



Festival Park Security

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Purpose:

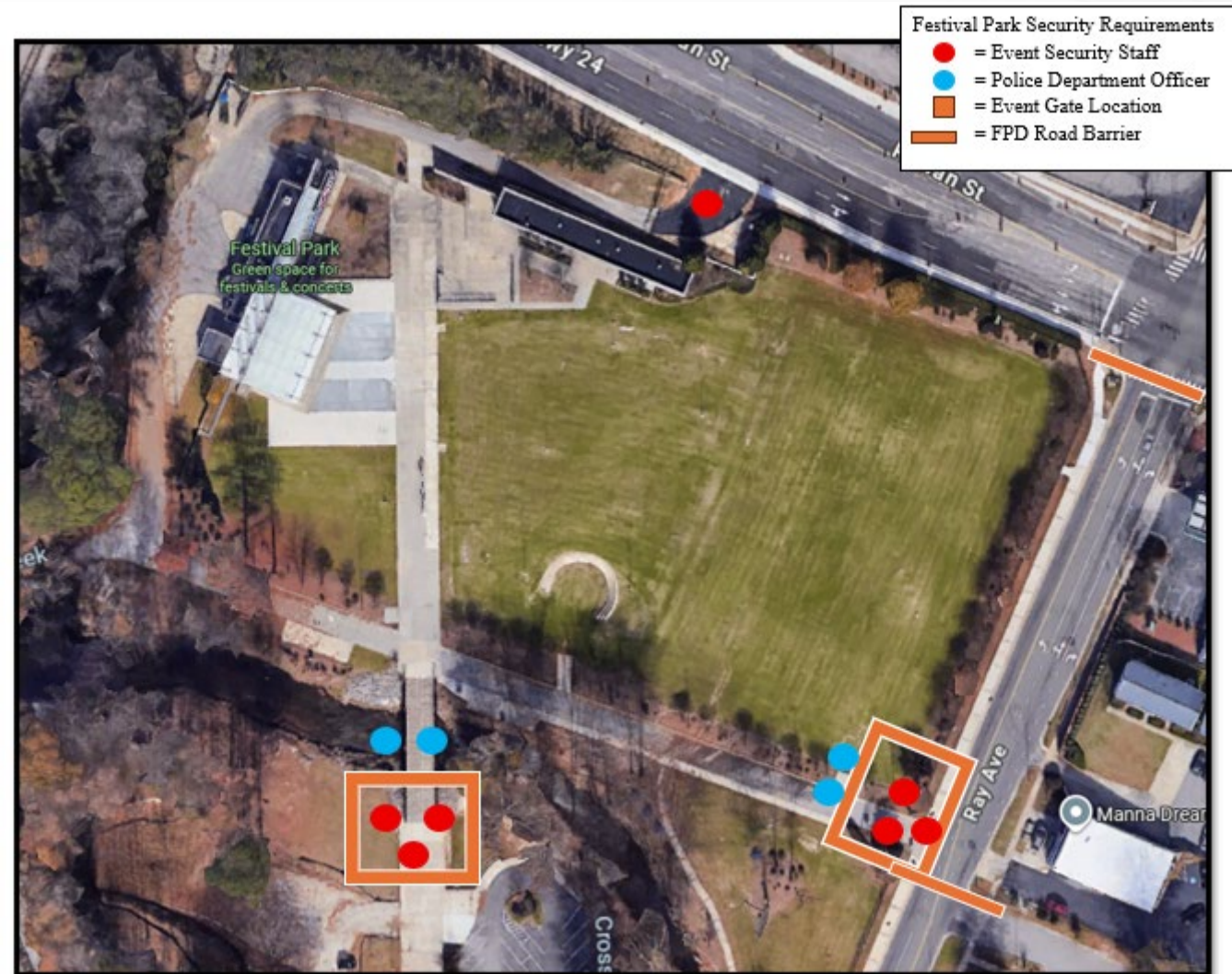
To provide a clear update on the protocol, explain how it works, and walk Council through implementation.

Background:

- May 2025: Council directed staff to strengthen Festival Park security, including a mask and bag policy.
- P&R implemented a pilot protocol with enhanced security at the 4th of July celebration.
- Administrative Report provided to City Council at the September 8, 2025 regular meeting and Council requested to discuss the item at the October Work Session.
- P&R implemented an expanded pilot protocol at the International Folk Festival on September 27, 2025.

What We Built:

- Four-Tiered Security Matrix
- Venue Overlays: Park Only and Park + Promenade
- Unified command structure with Police, Fire, EMS, Event Security, and City Staff.
- Standardized mask and bag policy



The Four Tiers

| Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 | Tier 4 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Small, low risk events (<1,000) | 1,000-2,000 attendees | 2,000-5,000 attendees | 5,000+ attendees |
| Runs, Markets, Educational, Religious | Mixed-use, limited alcohol sales | Festivals, Concerts, Alcohol sales | Large Concerts / Festivals with alcohol sales |
| Optional Controlled Access | Controlled access | 1-2 Magnetometers at gates | 3-4 Magnetometers at gates |
| Wands/light bag checks optional | Wands and bag checks | Bag checks | Bag Checks |
| | Option for Ray Ave Closure | Ray Ave closure required w/ promenade | Full perimeter control Ray Ave Closure required |

The tiered system scales requirements to the size and risk level of the event. Most events fall in Tier 1 or 2 – Tier 4 represents our largest, highest-energy events.

- Organizers submit event applications (same process as today)
- Staff applies the security matrix to determine the required tier
- Attendance is validated against the past data / comparable events
- After-action reviews are conducted after larger events

The process fits within the current application system, but adds a consistent method for assigning security requirements and adjusting if conditions change.

City staff met with major event organizers, including the Dogwood Festival, Arts Council, and Cool Springs Downtown District. They support stronger security, but raised important issues about costs, optics, and fairness. We built those considerations into the protocol.

- Highlighted concerns:
 - Cost for smaller events
 - Perimeter fencing appearance
 - Open carry enforcement consistency
 - Equity across different event types
- Adjustments made:
 - Clarified fair application of the matrix
 - Incorporated pre-event security walkthroughs



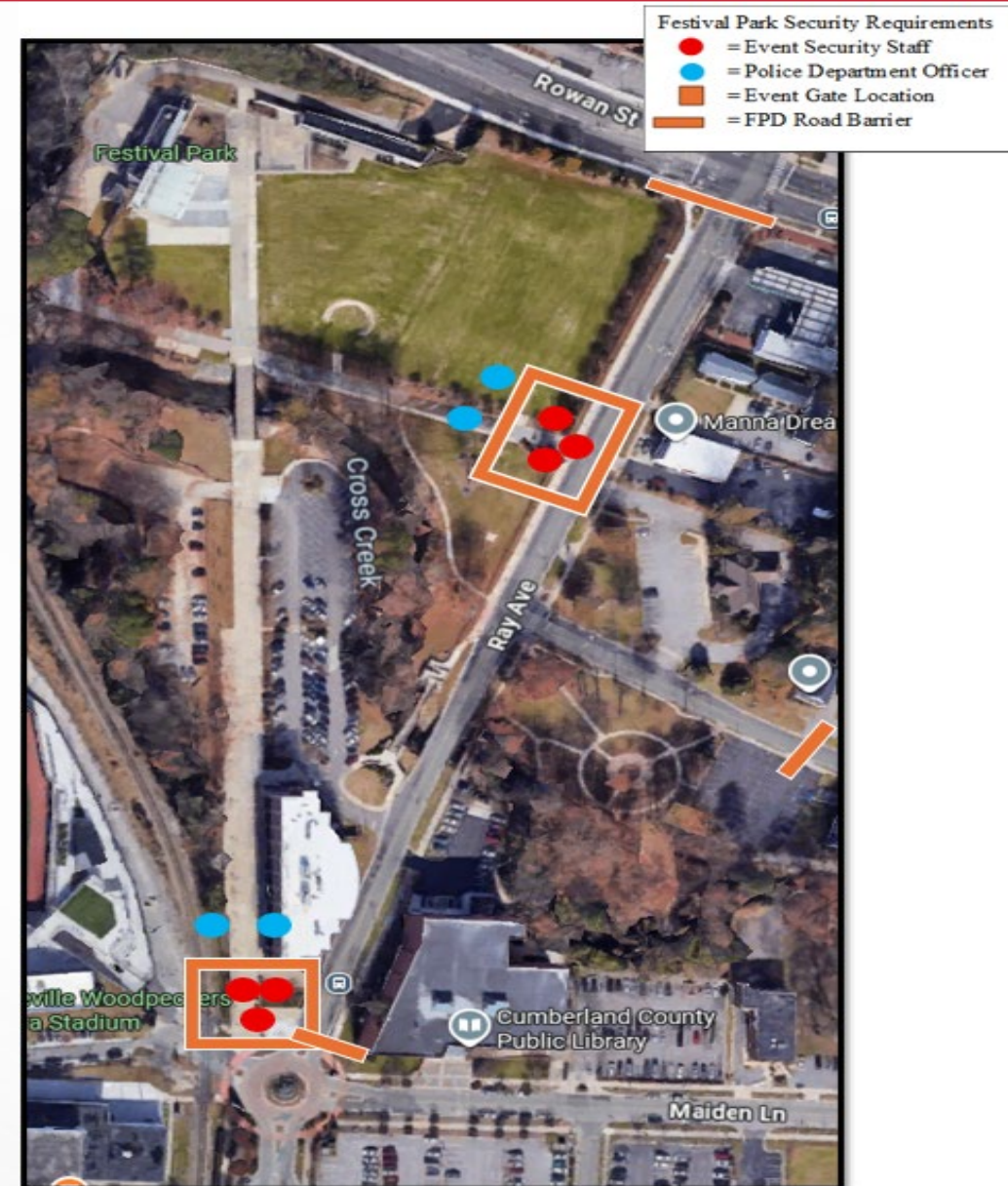
Most of our ~25 annual events fall into Tiers 1 or 2, where cost impacts are nominal. For this fiscal year, the city has covered costs for City-sponsored and partnered events.

- Security costs scale with tier and duration
- High-Tier (Tier 4) posture includes:
 - ~32 personnel (17 event staff, 12 PD officers, 2 sergeants, 1 captain)
 - Magnetometers, Bag checks, Command Post
- Incremental Costs vary by event size and hours
- FY26: City Covers ~\$90,000 for City Sponsored + partnered events
- FY27+: Only City-sponsored events funded (~\$60,000 recurring)



Festival Park will have a consistent, professional, and safe security posture that gives the public confidence while still being fair to organizers.

- Safer, more predictable events
- Consistent standards across organizers
- Improved coordination across Police, Event security staff, EMS, and City Staff
- Transparent, equitable application of the security posture
- Flexibility to adapt on the ground as conditions warrant



Immediate focus is to apply the protocol and refine it through feedback and after-action reviews.

- Continue implementing protocol for FY26 events
- Monitor and refine through After Action Reviews
- Program recurring budget support for FY27 City-sponsored events



Questions?



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