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News Release

City turns down permit for outdoor concert at Grand Palace

Officials prefer concert be held inside theater

Branson City Administrator Dean Kruithof told the Board of Aldermen at a study session this afternoon that the city will has not approved the special event permit for an outdoor concert in the parking lot of the Grand Palace in August. The following is his report to the Board:

“The City of Branson has made the decision to deny the Special Event Permit Application for the outdoor performance at the Grand Palace parking lot scheduled for August 21; however, the city will work diligently to assist the owner of the Palace, Paul Dunn, to get the Grand Palace open so the Nelly concert can be held inside on that date.

The city’s reasons for denying the outdoor concert request include the following:

The announcement of the event, and a July 12 start of ticket sales, was made before a Special Event Application was submitted to the city. The concert announcement was made July 4, the city application for the event was dated July 6 and the city received the application July 7.

The application lacks additional detailed information required for approval:

No state liquor license has been applied for.

No state or city business or sales tax license has been applied for.

The noise issue has not been addressed in the application.

Lack of detailed crowd control – emergency exits and aisles.

The City of Branson has concerns regarding the effect of a large outdoor concert in this area because:

Parking lot is not designed for large outdoor concerts.

The event, which organizers say will attract 6,000 people, would require 2,000 parking spaces, and since two-thirds of the Grand Palace back parking lot is being used for the performance, spectators would have to park elsewhere on private lots and we have no documentation of approval from adjacent business owners for this parking.

The combination of noise and parking will have negative impact on our surrounding businesses.

The city's Special Event Permit Application requires additional documentation when applicants will utilize loudspeakers and amplifiers, temporary structures like tents, merchandise sales, food service, alcohol sales and electrical wiring. No detailed information was provided concerning these activities.

As a city, our main concern is the safety and security of people in Branson. We have a process that must be followed by anyone seeking a Special Event Permit. In this case, that process was not followed prior to the concert announcement.

This denial is not a denial of this concert, but a problem with the organizer submitting an inadequate and incomplete outdoor Special Event application after announcing the concert and ticket sales.

The city has approved all the permits necessary for Mr. Dunn to conduct the concert inside his theater:

On Tuesday evening, the Branson Planning and Zoning Commission approved a Special Use Permit for shows and productions in the Grand Palace.

Mr. Dunn also has a building permit from the city for remodeling the Grand Palace Theater to comply with building codes to once again open it for performances. Our Planning Department is willing to work closely with Mr. Dunn to meet the building codes so he can open the theater by August 21 for the Nelly concert to be held inside."