



City of Panama City Beach

September 16, 2020

RE: Thunder Beach Motorcycle Rally October 21-25

STATEMENT ON THUNDER BEACH

In accordance with the City's special event regulations, the promoters of the 20th Autumn Thunder Beach Motorcycle Rally, with an anticipated attendance of 20,000 to 25,000 patrons, submitted a comprehensive and proactive plan for the event.

The promoters took extraordinary steps to address COVID-19 safety protocols for their vendors, staff, volunteers, venues, concessions and patrons. They even cancelled large gathering events such as live music concerts and the Miss Thunder Beach Pageant out of an abundance of caution.

Despite their COVID-19 safety protocols, Thunder Beach understood it could not control the safety protocols of all the other venues Thunder Beach patrons would socialize at.

The City recognizes that Thunder Beach has no control over events at other private locations. They cannot control the safety protocols of other entities or venues that will also cater and host thousands of Thunder Beach patrons during this 4-day event.

For the sake of the public's health and safety, the City Manager has denied a special event permit application for this October 21-25 event. We cannot emphasize enough that this is in no way reflective of the professional and measured steps proposed by Thunder Beach, which they were willing to take to protect the public.

We look forward to hopefully welcoming the rally back in the Spring of 2021.