

Block Party Regulations

Requirements for approval of a block party petition and conditions that apply upon acceptance of petition:

[North Carolina General Statute §160A-300](#) states "a City may by ordinance prohibit, regulate, divert, control, and limit pedestrian or vehicular traffic upon the public streets, sidewalks, alleys, and bridges of the city." The Charlotte City Code provides the Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT), with the general authority to regulate pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Under that authority, the Director of Transportation and their authorized representatives have the authority to approve street closing petitions, (petition), if, in their professional judgment, the street closing will not adversely affect vehicular traffic and will not endanger public safety. The following requirements and conditions must be complied with in the filing of a petition. A failure to comply with the following conditions could result in revocation of permission to close a street.

- 1. Conditions:** To qualify for a block party, the closure area must be a residential area and cannot include any commercial properties. (Examples of commercial properties are restaurants, schools, churches, etc.) The street to be closed must be city-maintained.
- 2. Necessary signatures for a petition:** A petition must be signed by at least 51% of the residents within the impacted portion of the street to receive approval. The residents must include their address and signature on the petition. The petition must be submitted within 3 days of submitting the application or the application will be canceled. CDOT may designate the portions of the street to be closed, or left open, and may designate the area from which a petition must be secured. Road closures are only permitted from cross street to cross street. Closures cannot include intersections or partial street segments. The minimum area that can be closed is a full block. All directions of traffic must be barricaded in the closure area.
- 3. Designation of petitioners' agent:** The person designated on the petition as the petitioners' agent shall be the sole person to whom CDOT shall be responsible for any of its communication. Such person shall be the agent for all those who sign the petition.
- 4. Submittal:** The application must be filed with CDOT **30 DAYS** before the requested closing date. If not submitted via the online application portal, petitions for block-party permits should be submitted via email to blockpartypermits@charlottenc.gov within 3 days of applying. If mailing an application and petition, all correspondence with the City regarding a block party shall be addressed to the attention of Block Party Permits as follows:

Charlotte Department of Transportation
Attn: Block Party Permits
600 E. Fourth Street 6th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28202-2858
- 5. Review of location:** CDOT will review the location of the closing and consider the safe movement of traffic before turning it over to CMPD for secondary approval. CDOT and CMPD must conclude that the closing will not jeopardize the safe movement of traffic or endanger public safety. Thoroughfares, as defined by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Thoroughfare Plan, are not eligible to be closed as part of this process.
- 6. Barricades and additional equipment and personnel:** The petition signers must place a minimum of three type 2 barricades at each end of the street (or block) being closed. If the closure is to include any hours after sunset, the barricades must have flashing lights. The petition signers will be responsible for furnishing, placing, and removing the barricades. CDOT explicitly assumes no liability for the placing or the selection of barricades. However, CDOT can require that the general placing and selection of barricades conform to commonly accepted standards of safety. CDOT may, in the interest of safety, require that additional equipment or personnel be furnished.

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7. **Hours:** The timeframe that a block party can be held is between the hours of 8 A.M. and 9 P.M. The maximum time a road can be closed for a block party is 6 hours.

8. **Local access:** Local access is to be maintained to all properties on the street during the hours of the closing.

9. **Notification:** The petitioners' agent shall notify, by telephone or in person, the Charlotte Fire Department at 704-336-2441 and MEDIC at 704-943-6200 of the closing and reopening of the street. Such notification shall be made no more than four hours and no less than two hours before the closing or reopening of the street. In addition, all residents or property owners in the area to be closed must be notified 48 hours before the closing.

10. **Cleaning of debris:** Within 12 hours after the scheduled reopening of a street, the street shall be cleared of all debris to the satisfaction of the authorized representative of CDOT. If there has been a failure to clear all debris from the right-of-way and an authorized representative of CDOT concludes that there is a danger to the passage of vehicular traffic, then the Director of Transportation is authorized to notify the appropriate City department to clear the right-of-way of debris. The signers of the petition waive any notice requirements and any other procedural requirements and remain personally liable for the expense of cleaning up the debris from the street. The waiver is premised upon the necessity to reopen the street expeditiously and to reopen it without the debris endangering vehicular traffic. The signers of the petition, individually and collectively remain liable in a civil debt action for the expense of cleaning the debris from the street.

11. **Indemnification and Hold Harmless:** The signers of the petition, individually and collectively, shall indemnify and hold harmless the City of Charlotte, its officials, and employees from any and all loss, cost (including reasonable attorney fees and court costs), damages, expenses and liability caused by any of the closed street or by the revocation of permission to close the street arising from the use or occupancy or use of the closed street. The City accepts no liability for any actions that may arise from the closing of a street or from the revocation of permission to close the street. Any insurance protection that is necessary during the closing of the street is the sole responsibility of the signers of the petition.

12. **City property and equipment:** All property and equipment belonging to the City and located within and around the closed street is to be treated by the signers of the petition and its invitees with reasonable and due care. The signers of the petition assume, individually and collectively, complete, and absolute liability for any loss and damage to the City property and equipment which may result from any misuse or mistreatment of the property or equipment during the street closing.

13. **Alcoholic beverages/Vendors:** Drinking of alcoholic beverages on City streets and right-of-way is forbidden by [City Code Section 15-3](#). For events requesting permission to consume alcoholic beverages on City streets and/or City right-of-way or events requesting permission for vendors (food trucks, DJs, etc.) on City streets and/or City right-of-way, please go to <https://charlottenc.gov/Transportation/Permits/Pages/EventPermits.aspx> to submit a Special Events application.

14. **Revocation of permission to close street:** The City, Transportation Director, and their designees, reserve the right to revoke permission to close a street without cause by informing the petitioners' agent no less than 24 hours in advance of the street closing. If an emergency arises which necessitates that the streets remain open, the 24-hour notice requirement will not apply. A failure to comply with any requirement or condition in this document shall be a basis for withdrawing permission to close a street.

Links to Additional Information:

[Noise Ordinance](#)