

For Immediate Release

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For More Info:

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****PRESS RELEASE****

MAIN STREET STROLL TO PROCEED

The Mayor's Office is disappointed that the Main Street Riverfront Initiative's (MSRI) enhanced plans for fireworks, open fire pits, and a rocket launch, will not be a part of the very popular Main Street stroll. However, the City first learned of these plans on the first day of the new administration, and immediately had a meeting with all interested participants on December 5, 2013 in an effort to coordinate these additional activities. At the meeting, the City learned that the necessary permits for open fire and outdoor entertainment had not been applied for. In addition, the organization lacked the necessary insurance to properly protect the interests of the City and its residents.

"The City was ready willing, and able to assist the organization in any way, but we could not sanction activities that were planned but not properly vetted with the various city agencies nor permit the use of public property without the necessary certificates of insurance," said Richard Kerns, Director of Administration. "Public safety must be our primary concern, and there was simply a lack of communication with City leading up to the event for the necessary vetting to be done for these enhancements," Kerns noted.

Following the initial meeting, a second meeting was held on December 6, 2013 with representatives of MSRI, the police department, the City Solicitor, the City Council President, and the Director of Administration and the Chairman of the MSRI all in an effort to bring these plans to fruition.

"Everyone was willing to take extraordinary steps to make it happen, but the lack of the necessary insurance, the failure of the interested party to apply or obtain the necessary permits, and the uncertainty of the venue locations made it impossible to proceed," said Kerns. "The good news is that that Main Street Stroll will still go forward as planned, and I urge all our residents and neighbors to stop by, stroll, and support our local businesses during the holiday season. It will still be a great family event," said Mayor Baldelli-Hunt.

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