

From: [Patricia West](#)
To: [Kim Berry](#)
Subject: Fw: Special Requests for YES Event
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:42:56 PM

Hi Kim,

My staff recommendation will be to approve the event, but not the burning barrels or parking spot barricades.

Burning Barrels: These raise some logistical and liability concerns, and would require maintenance throughout the evening, which could be challenging to manage safely. It also involves city staff set-up and tear-down time.

Barricading of Parking Spaces: Considering the event is in December and there is access to the outdoor seating area, which can be utilized in conjunction with the social district, I'm not seeing a strong need to block off the parking stalls.

Thank you,
Tricia

From: Jake Mills <saunderspointbrewing@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:55 AM
To: Patricia West <pwest@gladstonemi.gov>
Subject: Re: Special Requests for YES Event

Patricia,

Thank you for taking the time to review the details of the Youth Empowering Services event and for sharing your perspective.

Regarding the burning barrels, I understand the concern about liability and maintenance. However, this could easily be mitigated by having volunteer firefighters oversee them throughout the evening. This isn't unprecedented — for example, the Old-Fashioned Christmas event has used monitored barrels in the past, sometimes managed by high school volunteers, without issue.

As for the parking barricades, the outdoor seating area unfortunately isn't a viable alternative. With the tree planted in that section and the need to

maintain ADA compliance, we'll be lucky to fit two of the six tables we previously had there. Placing tables on the sidewalk is not an option for the same reason.

To be clear, this request isn't about benefiting my business — it's about supporting a community fundraiser that's typically held at the Terrace or Bluff Golf Course. My goal is to encourage more activity downtown and bring foot traffic to other local businesses as well.

I'll pass your comments along to Tiffany at Youth Empowering Services since the requests originated from her group, but I wanted to share my perspective before any final decision is made.

Cheers,

Jake

On Oct 29, 2025, at 11:13 AM, Patricia West <pwest@gladstonemi.gov> wrote:

Hi Jake,

Thank you for sharing the details about the Youth Empowering Services event scheduled for December. I wanted to touch base regarding the special requests you submitted.

- **Burning Barrels:** These raise some logistical and liability concerns, and would require maintenance throughout the evening, which could be challenging to manage safely.
- **Barricading Parking Spaces:** The Rialto Center currently does not meet the off-street parking requirements outlined in the zoning code. This isn't unique to your location, as most downtown businesses are in the same situation. Considering the event is in December and you have access to the outdoor seating area, which can be utilized in conjunction with the social district, I'm not seeing a strong need to block off the parking stalls.

I'm inclined to recommend to the commission that we do not approve the burning barrels or the parking space barricades. I wanted to share my perspective with you before that recommendation goes forward, and I'm happy to hear if there are additional factors I might not have considered.