

MEMORANDUM

To: Thom Sheridan, City Manager
From: Fire/EMS Chief Jerry Varnes, Police Chief Perry Tabak
Date: October 31, 2023
Subject: Recommendation Regarding Holding a Solar Eclipse Event in Hudson

After thoroughly assessing the potential implications of the upcoming Solar Eclipse on our City and the surrounding region, and considering the available resources, locations, and safety measures required for hosting an event of this scale, we recommend against holding a special event on April 8, 2024. Our decision is based on the following key factors:

- Potential Influx of Visitors:** Publicizing an event could lead to an increased influx of out-of-town visitors, in addition to those already planning to visit Hudson for the Eclipse. Estimating the exact number of attendees would prove challenging, thereby affecting the allocation of safety personnel, restroom facilities, parking arrangements, traffic management, and other critical aspects essential for ensuring a secure and well-managed event.
- Limited Support from Surrounding Communities:** Given that the surrounding communities will already be dealing with heightened traffic and the direct impacts of the Eclipse, it is unlikely that we would receive mutual aid to manage the additional strain on resources. For instance, during our July Fireworks event, we typically rely on off-duty officers from neighboring areas to bolster our security measures, but this may not be feasible during the Eclipse.
- Insufficient Infrastructure in Hudson:** None of the anticipated event locations in Hudson are equipped with adequate parking, facilities, and amenities to accommodate a substantial surge in visitors on the day of the Eclipse.

In essence, due to the absence of suitable venues and the necessary manpower to oversee a large-scale event, we believe it would be very difficult to guarantee the safety and well-being of our citizens if we were to add an event to the already anticipated impact of the Solar Eclipse.

Nonetheless, we are actively collaborating with City departments to enhance our emergency preparedness and communication strategies, with the aim of minimizing the potential disruptions arising from the Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024. We will ensure that both you and the City Council remain informed about our ongoing preparations for that day.

Best regards,

Jerry Varnes, Fire/EMS Chief
Perry Tabak, Police Chief