

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 31

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CERTAIN REGULATIONS RELATED TO BLOCK PARTY STREET CLOSURES

WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Vernon ("the City") is an Illinois Home Rule Municipal Corporation, duly existing under the laws of the State of Illinois, and embodied as a Home Rule entity with certain rights and powers pursuant to the Illinois Constitution, Article VII, Section 6, and hereby makes an express declaration as to the use of its Home Rule Authority in the enacting and adopting of this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City maintains a Revised Code of Ordinances that sets forth certain restrictions on pedestrian activity on City streets in Title VII thereof; and

WHEREAS, the City receives requests from residents and organizations to obtain permits to allow block parties upon City streets in residential areas, which block party permits contemplate the restriction of vehicular traffic within the designated block party permitted areas; and

WHEREAS, the City believes establishing certain regulations and criteria related to applications for block party permits to be in the best interests of the safety of the general public, including individuals attending the block parties; and

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Mt. Vernon, after considerable thought and deliberation, finds that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare for the City to create Title VII, Chapter 74.02 establishing criteria and conditions on block party permits issued by the City of Mt. Vernon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1 - RECITALS: The above recitals are true and material and are adopted herein as express findings of legislative fact, intent, and discretion of the City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

SECTION 2 - CREATION: Title VII, Chapter 74.02 is hereby created and shall read as follows:

"Chapter 74.02. Block Parties.

- (a) *Permit required.* No person or persons may conduct personal, professional or social activity upon the public highways (as defined by the state vehicle code, 625 ILCS 5/1-126) without first obtaining a permit from the City Manager.
- (b) *Conditions of permit.* Permits shall be issued only to persons or organizations engaged in neighborhood social activities in residential areas hereinafter identified as "block parties" pursuant to the following conditions:
 - (1) Block parties must end by 10:00 p.m.

- (2) Block party permit requests shall be filed in writing with the office of the City Manager not less than seven (7) business days prior to the planned date of activity, and not less than seven (7) days prior to the City Council meeting at which the permit applicant seeks Council approval of the permit, nor more than 30 days in advance of the intended date of use.
- (3) The dispensing of alcoholic beverages from the public right-of-way at a block party is prohibited.
- (4) Permits shall not be issued for block parties requested on major thru streets, thoroughfares or highways as the purpose of the block party permit is to allow block parties in residential, low traffic areas within the City of less than 1000 average daily traffic count.
- (5) A block party shall not be held unless the permitted area is properly barricaded:
 - a. Primary and secondary barricade lines shall be established with no block party activity occurring between the two barricade lines.
 - b. Barricades shall be approved by the City Manager or his designee.
- (6) The City Manager shall have the authority to deny, cancel, or suspend applications and permits for block parties for reasons of weather, violation of the provisions of this section, or other reasons, when, in the City Manager's judgment, such action is necessary for general public safety.
- (7) Fire lanes shall be provided in the block party area.
- (8) All applications shall include testimony or documentation demonstrating that all residents directly affected by the secured area are in approval of the planned activity.
- (9) The City Manager may request such other information as is deemed necessary."

SECTION 3 - SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS: Each section, paragraph, sentence, clause and provision of this Ordinance is severable, and if any provision is held unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the remainder of the Ordinance, nor any part thereof, other than that part affected by such decision.

SECTION 4 - CONFLICTING ORDINANCES: Any conflicting ordinances, code provisions or pertinent portions thereof in effect at the time this Ordinance takes effect are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5 - AUTHORITY: This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an exercise of the City's home rule authority pursuant to Illinois law.

SECTION 6 - EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect after its passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, on the 5th day of October 2026.

Rebecca Barbour
City Clerk – Rebecca Barbour

NAME	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	CONFLICT
Gliosci	x				
Moore				x	
Tate	x				
Young				x	
Lewis	x				

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois on the 6th day of October 2026

APPROVED:

John Lewis
Mayor - John Lewis

ATTEST:

Rebecca Barbour
City Clerk – Rebecca Barbour

(SEAL)