



Bristol Police Department

395 METACOM AVENUE BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02809
TELEPHONE (401) 253-6900



KEVIN M. LYNCH
Chief of Police

BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT PETITION REVIEW FORM

DATE FILED: 05-16-2025

PETITION DESCRIPTION:

Jennifer Devine, Pro-Democracy Rally, 55 Wapping Drive request for one-day dancing and entertainment license at Independence Park, June 29, 2025 from 11:00am to 4:00pm

PERSON/S FILING PETITION: Jennifer Devine

☐ LICENSE RENEWAL ☒ NEW PETITION

REVIEW:

- ☐ APPROVED
- ☒ CONDITIONAL APPROVAL
- ☐ DENIED
- ☐ FORWARD TO ANOTHER DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW

NOTES:

Please see attached.

REVIEWING OFFICER: Capt. Steven St. Pierre

DATE COMPLETED: 05-21-2025

Concun
the intent
STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator

2025 MAY 22 AM 9:17
BRISTOL
POLICE



Bristol Police Department

395 METACOM AVENUE BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02809
TELEPHONE (401) 253-6900



KEVIN M. LYNCH
Chief of Police

To: Chief Kevin Lynch
CC: Deputy Chief Scott McNally

From: Captain Steven St. Pierre

RE: Petition Request "Pro Democratic Rally- Independence Park 6/29/25"

Requested By: Jennifer Devine 55 Wapping Dr Bristol RI (4013300196)

Set for TC Meeting: 5/28/25

Overview:

The petitioner is requesting an entertainment permit for the use of Independence Park on Sunday 6/29/25 from 11am to 4pm for "Entertainment" purposes to hold a "Pro-Democratic Rally" utilizing a small stage, speakers and audio equipment to provide amplified speaking with guest speakers, and other politically related messaging and resources. The petitioner stated that resource tables may be set up and several area groups have been invited to participate and facilitate the event. The groups include at present: Standup RI (apx 50 members), Daughter of Liberty (apx 50 members), Blue Hope Rising -associated with the Bristol Warren Daily Dose social media page-(apx 300members) and the East Bay Citizens for Peace (small membership). The petitioner indicated that the event is still in the planning stages and that the parameters of the event could change. The Petitioner expects light to moderate attendance and indicates that the goal and aim of the event is awareness and attention in support of the values of the aforementioned groups which have a political component. The petitioner emphatically states that the event is designed to be a peaceful and community-based event, with no intention at inciting violence, or protests, or riots, or any other undesirable outcome from a community perspective. The Petitioner does not that they have not yet solidified any guest speakers or do they have a firm idea of the full scope of the final event. The petitioner expressed her desire to work with the police to establish safe parameters and to hold the event in a manner which is safe and orderly with respect to considerations brought forth by the PD and Parks and Rec.

Considerations:

The event is scheduled to be held on Sunday 6/29/25 in the early afternoon with an hour for set up and an hour estimated for breakdown. They intend to utilize at least some portion of the park for a small stage, speakers, and audio equipment and some portion of the park for tables for resources. Based on discussions with the petitioner it is unclear exactly how much advertising will be done for this event and how much interest will be generated. However, we do know that 6/29/25 can already be expected to be a heavily populated Sunday in Town given it's proximity to the 4th of July and we do know that the Concert Series and the Carnival will be

operating on those dates. Given such police resources will already be pulled to those two events already established. Furthermore, the town details at the Town Beach will be in effect on that date as well further stretching available police resources. Given the anticipated heavy pedestrian traffic and vehicular traffic that can be expected in the area of Independence Park on 6/29/25 it is reasonable to expect crowds and attention to the event as likely greater than other potential dates, and potentially larger than facilitators are anticipating. Furthermore, the nature of the event having a political component lends itself to the possibility of criticism and dissenting positions from the public. Whereas there are no specific threats associated with the facilitators or against the facilitators in this petition, the potential for conflict at the event exists based solely on the current political climate and should not be overlooked. Furthermore, the potential for other entities to utilize the facilitators planned event for purposes not within the intentions of the petitioners also exists and should be a consideration for public safety.

Recommendations:

Based on the potential pedestrian traffic, the mixed use of the park during a busy Sunday in late June, the existing demands on the scheduled patrol functions of the police department, the potential for heavy pedestrian traffic, the potential for vehicular traffic delays and congestion, the potential for conflict based on competing political viewpoints, and the potential risk to the petitioners and facilitators- and with considerations to the other events and demands on public safety in the town at present on the same date and time the recommendation is as follows:

- 2 Uniformed Police Detail Officers to be present for the duration of the event to assist with pedestrian traffic, vehicular traffic, and the potential for security and public safety concerns at the event.
- 2 Marked Patrol Detail vehicles to be present in the event pedestrian or vehicular traffic denotes closure of the roadway to maintain safety:

Estimated Cost to the Petitioner for Private Police Details:

Weekend rate \$76.00 per hour per officer - 5 hours = \$760.00

Vehicle fee = \$240.00

The potential for this recommendation to extend to additional officers and cruisers exists if the planning and development of the event grows or extends to other activities and footprints not provided in the initial plan.

No other reason to deny this petition from a public safety perspective exists given the parameters of the safety recommendations are met.

Respectfully,

Captain Steven St. Pierre