



April 27, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Amber Jones
allegedlywithamber@mac.com

Re: Special Event Permit Application Denial

Dear Amber Jones:

The 2026 special event permit application submitted for the Sandpoint Showdown Motorcycle Rally is denied. The basis for denial is set forth below.

Basis for Denial

The Sandpoint Special Event Policy and Procedures provides that failure to comply with the terms and conditions of a permit or requirements established in the Special Event Policy and Procedures "may result in the immediate cancellation of the event, *denial of future special event permit applications* or the requirement of a cash deposit." See Special Event Policy and Procedures, pp. 7–8. (emphasis added).

During the 2025 Sandpoint Showdown, the following violations of the approved 2025 permit conditions and Special Event Policy and Procedures were documented:

1. **Unauthorized closure of Gunning's Alley.** The 2025 permit expressly required (Condition No. 5) that access to Gunning's Alley remain fully unobstructed at all times. The permittee closed the alley using a large vehicle. See Exhibit A.
2. **Motorcycle suspended by crane above pedestrians.** A motorcycle was suspended in the air above pedestrians by crane without authorization or any known safety inspections. This activity was not included in the approved 2025 permit. The Policy provides that activities not included in the permit application are not authorized. Special Event Policy and Procedures, p. 20. See Exhibit A.
3. **Unauthorized inflatable bull.** An inflatable bull ride was operated at the event without inclusion in the approved permit. The Policy prohibits unauthorized activities within the event venue. Because this activity, among others, was not disclosed in the permit application, the City had no opportunity to evaluate required safety features, insurance coverage, or additional permit requirements associated with such undisclosed activities.

The Policy recognizes that use of equipment and interactive activities may require additional safety features, insurance levels, or permits, and grants the City’s Risk Manager final authority to place requirements or modifications on event components due to the unique nature of the risks of any particular activity. See Special Event Policy and Procedures, pp. 20, 24. See Exhibit B.

4. **Prohibited stunts.** The 2025 permit expressly prohibited burnouts and similar stunts on City streets (Condition No. 10). Burnouts occurred, requiring police intervention to stop the activity.
5. **Inadequate security.** Security was not provided by a licensed private security company as required by the Policy. Special Event Policy and Procedures, pp. 14–15. Furthermore, threatening conduct toward members of the public was reported during the event.

The 2026 application does not adequately address these prior violations or demonstrate that the permittee has the capacity and intent to operate the event in compliance with permit conditions. For these reasons, issuance of a 2026 special event permit is denied.

Notice of Right to Appeal

Pursuant to Sandpoint City Code § 6-6-10, the applicant may appeal this denial to the City Council by filing a written notice of appeal with the Special Event Coordinator within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of this denial, setting forth the reasons for the appeal in writing. The City Council will hear the appeal at a regular or special meeting and reach a determination prior to the planned event date.

Exhibits:



Exhibit A – Motorcycle suspended by crane above pedestrians and depicting the unauthorized closure of Gunning's Alley (2025)



Exhibit B – Unauthorized inflatable bull ride (2025)

Hayley Keys
Hayley Keys
Special Event Permit Coordinator