



AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

MEETING NAME:	City Council
MEETING DATE:	November 18, 2024
ITEM TITLE:	Consider and take appropriate action regarding report on Frenship Mesa road closures for 2024 Halloween activities.
STAFF INITIATOR:	Patrick Austin, Assistant Chief of Police

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the Frenship Mesa neighborhood is host to thousands of visitors on Halloween. The large number of trick-or-treaters not only increases the number of pedestrians, but also the amount of motor vehicle traffic traveling through the neighborhood. Due to the increase in motor vehicle traffic, the safety of trick-or-treaters and other pedestrians has always been a concern.

This year, city staff worked with Frenship Mesa residents to come up with a solution that would increase the safety of the public during Halloween. It was agreed that motor vehicle access within the Frenship Mesa neighborhood would be limited to residents and their guests only. Leading up to Halloween, the information was provided to the public using the city website, multiple city social media accounts, and TextMyGov. Approximately 300 motor vehicle permits were issued to Frenship Mesa residents for entry into the neighborhood.

Access to the Frenship Mesa neighborhood was restricted from the hours of 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM on Halloween. There were ten City of Wolfforth employees and two contract employees that worked during the closure. Those employees were comprised of three from the public works department, two from the fire department, seven from the police department, and two contract peace officers.

Based on data received from Wolfforth EDC, there were approximately 3,400 visitors at Frenship Mesa on Halloween. One resident reported that they used a clicker to count trick-or-treaters until they ran out of candy. They had counted 1,900 trick-or-treaters when they ran out. Another resident reported giving out 1,600 bags of cotton candy. The pirate ship residence reported giving out 1,900 prizes, 4,000 boxes of popcorn, and 3,000 cups of hot chocolate.

The limited access to the Frenship Mesa neighborhood during Halloween activities achieved its intended purpose, which was to increase safety to trick-or-treaters and other pedestrians. While there were a handful of complaints expressed by residents, the overwhelming majority did not voice any concerns. We did receive a couple of complaints from residents expressing a perceived lack of notice. City staff will consider additional methods of communicating with the public in the future.

EXHIBITS:

COUNCIL ACTION/STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Report only, no action recommended.