



Policy Type: Board

Category: Facilities

Policy Name: County Fairgrounds Policy - Board Policy 3.24

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3.24 COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS POLICY (Adopted 5-12-98)

3.24.1 Good Neighbor Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds maintain a "Good Neighbor" relationship* with the surrounding community; that the Fairgrounds be used for children and family-oriented uses; that the County Fair continue to be situated at the Fairgrounds; that the Fairgrounds become economically self-sufficient; and that the County of Santa Clara seek public/private partnerships to generate revenue to support capital improvements.

*Note: The term, "Good Neighbor" relationship, for the purpose of this policy statement refers to the County having a relationship with the surrounding community in which the County is respectful and responsive to community concerns that arise from activities at the Fairgrounds.

3.24.2 Entertainment Events at the County Fairgrounds (Adopted 2-6-01)

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that the following guidelines shall apply to entertainment events conducted at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. These policy guidelines are in addition to the existing policies that are embodied in the Santa Clara County - Fair Management



Corporation (FMC) Management Agreement, and those policies adopted on May 12, 1998 with respect to the Fairgrounds Revitalization Plan.

Where these guidelines call for the development of specific programs or procedures to implement the policies, it is the direction of the Board that the County Executive's Office coordinate the joint development of such programs or procedures by the FMC, County Counsel, and the Office of the Sheriff. These policies shall also be incorporated into agreements between the FMC and promoters of events at the Fairgrounds. The FMC shall require event promoters, sponsors and concessionaires to enforce these policies for all events at the Fairgrounds.

Prohibition of Illegal Drug Use at Fairgrounds

It is the policy of the Board that the County Fairgrounds be designated as a "drug free zone." To reaffirm this policy, the FMC shall work diligently with the Office of the Sheriff, private security firms hired by promoters, the San Jose Police Department as applicable, County Counsel and other agencies as needed to create and implement a program for a drug free environment at the Fairgrounds. The language and procedures of this program shall be incorporated in the FMC's contracts with promoters, and those promoters will be held responsible under their contracts to enforce the County's policy. It is the policy of the Board that the possession, possession with intent to sell or distribute, or consumption of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited. It is the intent of the County that violators will be arrested and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. As noted in the ensuing section regarding security, the specific security requirements to implement this policy and discourage drug violations will be tailored on an event-by-event basis.

Restrictions on the Sale and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages

It is the policy of the Board that the FMC and its promoters and concessionaires strictly enforce all laws pertinent to the distribution, sale



and consumption of alcoholic beverages. The concessionaire shall routinely curtail the sale of alcoholic beverages at events where a high percentage of the participants, regardless of age, are observably under the influence of alcohol beyond the legal limit. In addition, alcoholic beverages shall not be sold in buildings at the Fairgrounds where events are hosted for, or predominantly targeted to persons under the age of 21. Alcohol sales shall be curtailed one hour in advance of the scheduled conclusion of events. Sponsors and distributors of alcoholic beverages who do business at the Fairgrounds shall be required by the FMC to cooperate in posting signs at events that encourage responsible consumption and moderation. The FMC and its promoters and concessionaires shall also require wristband identification screening at all events that are attended by a high percentage of persons who are under the age of 21. The FMC and its promoters and concessionaires shall strictly enforce proof of age requirements regardless of the age mix at events.

Events Curfew

It is the policy of the Board that a 2:00 a.m. curfew shall be imposed on all events at the Fairgrounds except for events that may be scheduled for New Year's Eve with the prior approval of the FMC and the County Executive's Office. Any such New Year's Eve event shall be confined to indoor venues and be limited to persons 18 years and older. Under existing FMC policy, there is a 9:00 p.m. curfew on outdoor amplified music, except during the annual Fair, when the curfew is 10:00 p.m.

Safety and Security, Traffic & Parking Control, and Fire and Life Safety Requirements

It is the policy of the Board that the Office of the Sheriff shall be responsible for the coordination and planning of all security and safety at the Fairgrounds and at Fairgrounds events, regardless of what promoters are involved. In order to enhance the ability of the Sheriff's Office to perform



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this function, a newly designated Sheriff's Lieutenant or other appropriate position shall be assigned to the FMC to act as the Safety and Security Coordinator. The Coordinator shall be responsible to work collaboratively with the FMC to develop a Fairgrounds Safety and Security Plan and to coordinate advance planning for safety and security for all Fairgrounds events. The Coordinator shall also be responsible for the enforcement of the other requirements of this Board Policy with respect to illegal drugs and alcohol. The costs of this assigned Sheriff's position shall be borne by the various promoters of Fairgrounds events, on a pro rata basis determined by the FMC, so that there will be no impact on the County General Fund.

The FMC, through the Safety and Security Coordinator, shall coordinate with the San Jose Police Department for the provision of off-site security and traffic control for all large events. Decisions as to the need for off-site traffic control will be made on an event-by-event basis and involve input from the Sheriff, FMC staff, the FMC's contracted parking management firm, and the promoters of scheduled major events.

The FMC shall contract directly with the Office of the Sheriff for on-site security for the annual County Fair. The FMC shall act as a liaison between promoters and the Safety and Security Coordinator to provide security for all other events at the Fairgrounds, but arrangements for these services (whether sworn, private, or a mix of sworn and private) will be covered through contracts directly between the promoters and the Sheriff and/or independent security firms. Promoters of events also are required to pay for any Fire Marshal and on-site paramedic services that may be required for events. The Safety & Security Coordinator will conduct pre-event planning meetings with the FMC and event promoters to assess and arrange for requirements in these areas.

The FMC shall assess the need and feasibility of imposing a parking permit program for neighborhoods that surround the Fairgrounds. The FMC shall assist the Fairgrounds neighbors in this effort and will coordinate their



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efforts with the City of San Jose. The Safety & Security Coordinator shall ensure that representatives of paramedic providers are included in all pre-event planning meetings that involve projected attendance in excess of 5,000 patrons. The Coordinator will ensure that adequate medical and paramedic resources are on the site for all such events.

It is the policy of the Board that, with respect to any events held at the Fairgrounds, the public health and safety of the community is of paramount concern. It is the policy of the Board that the FMC and its representatives will treat all groups and patrons with courtesy and respect, and that the legal rights of all groups and patrons will be upheld. Event promoters, at their own discretion, may authorize their security staff to conduct legally permissible gate searches to prohibit illegal drugs or weapons from being brought onto the Fairgrounds.

The FMC and the Office of the Sheriff shall conduct appropriate background checks on promoters of large events at the Fairgrounds. The FMC and the Office of the Sheriff shall evaluate the existing event sponsorship application process and develop improvements to the process as needed to meet the intent of these Board policies. Consistent with the Board's policy about equitable treatment for all groups and individuals, and consistent with legal requirements, the FMC may decline applications to book events if the applicant has misrepresented the nature of its business or has a history of promoting activities that pose a demonstrated threat to the public health and safety.

Related Policies

None.

Related Forms and Information

None.



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History

Date	Changes Made
1/24/2014	Policy Uploaded. (John Myers)
2/6/2001	Policy Amended. View legislative file.
5/12/1998	Policy Adopted. View legislative file.