

ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2025-068

Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at Vista Lights Annual Holiday Festival on Thursday, November 20, 2025

WHEREAS, the Congaree Vista Guild ("Vista" or "Organizer") is hosting Vista Lights Annual Holiday Festival on Thursday, November 20, 2025 from 5:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.; and,

WHEREAS, the Vista has requested permission for the temporary closing and use of the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Lincoln Street between Lady Street and Senate Street, the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Park Street between Lady Street and Senate Street and the 800, 900, and 1000 blocks of Gervais Street between Gadsden Street and Assembly Street from 4:30 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. for preparation and staging of the area for an outdoor event to be held between 5:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., and for patrons to consume liquor, beer and wine beverages on Thursday, November 20 2025 from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.; and,

WHEREAS, to ensure the safety of attendees, Organizer understands and agrees as follows:

1. Firearms shall be prohibited in the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Lincoln Street between Lady Street and Senate Street, the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Park Street between Lady Street and Senate Street, 1100 and 1200 blocks of Park Street between Lady Street and Senate Street and the 800, 900, and 1000 blocks of Gervais Street between Gadsden Street and Assembly Street on Thursday, November 20, 2025 from 5:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. regardless of whether such firearm is carried openly or concealed, and regardless of whether the individual carrying such firearm is a valid concealed weapons permit holder.

2. The Organizer shall establish a boundary line around the event space in the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Lincoln Street between Lady Street and Senate Street, the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Park Street between Lady Street and Senate Street, and the 800, 900, and 1000 blocks of Gervais Street between Gadsden Street and Assembly Street, and the Organizer shall ensure all entrance points into the permitted event area are posted with signage stating "NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED" that complies with the size and formatting requirements of section 23-31-235 of the South Carolina Code.

3. When publicizing the event in the community, the Organizer shall include the statement: "NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED" to ensure the public has prior notice of this restriction.

4. Organizer shall work with the City to develop a written plan and design a footprint of the event area that adheres to COVID-19 pandemic safety and social distancing protocols as published by the CDC and SCDHEC, and Organizer shall modify the plans and footprint as safety protocols published by the CDC and SCDHEC are updated.

5. The City may cancel the event at any time based upon public safety and/or public health concerns. The City shall not be financially responsible for any costs associated with the cancellation of the event.

6. Organizer shall display signs (physical and/or electronic) throughout the event area that discourage physical contact, such as hugs, handshakes, fist bumps, and high-fives during the event.

7. Organizer shall require that its agents, employees, vendors, contractors, and event attendees adhere to all applicable COVID-19 health and safety guidelines in effect at the time of the event.

8. To the extent the event occurs during a time in which the City has in effect any emergency ordinance or ordinance requiring face coverings or adherence to social distancing requirements, Organizer shall require that its agents, employees, vendors, contractors, and event attendees comply with the requirements of such ordinance(s).

9. Organizer is required to provide portable restroom facilities at the event unless it can substantiate the sufficient availability of both ADA accessible and non-accessible facilities in the immediate area of the event site which will be available to the public during the event. Organizer is to provide a minimum of four (4) chemical or portable toilets and two (2) wash stations for every 250 people, or portion thereof who attends the event. Ten percent (10%) of these facilities shall be ADA accessible. This figure is based upon the maximum number of attendees at the event during peak time. The City of Columbia may determine the total number of required restroom facilities on a case-by-case basis. Organizer shall post signs or markers to prohibit lines or crowds forming near the restroom without maintaining a distance of at least six (6) feet from other people.

10. Organizer shall post signs or markers to prohibit lines or crowds forming near food vendors and should encourage attendees to bring their own water. Alcohol, liquor, beer and/or wine shall be prohibited at the event without approval of a written resolution of City Council.

11. Organizer shall coordinate with food vendors to offer touchless payment options, if possible and available, or provide a tray for the exchange of payment to avoid hand-to-hand contact. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned after each customer and customers are encouraged to use their own pens.

12. At no cost to the City, Organizer shall be responsible for hiring no fewer than two (2) off-duty City of Columbia police officers during the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

WHEREAS, it has been determined that such an event would be in the public interest; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council this 7th day of October, 2025, that the sale of liquor, beer, and wine beverages in plastic containers or cans only is authorized between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2025; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all vendors be restricted to stationary location and that the Sponsor shall approve or disapprove all amplified entertainment activities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that possession and consumption of alcoholic liquors or alcoholic beverages other than liquor, beer, and/or wine beverages within the event area is prohibited; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VIP tents or VIP areas for the possession and consumption of alcoholic liquors or alcoholic beverages, other than liquor, beer, or wine beverages, within the event area are prohibited; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Organizer is responsible or shall make arrangements for the clean-up of all trash and debris within the event area and shall place same in the roll carts provided by the City. Any overflow of trash and debris shall be placed in garbage bags with the top securely closed and

placed beside the City roll carts. The number of roll carts needed for the event shall be determined by Organizer and the City's Solid Waste Division prior to the event and placed throughout the event area to ensure that trash and debris are well contained. Organizer shall return the roll carts and bagged trash and debris to the collection point designated by the City in a timely manner. If the Organizer has not opted to use City services to clean up the event area, any costs incurred by the City in removing loose trash and debris within the event area, which the Organizer has failed to clean up, shall be billed to and paid by the Organizer; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that outdoor possession and consumption of liquor, beer, and wine beverages only, all outdoor musical performances and use of sound-amplifying devices shall end by 10:00 p.m. due to the proximity of the event to residential properties; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that only pedestrian traffic will be allowed within the event area. All other traffic, including, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles, skate boards, and horses, golf carts (except police golf carts or ATVs), and horse-drawn carriages, is prohibited. All pets, including cats, dogs (except police K-9s), horses, birds, lizards, and snakes, are prohibited. Coolers, glass bottles, breakable drinking glasses and/or cups, large bags, and backpacks shall be prohibited inside the event area; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the designated event date of November 20, 2025 and time of 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., the closed portion of the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Lincoln Street between Lady Street and Senate Street, the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Park Street between Lady Street and Senate Street, 1100 and 1200 blocks of Park Street between Lady Street and Senate Street and the 800, 900, and 1000 blocks of Gervais Street between Gadsden Street and Assembly Street that serves as the designated event area, with the exception of the parking area and any other areas posted as to not allow alcoholic beverages, shall be declared to be a Public Park and the provisions of Chapter 15, Parks and Recreation, Sec. 15-1, 15-2, and 15-3, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina are in effect. Pursuant to Chapter 14, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article IV, Offenses Against the Public Peace and Order, Sec. 14-99, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, the designated event area of the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Lincoln Street between Lady Street and Senate Street, the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Park Street between Lady Street and Senate Street, 1100 and 1200 blocks of Park Street between Lady Street and Senate Street and the 800, 900, and 1000 blocks of Gervais Street between Gadsden Street and Assembly Street, with the exception of the parking area and any other areas posted as to not allow alcoholic beverages, is deemed to be the site of a public festival at which liquor, beer, and wine beverages may be consumed and the prohibition against possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages set forth in Sec. 14-99 shall not apply to the possession or consumption of liquor, beer, or wine within the designated event area. Possession and consumption of liquor, beer, and wine beverages shall be permitted only in containers provided by vendors within the areas designated, and such containers provided by vendors for the sale of liquor, beer, and wine may only be in plastic containers or cans.

PROVIDED, FURTHER, that the event organizer shall provide the names and cell phone numbers of a least two contact persons who can receive and address complaints during the event, including any set up and breakdown times. The cell phones shall remain on, with ringers and alerts functioning at all times during the event and during any set up and breakdown time.

PROVIDED, FURTHER, that failure of the event Organizer to strictly comply with the time frames and other requirements and responsibilities set forth in this resolution may result in a denial of subsequent requests to allow the event.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that no solicitation or transactions be made in violation of Sec. 14-32 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the Organizer reschedule the event for another date beyond one (1) week from the date of the originally scheduled event or inclement weather date, a request for a resolution of City Council approving the new date of the event shall be required.

Requested by:

Assistant City Manager Shealy

Approved by:

Cheresa B. Wilson
City Manager

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
City Attorney

[Signature]
Mayor

ATTEST:

Erika D. Hammond
City Clerk

Introduced: 10/07/2025

Final Reading: 10/07/2025

**Park Rules for the Congaree Vista Guild to Conduct Street and Sidewalk Sales for Vista Lights
(R-2025-068)**

WHEREAS, Columbia City Council adopted Resolution R-2025-068 on October 7, 2025, allowing the Congaree Vista Guild to Conduct Street and Sidewalk Sales for the Vista Lights to be held on Thursday, November 20, 2025 in the area commonly known as the Vista; and,

WHEREAS, certain areas of the public rights of way and public property have been designated as a public park for the event as more particularly set forth in Resolution R-2025-068, which is incorporated herein by specific reference thereto; and,

WHEREAS, the City's Parks and Recreation Department hereby authorizes the use of the public park designated by R-2025-068 for the Congaree Vista Guild to Conduct Street and Sidewalk Sales for Vista Lights; and,

WHEREAS, City Ordinance Sec. 15-1 (12) and Sec. 15-3 permit the Director of Parks and Recreation to promulgate rules and regulations within a public park, subject to the approval of the City Manager; and,

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that a large number of City of Columbia citizens and visitors will attend the event and will be allowed to consume liquor, beer, and wine within the public park; and,

WHEREAS, in order to promote the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Columbia and visitors attending the event, I find it necessary to promulgate rules and regulations to apply within the public park established pursuant to Resolution R-2025-068; NOW, THEREFORE

The following additional park rules are hereby promulgated for the Congaree Vista Guild to Conduct Street and Sidewalk Sales for Vista Lights and shall apply within the area designated as a public park and a violation thereof is unlawful:

1. Official festival tokens are required for the purchase of food and beverages within the designated park area.
2. Over age twenty-one (21) wristbands from the identification check station are required for patrons to consume liquor, beer, or wine in the designated park area.
3. All persons under the age of sixteen (16) must be accompanied by an adult.
4. No glass containers are allowed.
5. No coolers, outside food or beverages (including alcohol) are allowed.
6. No backpacks or bags are allowed.
7. Only liquor, beer, and wine are permitted. No other alcoholic beverages of any kind are allowed, unless within an area permitted by an existing encroachment ordinance which permits the serving of liquor, beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages during its normal course of business.
8. All liquor, beer, and wine must be served and consumed from a plastic cup, a plastic bottle, an aluminum can or an aluminum bottle.
9. No pets are allowed.
10. No concealable weapons allowed.
11. No firearms allowed.

Violation of these rules may result in criminal prosecution. The aforesaid rules shall be prominently displayed on signage which shall be located at all entrances into the designated park area.

City of Columbia

BY:  Date: 10-14-2025
ITS: Parks and Recreation Director

I hereby approve the foregoing park rules this 14 day of October, 2025.

City of Columbia

BY: 
Teresa B. Wilson
ITS: City Manager