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## **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Festival Foods Fireworks Show in Oshkosh Cancelled**

**Oshkosh, Wis., May 29, 2020** – After much deliberation, and with input from the Winnebago County Health Department as well as a review of CDC & DHS guidelines, the city of Oshkosh has made the difficult decision to cancel the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and the Festival Foods Fireworks Show due to concerns regarding COVID-19.

“After weeks of deliberation, the team prioritized public health and safety and made the difficult decision to cancel the events. We understand the community’s disappointment as we feel it too,” said Mark Rohloff, City Manager. “Events such as these encourage large groups to gather. With the current COVID-19 situation, group gatherings of any size outside the household are discouraged by public health agencies. The city felt it would be irresponsible to provide events where social distancing would be problematic.”

The city of Oshkosh remains in the midst of a health emergency as it tries to help control the spread of the Coronavirus. With July 4<sup>th</sup> events being cancelled in other nearby communities, and with the city anticipating other area events being cancelled, there is a concern that residents of those nearby communities would add to an already anticipated large crowd in Oshkosh.

“The cooperation and assistance of the general public is needed to make sure that we as a community maintain the progress we have made thus far and not undo all of the sacrifices over the past two months to stop the spread of this disease. Our top priority is to protect the health and safety of our community,” said Rohloff.

The city of Oshkosh encourages its residents and businesses to continue following safe and healthy practices to protect our entire community.

For further information, please contact the Parks Department at (920) 236-5080. Updates on the response to COVID-19 may be found on the city of Oshkosh webpage [www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us](http://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us).

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