

Beach Street Revival gets green light

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Beach Street Revival, an event whose future has been uncertain for months, will take place as scheduled July 16. The Watsonville City Council voted unanimously yesterday to allow promoters to hold the event under conditions designed to ensure the city is reimbursed for the services it provides.

The conditions include a cash advance of \$5,000 from the event promoters and a \$15 entrance fee for participants in a cruising event that last year cost \$10.

Some residents have questioned the wisdom of holding another car event in Watsonville after April's gang-related brawl at a low-rider car show at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds cut short the event and filled the streets of Watsonville with unruly cruisers.

Although the city has had no major problems with the Beach Street Revival cruise except gridlock in the last two years, police Chief Terry Medina and City Manager Steve Salomon had recom-

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mended in a memo that the city adopt a one-year moratorium on issuing permits for all car cruises on city streets.

Reid Schantz, who spoke on behalf of Beach Street Revival promoter Rick Petersen, said he was satisfied with the council's decision. "I think it'll probably work," he said. "We'll be able to put on the cruise."

Medina, who normally issues parade permits himself, said he brought the issue to the City Council because it is a serious public safety issue.

"There is a recipe here for a situation we may not be able to take care of," he told the council.

"We were just barely able to take care of the last incident with 50 officers."

Mayor Lowell Hurst also said he had some reservations about the decision. One big concern is that \$5,000 won't be adequate to cover the costs of backup law enforcement if the event becomes unruly, he said.

"But I didn't feel it was totally appropriate for me to kill it. I think most people like the Beach Street Revival," he said.

The police chief's memo noted that the cost of police services provided has far exceeded the payment the city has received from the promoters each of the

last three years it has hosted the Beach Street event. In 1993, the cost of police services and supplies for the classic car cruise and an after-cruise was \$4,178. Promoters paid only \$1,500.

Last year was the first year non-participants in the Beach Street Revival Car show were allowed to join the after-cruise for a \$10 per car fee. The city decided to host the event after the parade to help defray the costs of the cruise and raise money for the Watsonville Police Cadets.

Medina said city officials last year received 30 complaint calls from citizens after the event complaining about traffic, safety threats, the cost of managing the event, and litter.

The city's conditions address some of these concerns, calling for the provision of portable toilets and demanding that the promoters also provide extra trash containers along the route and volunteers to patrol the cruise.

Council members Tony Campos and Oscar Rios were not at the meeting.