



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF TAYLOR ANNOUNCES CANCELATION OF ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE Taylor Wine Swirl, Christmas Fair Also Canceled Out of Abundance of Caution

TAYLOR, TEXAS – The City of Taylor announces that due to ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Christmas Parade traditionally held in downtown Taylor during the holiday season will be canceled this year. In addition, the Wine Swirl and Christmas Fair events that have traditionally been held in the month of December will also be canceled for 2020. The City will continue the tradition of decorating Heritage Square with traditional holiday décor, and the park will be open to the public during the holiday season. The Farmers Market, which is considered to be an essential service, will also continue to be open at Heritage Square Pavilion on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The decision to cancel the holiday events was informed by considerations from the Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as discussions with neighboring cities that are similarly canceling holiday events. In its latest bulletin regarding the safety of holiday events (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>) the CDC listed attending crowded parades among the highest risk activities for holiday gatherings.

Pastor Jeff Ripple, a member of the Taylor Area Ministerial Alliance, issued the following statement on behalf of the pastors and churches of the Alliance:

"We regret to inform all that, due to Covid-19, we will not have our traditional Christmas parade and celebrations enjoyed for so many years. Our prayer is that next year we will resume our long-standing Christmas parade and holiday traditions that many generations in Taylor and the surrounding communities have enjoyed. We may not have a parade, but Jesus is never canceled; therefore, let us each celebrate Christmas and the Savior in all of His glory! In these challenging times, look to the true reason we celebrate Christmas, Jesus the Light of the world. May you find His hope and peace. Rejoice, for the Savior is born. Merry Christmas!"

The City of Taylor will work with the Alliance to coordinate options for observing the 2020 holiday season safely.

Mayor Brandt Rydell said that ultimately the decision to cancel holiday events in the City of Taylor was in the interest of public health and safety. “Unfortunately, this is our COVID year. It has been disruptive in so many respects, not the least of which by upsetting so many of our long-cherished community events,” he said. “But health and safety always come first, and after consulting with our local health officials and reviewing guidelines from the CDC, we believe this is the most responsible and prudent decision. We thank our residents for continuing to look out for each other, especially our most vulnerable, during these challenging times.”

The City asks that the organizers of any holiday celebrations held in public spaces adhere to the guidelines laid out in the Guidance for Phased-In Reopening Plan, which was adopted in September. The City is currently in the Yellow Phase of the plan which allows gatherings of up to 25 people in City Parks with mitigation measures, including social distancing and masks. Gatherings of more than 25 people are allowed with an approved safety plan. The mitigation level is subject to change; to check the current phase and learn more about the reopening plan, please visit www.taylor.tx.gov.

The City of Taylor continues to monitor this ongoing and fluid situation closely with health officials at WCCHD and Williamson County. Updates will be posted at taylor.tx.gov and on social media as they become available. For more information, please visit www.taylor.tx.gov