERVATIONS

Sec. 15-21. Authorized.

Any section or part of any street, park, sidewalk or other public place in the city may be declared reserved for the holder of a reservation by the director of public safety, at any time, and for any interval of time, for the purpose of conducting a public meeting.

(Code 1971, § 16-5)

Sec. 15-22. Application.

(a) A person seeking issuance of a public meeting reservation shall file an application with the director of public safety on forms provided by such officer. An application for a public meeting reservation shall be filed with the director of public safety not less than five (5) days before the date on which it is proposed to conduct such public meeting.

(b) The application for a public meeting reservation shall set forth the following information:

- (1) The name, address and telephone number of the person seeking to conduct such public meeting, or, if the public meeting is proposed to be conducted for, on behalf of, or by an organization, the name, address and telephone number of the headquarters of the organization, and of the authorized and responsible heads of such organization.
- (2) The name, address and telephone number of the person who will be responsible for the conduct of the public meeting.
- (3) The date the public meeting is to be conducted.
- (4) The location to be used for the conduct of the public meeting.
- (5) The approximate number of persons who will constitute such public meeting.
- (6) The hours when such public meeting will start and terminate.
- (7) A statement as to whether the public meeting will occupy all or only a portion of the public place proposed to be used.
- (8) If the public meeting is designed to be held by, and on behalf of, or for, any person other than the

applicant, the applicant for such permit shall file with the director of public safety a communication in writing from the person proposing to hold the public meeting, authorizing the applicant to apply for the public meeting reservation on his behalf.

(Code 1971, §§ 16-6--16-8)

Sec. 15-23. Notice of rejection.

The director of public safety shall act upon the application for a public meeting reservation within forty-eight (48) hours after the filing thereof. If the director of public safety disapproves the application as filed, he shall mail to the applicant within forty-eight (48) hours after the date upon which the application was filed, a notice of his action, stating the reasons for denial of the application.

(Code 1971, § 16-9)

Sec. 15-24. Standards of issuance.

The director of public safety shall issue a public meeting reservation as provided for under this chapter when, from a consideration of the application, he finds that:

- (1) The public meeting is not to be held for the sole purpose of advertising any product or goods, and is not designed to be held purely for private profit;
- (2) The time, place, duration, number of participants or manner of use of the city's streets, sidewalks, parks or other public grounds for a public meeting will not unreasonably obstruct or impede public travel, or unreasonably interfere with the use of such streets, sidewalks, parks or public grounds by any person;
- (3) The public meeting is not scheduled to be held at the same time and place as another public meeting for which a reservation has previously been issued;
- (4) The conduct of the meeting will not require the diversion of so great a number of police officers of this municipality to properly police the meeting and the areas contiguous thereto as to prevent normal police protection to this city;
- (5) The conduct of such meeting will not require the diversion of so great a number of ambulances as to prevent normal ambulance service to portions of this city other than that to be occupied by the meeting and areas contiguous thereto;
- (6) The concentration of persons, animals and vehicles at assembly points of any parade connected therewith will not unduly interfere with proper fire and police protection of, or ambulance service to, areas contiguous to such assembly areas;
- (7) The conduct of any parade connected therewith will not interfere with the movement of fire-fighting equipment en route to a fire;
- (8) The conduct of the meeting is not reasonably likely to cause injury to persons or property, to provoke disorderly conduct or create a disturbance;

- (9) Any parade connected therewith is scheduled to move from its point of origin to its point of termination expeditiously and without unreasonable delays en route.

(Code 1971, § 16-10)

Sec. 15-25. Appeal from denial.

Any person aggrieved shall have the right to appeal the denial of a public meeting reservation to the city council. The appeal shall be taken within seven (7) days after notice. The city council shall act upon the appeal within five (5) days after its receipt.

(Code 1971, § 16-11)

Sec. 15-26. Grant of alternative reservation.

The director of public safety in denying an application for a public meeting reservation, shall be empowered to authorize the reservation of public grounds for a public meeting on a date, at a time or on public grounds different from that named by the applicant. An applicant desiring to accept an alternative public meeting reservation shall, not less than forty-eight (48) hours in advance of time reserved for the public meeting, file a written notice of acceptance with the director of public safety. An alternative public meeting reservation shall conform to the requirements of, and shall have the effect of a public meeting reservation under this chapter.

(Code 1971, § 16-12)

Sec. 15-27. Notice of issuance.

Immediately upon issuance of a public meeting reservation, the director of public safety shall send a copy thereof to the following:

- (1) The city manager.
- (2) The chief of police.
- (3) The director of public works.

(Code 1971, § 16-13)

Sec. 15-28. Contents.

Each public meeting reservation shall state the following information:

- (1) Starting time.
- (2) Terminating time.
- (3) The public grounds to be occupied by the public meeting.

(Code 1971, § 16-14)

Sec. 15-29. Holder to comply with laws and ordinances; possess evidence of reservation.

(a) The holder of a public meeting reservation shall comply with all applicable laws and ordinances.

(b) The public meeting chairman or other person heading or leading such activity shall carry the public meeting reservation upon his person during the conduct of the public meeting.
(Code 1971, § 16-15)

Sec. 15-30. Revocation.

The director of public safety shall have the authority to revoke a public meeting reservation issued under this article upon discovery that the conduct of the public meeting will not comply with the standard for the issuance as set forth in this article.
(Code 1971, § 16-16)