



COUNTY OF AMHERST



Public Information Officer

AMHERST COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
153 WASHINGTON STREET
P. O. Box 390
AMHERST, VIRGINIA 24521

TELEPHONE (434) 946-9420
FACSIMILE (434) 946-9370

For Immediate Release

July 28, 2023

County Releases New Permit Application for Parades and Demonstrations

Amherst County Administration office published a new permit application for parades and demonstrations. The Board of Supervisors finds that for the good government and the peace, safety, health, and welfare of the County and its citizens, they must require a county permit to use streets, sidewalks, and public spaces.

In 2019, the Amherst County Board of Supervisors adopted [Ord. No. 2019-0003](#). This ordinance requires citizens to complete the application and seek approval in order to hold parades and demonstrations on County-owned property. The [new application](#) will aid citizens in this process and can be found on the County's homepage under the "How Do I" tab.

In addition to the application, a Public Safety Plan is required for any parade or demonstration expected to include more than 50 participants and/or spectators or that, due to the route or location, causes a public safety concern for the participants and spectators. The plan must be reviewed by the Sheriff and should cover security, fire, emergency medical service, and dispersal.

An informational sheet and the new application can be found below in this document. For additional information, please see [Amherst County Code Chapter 10 Article V1](#).

HOLDING A DEMONSTRATION OR PARADE



DEFINITIONS

PARADE:

Any march or other procession of six or more people is considered a parade.

DEMONSTRATION:

A group of three or more people assembled together to show their support or opposition to any political, social, or public issue.

PERMITS

The Board of Supervisors finds that it is necessary for the good government and the peace, safety, health, and welfare of the county and its citizens, as well as to maintain law and order and to provide for the free and orderly flow of traffic to require a county permit to use the streets, sidewalks, and public places.

AMHERST COUNTY, VA CODE OF ORDINANCE

Article V1. Demonstrations and Parades

PERMITS

A permit must be obtained from the County Administrator by providing the following information at least ten days before the desired event.

- 1 The date, start time, and duration of the event.
- 2 The streets/sidewalks/public spaces where the event will take place and the route being followed, if applicable.
- 3 Whether the event will be conducted on foot or with vehicles or animals and the number of people/animals/vehicles expected to participate.
- 4 The purpose of the event.
- 5 The names and addresses of the sponsors of the event and any organization(s) the expected participants are members of.
- 6 The number of expected participants and spectators.
- 7 The names and addresses of the person in charge of the event who will be responsible for the conduct of participants and compliance with all applicable laws.
- 8 A description of any sound amplification equipment expected to be used.
- 9 A Public Safety Plan is required for any parade or demonstration expected to include more than 50 participants and/or spectators or that due to the route or location causes a public safety concern for the participants and spectators. The plan must be reviewed by the sheriff and should cover security, fire, emergency medical service, and dispersal.
- 10 Any additional information as reasonably requested by the County Administrator.

For a full review of the regulations, see: [Amherst County, VA Code of Ordinance, Article VI. Demonstrations and Parades](#)

PARADE/DEMONSTRATION APPLICATION



EVENT ORGANIZERS AND SPONSORS

Name and address of the person responsible for the event and compliance with laws.

Name(s) and address(s) of the actual sponsors of the event and any known organizations attendees are affiliated with.

EVENT INFORMATION

Date, time, and duration of the event.

Purpose of the event.

The street, sidewalks, and public places where the event will take place. (Include parade route if applicable)

Will the event be conducted on foot, with animals, or in vehicles?

The number of people, animals, or vehicles expected to participate.

Total number of people expected to be present as participants and spectators.

Description of any sound-amplification equipment expected to be used.

PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN

For events where more than 50 participants and/or spectators are expected, or with a route or location that would cause public safety concerns, the applicant must submit a public safety plan for security, emergency medical services, and dispersal. The plan must be reviewed by the Sheriff and be attached to the application.

SIGNATURES

Applicant Signature:

Date:

County Administrator
Signature:

Date:

APPROVED

DENIED