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Manager Hildebran,

At your direction Chief Hair, Chief Phelps, and myself were tasked with discussing and putting a written recommendation to you in reference to the City of Lenoir holding our annual July 4th Celebration Event and Fireworks display. The main concerns deal with public safety, public health and the mass gathering portion of the standing executive order.

I have talked with several of the surrounding Parks and Recreation Directors and the majority of them have cancelled their event or are planning to cancel. Since many events have already been cancelled, it is very possible we could end up with larger numbers of additional people from other areas if we held our July 4th event. This has the potential to increase our traffic and crowd control problems, specifically for law enforcement.

The Executive Order currently only allows for groups of 25 people or less for outside mass gatherings. This phase is set to be in place at least until June 26, 2020 and potentially could be extended. Chief Hair and Phelps both believe that even if the Governor moves into Phase 3 after June 26th, the outside number for mass gatherings will be much lower than normal attendance levels. This could create a perception that the City of Lenoir is intentionally attempting to violate the Governor's executive order. Chief Phelps does not have the staffing levels to effectively enforce the mass gathering component of this event with the potential numbers of citizens that could attend.

Finally, if large numbers of citizens attend we will be intentionally exposing staff from Parks and Recreation, the Fire Department, and the Police Department to being around large crowds of people, which increases the potential for employee exposures.

We realize that our community and country wish to get back to normal activities; however at this time, our recommendation (for the above reasons) is to cancel our July 4th Celebration Event and Fireworks display for 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenny Story, City of Lenoir Parks and Recreation Director
Ken Hair, City of Lenoir Fire Chief
Brent Phelps, City of Lenoir Police Chief