



Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title: Amend Chapter 7, Article III of the Town Code to Align with New Temporary Street Closing Policy

Purpose: Request Town Council amend the Town Code to reflect the new Temporary Street Closing Policy

Department: Public Works

1. What are the root causes of inequity in Carrboro and/or overall as it pertains to this subject area?

Historically, Carrboro has experienced inequities in access to public spaces due to unclear permitting procedures, limited guidance for event organizers, and a general lack of public awareness about how to initiate and participate in community events. The proposed amendments to Chapter 7, Article III of the Town Code, are designed to address these challenges by aligning with the newly adopted Temporary Street Closing Policy. This alignment will help standardize the permitting process, improve clarity, and support transparency, safety, and equitable access for community events.

2. Who is experiencing community burden now? Who will experience community burden if this action is passed? Will others experience community burden if this action is NOT passed?

The absence of standardized requirements and clear procedures in the current permitting process has led to uneven access to public spaces, making navigation challenging for many organizers. The proposed amendments to Chapter 7, Article III, in coordination with the standalone Temporary Street Closing Policy, aim to establish a more transparent and equitable framework by standardizing requirements and improving clarity. Without these changes, disparities in participation and access are likely to persist, limiting broader community engagement in public events.

3. Who is experiencing community benefit now? Who will experience community benefit if this action is passed? Will others experience community benefit if this action is NOT passed?



Carrboro's current permitting system tends to favor larger or more experienced organizers who are already familiar with the process, resulting in uneven access to public spaces. The proposed Town Code Amendments would help establish a more standardized and transparent process, making it easier for a wider range of community members to participate in public events. Without these changes, existing inequities are likely to continue, limiting broader engagement and reducing the diversity of events across the community.

4. What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?

While the new Temporary Street Closing Policy and Town Code Amendments aim to enhance equity, transparency, and consistency, they may also result in unintended consequences. Small or informal groups could face increased administrative burdens if they lack the resources or support to navigate the standardized permitting process. Additionally, the policy could be perceived as over-regulation or gatekeeping, potentially disrupting long-standing community traditions and straining trust if not implemented with inclusive outreach and sensitivity to legacy practices.

5. What steps has your department taken to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? What strategies might your department take to address these in the future? NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.

To address longstanding burdens in the event permitting process, the Town adopted a standalone Temporary Street Closing Policy to improve clarity, consistency, and equitable access to public spaces. Future efforts will include translation, technical assistance, and feedback monitoring, guided by inclusive outreach and sensitivity to legacy practices. In partnership with the Communications and Engagement Department, the Town will also promote Public Works services and programs to increase awareness and participation.