

MEMORANDUM

To: Common Council

From: John Weidl, City Manager

Date: 8/13/24

Re: Investigation of Municipal Approaches to Managing Spring Splash-Like Events

As directed by the Common Council, our team has conducted an investigation into how other municipalities manage large public events similar to our "Spring Splash." Below is a summary of findings based on discussions with police chiefs from three cities: Oshkosh, LaCrosse, and Platteville.

Findings:

1. **Oshkosh (Chief Dean Smith - Oshkosh Police Department)**
 - Event: Biannual PUB Crawl.
 - Nature: Transitioned from local tavern visits to a house-to-house event. Not sanctioned by the city.
 - Police Involvement: Requires 15 additional officers. No support from neighboring departments or private security. Close collaboration with university police and the Dean of Students.
 - Impact: Over 100 citations typically issued. Local businesses benefit after event hours.
 - Financials: No billing for police officer time. Previous attempt to recoup costs through civil action against bar owners was unsuccessful.
2. **LaCrosse (Captain Andy Dittman-Field Service Bureau)**
 - Event: Oktoberfest USA.
 - Nature: Sanctioned three-day festival with necessary permits.
 - Police Involvement: Involves temporary staff, coordination with the Sheriff's department, and other local agencies.
 - Impact: Significant boost to local businesses, including hotels and taverns.
 - Financials: Event costs are billed to the promoter.
3. **Platteville(Chief Doug McKinley-City of Platteville)**
 - Event: Mudfest.
 - Nature: Started as rugby games, expanded to local student housing with movement from residence to residence.
 - Police Involvement: Officers stationed to issue citations. Requirements for event organizers include permits and pre-event planning (fencing, portable restrooms, wristbands).



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- Impact: Event participation has dwindled partly due to stringent city requirements.
- Additional Info: A local bar hosted a Kentucky Derby party under similar permit conditions and covered officer overtime costs.

Please provide us with guidance if further investigation is needed.

Best-

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John S. Weidl".

John S. Weidl, City Manager

JSW/RLM