

From: [John Norris](#)
To: [Shari Winstead](#); [Chris Eggen](#); [Keith McGlashan](#); [Will Hall](#); [Doris McConnell](#); [Jesse Salomon](#); [Chris Roberts](#)
Cc: [Debbie Tarry](#); [Ian Sievers](#); [Julie Ainsworth-Taylor](#); [Carolyn Wurdeman](#); [Dick Deal](#); [Mary Reidy](#); [Eric Bratton](#)
Subject: Celebrate Shoreline Booth Requirements
Date: Friday, July 18, 2014 5:27:00 PM

Council,

Earlier this week, Councilmember Roberts had a question regarding the Celebrate Shoreline Booth Application. On the application, it stated an applicant must keep their booth free from "political propaganda and endorsements" and an applicant may not "provide political propaganda or endorsements." As Councilmember Roberts notes in his email below, there are some legal concerns regarding park property and the festival being limited public forum. Upon further review of this, staff have revised this application so that this restriction has been removed. You can view of a copy of the revised booth application at: <http://shorelinewa.gov/home/showdocument?id=16850>.

It is still a requirement of all booths at Celebrate Shoreline to have an interactive activity, so even if someone or an entity has a booth that is distributing political literature, they must follow this booth requirement (i.e., they can't just stand at their table and handout campaign flyers). The deadline for booth applications is Thursday, July 31.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this. Thanks.

-John

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Roberts
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2014 6:48 AM
To: Debbie Tarry
Cc: Ian Sievers; Carolyn Wurdeman; John Norris; Carin Chase; tomjamieson@hotmail.com
Subject: Celebrate Shoreline

John,

Yesterday it was brought to my attention that in the Celebrate Shoreline booth application, an applicant must keep their booth free from "political propaganda and endorsements" and an applicant may not "provide political propaganda or endorsements."

A lawyer affiliated with the organization wrote this: The festival "is a limited-purpose public forum, at best (and may be a general forum). A limited purpose forum is a venue that Shoreline offers its citizens to communicate, but not an entirely free area like a sidewalk. Although Shoreline can restrict speech in a limited-purpose forum, any restrictions have to be narrow, content-neutral, and reasonably related to a compelling government interest. I just can't see the compelling government interest in preventing candidates from handing out literature, or a political party from having a booth that supports particular candidates. Citizens, including families, have a compelling interest in knowing who is running for office and what political issues affect our city. And there's nothing disruptive about doing so."

My sense is similar - that in providing a limited public forum, the City must be content-neutral in the speech with is allowed. If a business is allowed to pass out flyers, then the City does not have any justification about prohibiting distribution of printed material.

Can you clarify for me the City's justification for keeping Celebrate Shoreline's booths free from political propaganda and endorsements,

Thanks,

Chris

Chris Roberts
Councilmember, City of Shoreline
croberts@shorelinewa.gov
(206) 391-2733