



BLANCO COUNTY JUDGE

BRETT BRAY

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September 7, 2023

Daniel Jones
Gillespie County Judge
101 W Main, Unit #9
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Re: Mass Gathering Permit Application

Judge Jones,

I write in regard to a pending mass gathering permit application by Wine Country Festivals, LLC. You are scheduled for a public hearing on September 14th to consider this permit. Unfortunately, I have a previous commitment that precludes me from attending. I am planning on asking my assistant to attend if her schedule permits. I would appreciate it if you would include this letter in the record of this application.

I have read all 75 pages of the application (other than those parts redacted as "sensitive"). Although it references Fredericksburg many times, it is difficult to imagine a more remote location in Gillespie County to that municipality. It is, in fact, planned at Blanco County's "doorstep". For this reason alone, we hope that you take our county's interest into consideration when contemplating this application. It might even be argued that our county, which is considerably smaller than yours with fewer resources, will bear more of the burden as the majority of the population being drawn to this event are to the east and required to travel directly to and through Blanco County. In fact, the promoter actually plans to direct the thousands of vehicles contemplated for this event through our county.

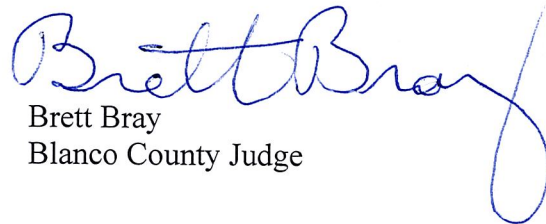
We have concerns about the pressures being placed on our first responders and their support groups. This would be true even on our best day, since we are talking about handling a crowd that is twice the size of our entire county population. However, the dates in question, fall on the heels of a monumental event that has involved coordinated planning for two years by all our neighbor

counties and countless organizations. While most of our concerns involve the actual details of the proposed event, the timing only exacerbates the issue.

Under the relevant statute, you are to receive input and reports from your Sheriff and medical and fire officials. Given the close proximity and clear impact on Blanco County, if you would like, I will request our Sheriff and medical and fire officials to provide additional reports. If that is the case, please let us know soon so they can be timely presented.

In closing, let me say that there has always been a close connection between our two counties. We appreciate having such a good neighbor. Additionally, Gillespie County is lucky to have a person of your standing to manage such weighty issues. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Respectfully yours,



Brett Bray
Blanco County Judge

cc: Sheriff Don Jackson via email djackson@co.blanco.tx.us
EMS Chief Ben Oakley via email boakley@co.blanco.tx.us
Fire Chief Matt McMain via email fireinspector@co.blanco.tx.us
Court Coordinator Connie Harrison via email charrison@co.blanco.tx.us