

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: May 17, 2021  
Reviewed by: NA

**SUBJECT:** Event Street Closures

**REPORT BY:** Jeff Bond, Community Development Director

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**SUMMARY**

The action before the City Council is to authorize the closure of Buchanan Street west of Interstate 80, Hillside Avenue west of Cerrito Street, and Taft Street on the evening of July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council authorize staff, for a period of three years, to temporarily close Buchanan Street west of the I-80/580 freeway interchange and close Taft Street and Hillside Avenue west of Cerrito Street on July 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**BACKGROUND**

Each year on July 4, the City of Berkeley hosts a large public event at the Berkeley Marina. Road closures and limited access for motor vehicles trying to get to the Berkeley Marina in the evening hours results in a high demand for motor vehicle access to Buchanan Street, and creates traffic congestion and hazardous conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists. Darkness, drug/alcohol related incidents, and ignition of illegal fireworks have historically exacerbated the situation.

**DISCUSSION**

In response to these incidents, the Albany Police Department began annually prohibiting motor vehicle access to Buchanan Street west of the I-80/580 freeway interchange during the evening hours of the annual July 4 holiday. In recent years, the Community Development Department has received complaints from residents on Hillside Avenue west of Cerrito Street, regarding an increase in vehicle traffic on Hillside Avenue and neighboring streets due to drivers trying to view the fireworks.

At this time, it is yet to be confirmed as to whether other cities may be doing fireworks displays. This street closure is being proposed to ensure the City is prepared to address public safety and access matters as related to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Other street closure related annual events

will be brought to the City Council when pandemic-related Health Officer Orders and project planning is completed.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

Not applicable

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

For July 4<sup>th</sup> closures, the cost of Police Department and Public Works staff time to cordon off and secure the area is nominal. The proposed closures help reduce public safety calls for service.