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PRESS RELEASE

Socially-distanced Festivities Weekends in downtown Winter Park canceled for February and March

WINTER PARK, FL, an internationally recognized, award winning city with multiple accredited agencies (February 3, 2021) The [City of Winter Park](#) and the [Winter Park Chamber of Commerce's](#) Economic Recovery Task Force have hosted socially-distant weekends in the past four months. The purpose of these weekends was to provide ample space for safe, socially-distant expanded outdoor dining and sidewalk-sale shopping opportunities.

After feedback received from merchants and careful review by the Economic Recovery Task Force, their following motion was approved by the city:

MOTION - The Economic Recovery Task Force recommends a pause in presenting Festival Weekend road closures in February and March as a precaution, due to the increased COVID infection rate. The Task Force sees the benefit of re-evaluating at their April 6 meeting whether to resume the road closures in April and May.

An email to the Mayor and Commissioners from Sarah Grafton, President of the [Park Avenue District](#), explained, "...I am hearing different feedback from our Park Avenue District Members than I did through the first few months of this pandemic....The other big subject was street closure, with more time passing it seems this is less and less needed. This was incredibly helpful to many businesses and provided more outside dining. As a group we have gone from an 85% approval of these closures to close to 40% approval rate."

In response to the rising COVID numbers, this email and additional correspondence received, the City Commission asked staff to explore these closures further with the Task Force. Upon receipt of the Task Force's motion, the city approved the recommendation and will re-evaluate the closures in April.

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