

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

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9/13/2022
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Date: September 13, 2022

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Sonya Patterson, Director – Parks, Arts, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: **Monday Nite Bitez Update**

Recommendation:

Receive and File

Fiscal Impact:

None

Background:

The City of Lancaster is known for the year-round special events throughout the community. In 2016, Food Truck Collective approached the City to use one of the parks to bring a night of food trucks to the area. At that time, food trucks were not popular in the Antelope Valley. The City elected to work with Food Truck Collective to bring 12-20 food trucks each week to the event. The event takes place every Monday night from 5-9 pm at Sgt. Steve Owen Memorial Park from May to October (weather permitting). Currently, the City handles the facility maintenance, staff and security for the event. Food Truck Collective is responsible for accepting applications, scheduling trucks, organization of the event and collections of food truck payment. Food Truck Collective is also responsible for providing a \$1 million dollar umbrella insurance policy naming the City as additionally insured to cover the vendors who participate in the event.

As food trucks became more prominent in the area, The City and Food Truck Collective agreed to incorporate local trucks into the event. Local trucks are now the majority portion of this event lineup. This event has been a success since the inception and incorporating a variety of trucks allows families to come enjoy a different style of food each week.

On August 9, 2022, three food truck vendors spoke during City Council Public Comment on their concerns with Food Truck Collective. The first concern brought forth was the receipts for payment. The City worked with Food Truck Collective and the receipts for the vendors were sent via email for all weeks of participation.

The second concern brought forward was the lack of local trucks being accepted. After reviewing the lineup of trucks each week, more than 60% of trucks have been local.

The third concern brought forth was the application process. Food trucks who want to participate can view the process on the Food Truck Collective's Facebook page. The Food Truck Collective page has been updated to include directions on how to apply. Interested vendors are instructed to send an inquiry to the email and they will receive a response within a few days. The response will include the application and requirements necessary to participate in the event. The requirements are Health Department Permit, Automobile Insurance and Photos of Truck (must be wrapped for aesthetic integrity of the event).

Moving forward into the 2023 season, the City will be working with the Food Truck Collective to create a digital application and vendors who inquire will also have their applications sent to the City as a means for event oversight. The City will also develop a webpage that outlines the process to apply and have a link to the application and requirements to participate. That link will also lead to the Food Truck Collective Facebook page.

The City offers a variety of events throughout the year. The events offer opportunities for food vendors to participate. The applications are currently available and open for the Haunt at the Hangar, Field of Drafts and Magical Blvd Christmas. The Parks Make Life Better campaign, *Cool Summer Nights*, at Tierra Bonita was a success this past July and the City received multiple comments about adding more food trucks and making the event even bigger. The plan is to expand this program in 2023 and incorporate additional food trucks. To participate in City special events, food truck vendors must complete an application, have a valid Health Department permit and provide an insurance certificate with accompanying endorsement in the amount of \$1 million dollars.

Staff recommends the continued use of Food Truck Collective for the Monday Nite Bitez event. The City and Food Truck Collective will work together to ensure a transparent and streamlined process for trucks to apply and be a part of the event. This event is a great addition to the community and has brought a variety of trucks to the area.

SP:ec

Attachment: