



The Town of North East, Maryland

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2021

On May 26, at the Town Board meeting the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of North East heard the Salute to Cecil County Veterans, Inc. (Salute Board) Special Event application for what is traditionally an annual event to honor Cecil County Veterans followed by fireworks.

The application was to hold the event on July 3, 2021.

Typically planning and organizing the event is accomplished much earlier in any given year to include services to provide a safe and secure event on the grounds and facilities of the North East Community Park.

The event requires the services of but not limited to the Town Maintenance and Police departments.

Thousands of attendees have enjoyed this event in North East each year, but due to COVID-19 restrictions the 2020 event was cancelled by the Salute Board.

Due to the continuation of COVID-19 restrictions The Salute Board began making plans to hold the event in September of 2021. However, after recent lifting of restrictions by the State of Maryland earlier this month, the Salute Board sought to seek approvals of County Health officials and the Town of North East to return to the long standing date of July 3rd.

Given the short duration of time to prepare for a July 3rd event, the Town Board inquired whether the Salute Board would consider the Town Commissioners voting to approve the event, subject to the Chief of Police securing the necessary amount of officers from other police departments to join forces with the North East Police Department for the necessary traffic control and public safety at the event.

The Chief of Police estimated he could inform both the Salute Board and Town Board by June 2, whether he could secure the necessary amount of officers for the event.

The Salute Board requested that the Town Commissioners vote on the Special Event application without any allowance of time for the securing of additional police officers.

As it is the Town Commissioners obligation to provide public health and safety for its residents and the thousands who may attend such an event, the requested vote to accept the event application without time to assure adequate police could be secured on duty was taken.

The application was therefore denied. It is disappointing that the Town could not be afforded the requested time. We remain hopeful that the Salute Board will take the necessary steps to hold the event in September.

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