

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A NEW PARK POLICY IMPLEMENTING  
LIMITATIONS ON EVENTS IN VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK**

**WHEREAS,** the Williamson County Board of Commissioners ("Board of Commissioners") finds that recent events in Veterans' Memorial Park have disrupted park visitors' ability to peacefully use and enjoy the memorial and the Williamson County Archives and Museum ("Archives & Museum"); and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Commissioners finds that unplanned and unregulated large gatherings and events in Veterans' Memorial Park are inapposite with the history and purpose of Veterans' Memorial Park which is intended to be a monument that honors Williamson County servicemen and women and to act as a place where county residents may peacefully gather to commemorate and honor our veterans and learn about Williamson County and the State of Tennessee history; and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Commissioners finds that unplanned demonstrations and large gatherings in Veterans' Memorial Park tend to create disruptions in the traffic of the surrounding heavily-populated area, and cause disruptions to nearby businesses, homes, and popular tourist attractions, which then leads to expenditures of county law enforcement resources to manage the excess traffic and other concerns; and

**WHEREAS,** Williamson County has a significant interest in protecting the property within Veterans' Memorial Park and around the Archives and Museum from damage; and

**WHEREAS,** Williamson County also has a significant interest in promoting the rights of visitors to Veterans' Memorial Park and the Archives & Museum who desire to solemnly commemorate the county's veterans and to learn about Williamson County and the State of Tennessee's history; and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Commissioners finds that limiting gatherings in Veterans' Memorial Park to county government or other government-organized events that are related to state and federally recognized holidays is the most effective means of protecting the rights of park visitors, allowing Williamson County to effectively allocate its resources, limiting excessive noise within the park, and preventing disturbances to the tranquil environment within the park and to nearby residences and businesses; and

**WHEREAS,** it is the intent of the Board of Commissioners to adopt a policy that will address the concerns described above:


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by action of the Williamson County Board of Commissioners meeting on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022 and effective on the first day of the month following the adoption of this resolution, the park policy in Attachment A, which shall be known as the Veterans' Memorial Park Event Policy, is hereby adopted.

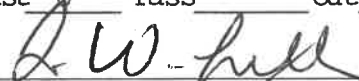
**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Williamson County Board of Commissioners directs that a new sign be placed in Veteran's Memorial Park reflecting the purpose of the policy.


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Commissioner

**COMMITTEES REFERRED TO AND ACTION TAKEN:**

Property Committee	For <u>4</u>	Against <u>0</u>		
Parks and Recreation Committee	For <u>    </u>	Against <u>    </u>		
Budget Committee	For <u>5</u>	Against <u>0</u>		
Commission Action Taken:	For <u>20*</u>	Against <u>0</u>	Pass <u>    </u>	Out <u>    </u> *As amended

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Whidby, County Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tommy Little, Commission Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rogers Anderson, Williamson County Mayor

1-12-22  
Date

\*As amended - Remove AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, section

# ATTACHMENT A

## POLICY

### SPECIAL EVENTS & DEMONSTRATIONS IN VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

#### PURPOSE:

This policy is intended to: ensure efficient use of Williamson County's resources; protect the Veterans Memorial Park facilities and property from damage; ensure that the Williamson County Archives and Museum ("Archives & Museum") are free from disruptions and open to all; protect visitors of Veterans Memorial Park and promote the visitors' right to peacefully enjoy the memorial and the Archives & Museum; support solemn commemoration and remembrance of our County's veterans; and prevent disturbances to the tranquility of Veterans Memorial Park, the Archives & Museum within the park, and nearby homes, businesses, and organizations surrounding the park. Veterans' Memorial Park is intended to be a monument that honors Williamson County's servicemen and women who served and sacrificed for our Nation. The County Archives & Museum—located within the park—also are intended to be a place where County residents and those interested in the County and State's history may pay their respect and gather and learn. Demonstrations and events in Veterans' Memorial Park deny citizens the ability to visit the memorial and to peacefully pay homage to our veterans in a tranquil setting. Events and demonstrations in the park also disrupt quiet use and enjoyment of the County Archives & Museum. Additionally, since it is located in a densely populated area and near many residents, businesses, and tourist attractions, demonstrations and events in Veterans Memorial Park uniquely create disturbances for nearby homes, stores, and attractions. Demonstrations and events in the Veterans Memorial Park also result in traffic issues and distract drivers on the busy streets surrounding the park where many shoppers and other pedestrians frequent. Thus, such demonstrations and events in Veterans Memorial Park create a need for increased traffic control and law enforcement oversight, forcing the County and City to expend excess resources. To further the goals listed above and to limit adverse effects as described above on the purpose of maintaining the Veterans Memorial Park, this policy prohibits certain types of events and demonstrations and prohibits the use of certain sound equipment in Veterans Memorial Park except on occasions when the County or another government entity organizes gatherings in the park related to a recognized state or federal holiday.

By limiting large gatherings in Veterans Memorial Park to those organized by Williamson County for state and federal holidays, the County plans to create consistent, efficient, and effective use of Veterans Memorial Park in a manner that will be less disruptive to the memorial and to the Williamson County Archives & Museum. Limiting events to state and federal holidays also will provide citizens with ample notice of when events will take place at the Veterans Memorial Park and allow Williamson County to adequately prepare to allocate resources for traffic and safety concerns at the park. This policy in no way is intended to restrict the public's ability to use or enjoy Veterans Memorial Park or to infringe upon any protected rights of particular people or groups who may desire to use other venues and parks for large gatherings and events. Additionally, this policy is intended to be a content-neutral, viewpoint-neutral, and a valid exercise of the County's ability to regulate gatherings around Williamson County's memorial to veterans.

Section 1. Terms defined. For the purpose of these rules and regulations, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this Section:

- A. "Veterans Memorial Park," or "Park" refer to the grounds of the park located at [INSERT PARCEL/ADDRESS INFORMATION]. No other Williamson County property is affected by this policy.
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- B. "Person" means any natural person, corporation, society, organization, company, association, firm, partnership, or other entity.
- C. "Special Event" means any group activity, including but not limited to, a performance, meeting, assembly, contest, exhibit, ceremony, parade, athletic competition, reading, or any other event involving more than fifteen (15) people. This term does not include school-organized field trips to visit the Veterans Memorial Park or the County Archives and Museum.
- D. "Demonstration" means a group activity, including but not limited to, a meeting, assembly, protest, rally, march, or vigil which involves the expression of views or grievances, involving more than fifteen (15) people. This term does not include school-organized field trips to visit the Veterans Memorial Park or the County Archives and Museum.
- E. "Significant Interference with Ordinary Park Use" refers to any group activity, including activities with fewer than fifteen (15) people, that unreasonably interferes with the enjoyment of the Veterans Memorial Park or the County Archives and Museum by other users or neighboring homes, businesses, or other organizations.
- F. "Unreasonable Noise" means any excessive or unusually loud sound that disturbs the peace, comfort, or repose of a reasonable person of normal sensitivity.
- G. "Sound Reproduction Device" includes, but is not limited to, any receiver, phonograph, television receiver, amplified musical instrument, portable speaker, tape recorder, cassette or disc player, speaker device or system, and any sound amplifier.

Section 2. Prohibitions. The Williamson County Board of Commissioners hereby prohibits:

- A. any Person from holding or sponsoring any Special Event or Demonstration in Veterans Memorial Park, unless such Special Event or Demonstration is organized by Williamson County or another governmental entity in relation to a recognized federal or state holiday;
- B. any Person from holding or sponsoring any group activity that significantly interferes with ordinary use of the Veterans Memorial Park or the County Museum and Archives, unless such activity is organized by Williamson County or another governmental entity in relation to a recognized federal or state holiday;
- C. any Person from making, causing, or allowing to be made Unreasonable Noise in the Park so as to cause public inconvenience, annoyance, or harm;
- D. any person from operating or otherwise using any Sound Reproduction Device, other than in a manner that will not unreasonably disturb other persons in their use and enjoyment of the Park or the Museum and Archives located within the Park.

Section 3. Penalties.

- A. Upon notice of a violation of Section 2 above, local law enforcement officials shall ask any group of people in violation of this policy to:
    - 1. cease engaging in the activity that violates this policy; and
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2. immediately remove themselves and any of their belongings from the Veterans Memorial Park in a timely manner.
- B. Any Person violating this policy who, upon request, fails to disburse as a group or fails to remove his or herself from the Park in a timely manner, may be peacefully removed from the Park.
- C. Any person who repeatedly violates Section III above shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not to exceed \$[50.00] for each subsequent violation after being notified of the first violation. Payment of the fine without curing the violation shall not constitute compliance. Any fines collected will be designated for future improvements and additions to Veterans' Memorial Park and/or the Archives & Museum.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, phrase, sentence or portion of this ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision; and such holding shall not affect the validity of remaining portions thereof.

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