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## **Brentwood Borough Cancels 4<sup>th</sup> of July Activities due to Uncertainty of Covid-19**

*First Time in the 101 Years of the Borough*

**Brentwood, PA— April 21, 2020** — Brentwood Borough Council received notification from the Brentwood 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Committee that for the first time in the parade’s historic 101 years they have decided to cancel the 2020 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. One of the largest 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades in the state will join the likes of the Pittsburgh Arts Festival, the Pittsburgh Regatta, the Pittsburgh Marathon, the Kentucky Derby, and Tokyo Olympics as pinnacle events that were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, and subsequent Firecracker 4<sup>th</sup> of July 5K Race, are planned, coordinated, and paid for by two separate all volunteer organizations. “There are no taxpayer dollars contributed to either of these organizations,” stated Brentwood Borough Councilman and past Chairman of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Committee John Frombach. Funding for both events is primarily through sponsorships, contributions from the business community, and race registration fees. Reasons cited by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee included the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic stay-at-home orders, talk of a possible resurgence of infected cases, and the fact the parade sponsors are those same businesses that have been forced to shut down. However, the safety of the nearly 30,000 residents and visitors that crowd the street and sidewalks along Brownsville Road every year was the primary reason stated. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Committee is comprised of 7 to 10 dedicated individuals who begin the planning process in August for the next year’s parade and fireworks display. This isn’t an event that can be canceled at a moment’s notice. In addition, with schools being closed as

well as other organizations that participated in the parade, it was apparent that they would not obtain the same amount of participation in the ever popular and escalating parade.

“We understand that people are going to be disappointed and angry at this decision, however we will resolve to come back next year with an even bigger and more extravagant parade and fireworks display,” stated Frombach. Brentwood Borough officials are already working with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Committee to determine if it might be possible for fireworks to be planned and held around Labor Day in conjunction with a Brentwood Community Day.

The reason Brentwood Council took formal action to cancel all 4<sup>th</sup> of July related events was predicated on the decision of the Brentwood 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee to cancel the parade. There are many activities that surround the 4th of July holiday in Brentwood. From Brentwood’s annual Community Day, the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of the Barrels and street fair, to the Firecracker 5K, Concert in the Park, and Fireworks display. All these events attract thousands of individuals to Brentwood. Borough Council did not feel it would be prudent to wait to see if the other organizations would follow the example of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Committee regarding their own events. They wanted to give participants, sponsors, businesses, and volunteers plenty of notice about the cancellations. Even though these are all separate organizations with their own respective event they still utilize Borough streets and Borough resources from additional police, EMS, staff, and the Department of Public Works. “We’ve been monitoring the information coming from Allegheny County’s Department of Emergency Services, as well as the Governor’s Office daily,” stated Brentwood Borough Council President Harold Smith. “In addition, seeing many other large public events being canceled because of the Covid-19 virus made us realize that we also have a responsibility to make the difficult decision,” Smith said. “We know this is the prudent thing to do to ensure the safety of our residents, visitors, volunteers, police, crossing guards, and public works employees,” Smith continued. “I am very disappointed but understand that it is paramount that we keep the public safe. We hope that Brentwood finds other ways to

celebrate our Country's Independence and hopefully soon our independence from the fear of the Covid-19 virus," stated Brentwood Mayor Dennis Troy. "We will continue to work with all organizations, as well as our own Parks & Recreation Department, to provide more street fairs, more concerts, more movies in the park, and other recreational and leisure activities that we have all seen increase over these past few years," Mayor Troy continued.

The Brentwood 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Committee is a 501© 3 nonprofit group that receives financial support from sponsors and donors. It receives in-kind support from the Borough of Brentwood.

**For more information, press only:**

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