

ORDINANCE NO.2025-003

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES AND PERMITTING FOR SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITS IN MCDONALD COUNTY, MISSOURI

WHEREAS, the McDonald County Commission is concerned with the public's safety during outdoor events that frequently travel through McDonald County, Missouri and utilize State, County, and Local Roadways; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 304.130, RSMo, which states: "County commissions in all counties shall have the power to make additional rules of the road or traffic regulations not inconsistent with state law as shall be necessary to meet the needs of the people of their respective counties."; and

WHEREAS, the McDonald County Commission is empowered to create and adopt such ordinances to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors of McDonald County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF MCDONALD COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to ensure the safety of the public and participants during organized outdoor non-motorized events occurring within McDonald County, Missouri. These events often utilize state highways, county roads, and local roadways, and require coordinated planning to prevent disruption to traffic flow and emergency services, and to protect the general welfare of the public.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them:

- “Event” means any organized outdoor activity, including but not limited to races, rides, marches, or rallies involving non-motorized vehicles or participants traveling on foot, that takes place on public roadways.
- “Highway” shall have the same meaning as provided in Section 301.010(20) RSMo: "any public thoroughfare for vehicles, including state highways, county roads, and city streets."
- “Road” or “County Road” shall mean any road maintained by McDonald County and under the jurisdiction of the McDonald County Commission.
- “Intersection” shall have the meaning ascribed in Section 300.010 RSMo: "the area embraced within the prolongation or connection of the lateral curb lines, or if none, the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two highways which join one another at or approximately at right angles, or the area within which vehicles traveling upon different highways joining at any other angle may come in conflict."
- “Non-motorized vehicle” means any device that is not self-propelled by a motor and is used or intended to be used to transport people or goods, including but not limited to bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards, and scooters not powered by motors.
- “Sponsor” means any person, organization, or entity who organizes, promotes, or otherwise holds responsibility for conducting an event governed by this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. PERMIT REQUIRED

A. A permit shall be required for any outdoor special event within McDonald County that meets any of the following criteria:

1. The event will last longer than two (2) hours in duration, and involves travel along public roadways, including state highways, county roads, or other public rights-of-way within McDonald County; or
2. The event will include more than twenty-five (25) participants, regardless of duration or distance.

B. An application for a permit shall:

1. Be submitted in writing on the form provided by the McDonald County Commission;
2. Include the name and contact information of the event sponsor;
3. Include a route map clearly identifying all roadways, intersections, and stops involved;
4. Identify the expected number of participants and proposed date and time of the event;
5. Include a comprehensive Safety Plan as required in Section 4;
6. Include an emergency and medical response plan;
7. Include a non-refundable application fee of \$500.00 or if unanimous vote by the Commission the fee may be waived.

C. All permit applications must be submitted no less than thirty (30) days prior to the proposed event.

D. The McDonald County Commission shall review all applications and approve or deny each application no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the event date.

E. The event sponsor is solely responsible for contacting and complying with all applicable permitting or notification requirements of any other government agency having jurisdiction along the route, including but not limited to:

- Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT);
- Missouri State Highway Patrol;
- Any city or local government if the event route enters an incorporated municipality;
- The McDonald County 911 Center;
- Local ambulance services and emergency medical providers.

F. Each city or agency may have its own permitting or review process, which must be separately satisfied by the event sponsor.

SECTION 4. SAFETY PLAN REQUIRED

A. All event organizers shall submit a comprehensive Safety Plan as part of the permit application. The Safety Plan must be approved by the McDonald County Commission prior to the issuance of any event permit.

B. The Safety Plan shall include, at a minimum:

1. Command Structure: Identification of the individual(s) who will be in command of the event, serving as the principal point of contact for coordination and oversight.

2. Communications: A plan for effective communication with all relevant public safety agencies and authorities, including:

- McDonald County Sheriff's Department;
- Missouri State Highway Patrol;
- Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT);
- Any city or municipality through which the event route passes;
- The McDonald County 911 Center;
- Local ambulance and EMS providers.

3. Medical Response Plan: Identification of the EMS provider(s) responsible for medical care during the event. The organizer shall:

- Coordinate with local ambulance services such as Freeman Ambulance or the EMS agency with jurisdiction;
- Ensure all EMS personnel involved are licensed and compliant with all applicable state laws and regulations;
- Include contact and deployment information for emergency responders in the Safety Plan.

4. Emergency Vehicle Access shall be provided at all times.

C. The organizing entity is fully responsible for the implementation and cost of the Safety Plan and must coordinate directly with each agency listed. McDonald County's approval of the plan does not substitute for or fulfill the requirements of any other jurisdiction.

SECTION 5. USE OF COUNTY RESOURCES AND TRAFFIC CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

A. Event organizers shall utilize McDonald County resources for law enforcement and traffic control where necessary, and in accordance with this section.

B. If any route crosses any main intersection, or any crossing designated as necessary from the discretion of the Sheriff and County Commission, the organizer shall be required to have no fewer than two (2) law enforcement officers present to manage traffic and ensure safety.

C. For the purposes of this Ordinance, a “main intersection” is defined as:

1. The intersection of two named State Highways or State Roads; or
2. Any point along the event route that crosses a throughfare which the McDonald County Commission or Sheriff’s Office deems hazardous or in need of dedicated traffic control based on local traffic volume, speed limits, sight visibility, or historical safety concerns.
3. The McDonald County Sheriff and County Commission may, at their discretion, designate other intersections as main intersections for permitted events.

D. The law enforcement officers required under this section shall be designated and scheduled by McDonald County and may include deputies of the McDonald County Sheriff’s Office or officers from other local law enforcement agencies as coordinated by the County.

E. The event organizer shall be responsible for the full cost of law enforcement staffing and vehicle use, including:

1. \$75.00 per hour, per officer, for the duration of the event (including staging and demobilization time), with a four hour minimum;
2. A flat fuel surcharge for the use of any all emergency vehicles used, and any other support vehicles used and equipment, calculated by the County Commission and communicated in writing to the event organizer no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled event.

F. All such costs, including officer pay and fuel charges, must be paid in full prior to the event.

G. Failure to remit payment on the day of the event, or failure to secure the required law enforcement staffing as specified herein, shall result in the immediate revocation of the event permit and potential denial of future applications by the same sponsor.

SECTION 6. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

A. All event participants and organizers must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, including but not limited to:

- Missouri Revised Statutes;
- Missouri Vehicle and Traffic Laws;
- County ordinances and any local city or municipal regulations.

B. All traffic laws must be followed unless:

1. The intersection or roadway is actively protected by at least two (2) law enforcement officers, as specified in Section 5;

2. The deviation from normal traffic law is explicitly approved as part of the event permit and coordinated with appropriate agencies.

C. No person participating in or organizing an event governed by this Ordinance shall:

1. Block or impede emergency vehicles or access points;
2. Trespass on private property without consent;
3. Engage in conduct that endangers public safety or obstructs normal traffic without lawful authority.

D. The event must follow and ensure compliance from participants, sponsors, and other event attendees to comply with all of the requirements outlined in the event application, including the following:

1. All organizers agree to follow the agreement located in the event application.
2. The organizer shall ensure all participants of a cycling, road race, non-motorized event, or other event be made aware in writing and agree that they are to ride single file when vehicles are present and obey all traffic laws set forth by the State of Missouri.
3. The organizer acknowledges that the following activities are prohibited, marking the roads with temporary paint or chalk, unless approved by the County Commission, use of law enforcement from outside of Missouri and McDonald County, use of private property without written permission, blocking driveways or access points, public urination or defecation, harassment of residents or their pets.
4. The organizer agrees to provide a course marshal at all major intersections.

5. The organizer agrees to post warning signs for motorist in accordance with Missouri Department of Transportation standards.

6. Restrooms and trash receptacles will be provided by the event organizer and trash receptacles will be placed at all checkpoints and any location deemed necessary, restrooms should be indicated on the route map and made public for participants, spectators, workers, and the general public.

7. Within 48 hours after the event all signage must be removed, all debris cleaned up, any area disturbed restored to their original condition.

E. Violations of this section may result in revocation of the permit, a fine of up to \$1,000.00 dollars for each violation, termination of the event, and/or denial of future permit applications by the offending organizer or sponsor, and a ban from future events.

SECTION 7. APPLICABLE LAWS AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

A. All activities conducted under a permit issued pursuant to this Ordinance shall remain subject to the laws of the United States, the State of Missouri, and the ordinances and regulations of McDonald County and any other applicable jurisdictions.

B. The issuance of any permit under this Ordinance is at the sole discretion of the McDonald County Commission. The Commission may deny a permit application if it determines, in its judgment, that the proposed event:

1. Presents a risk to public health, safety, or welfare;
2. Conflicts with other scheduled public events or functions;

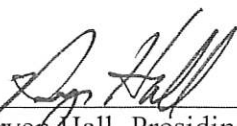
3. Has inadequate planning, insufficient information, or does not meet the requirements of this Ordinance;
4. Would unduly burden county resources or infrastructure;
5. For any other reason deemed necessary for the protection of the public interest and the citizens of McDonald County.

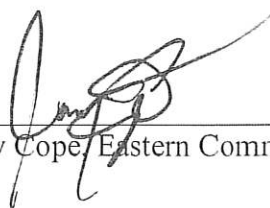
C. In the event of a denial, the applicant may request to appear before the McDonald County Commission to appeal the decision. Appeals must be submitted in writing and shall be scheduled for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Commission following receipt of the appeal request.

D. The County Commission's determination on appeal shall be final and binding.

SIGNATURES

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the McDonald County Commission this 25th day of August, 2025.
This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.


Bryan Hall, Presiding Commissioner


Jamey Cope, Eastern Commissioner


Rick Lett, Western Commissioner

