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HUNTINGTON BEACH MODIFIES 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION TO SAFELY CONTINUE LONG-STANDING TRADITIONS

The Front Yard 4th of July Celebration will feature a new parade route and expanded contests

Given that the State is still restricting large special events, the City of Huntington Beach and the 4th of July Executive Board have been working together to create a **modified** 4th of July Celebration to ensure residents can safely take part in this long-standing tradition. The Celebration will include a revised parade route that will travel throughout Downtown Huntington Beach and various residential neighborhoods. **The parade itself will be modified to avoid the use of large floats, bands, or other features that may promote crowding or close gatherings among participants or viewers. Rather, the modified parade will include smaller caravans of vehicles in comparison to the traditional parade. More details on these modifications will be released over the next several weeks.** The Celebration will also include an expanded home decorating contest that will now be citywide and include businesses. These adjustments will maintain social distancing and allow the parade to continue onward, while still embracing the spirit of this beloved event that began in 1904.

“Although the parade routes have changed, Huntington Beach’s patriotic spirit has never wavered, even during these challenging times,” says Mayor Lyn Semeta. “We will adjust and take part in this re-imagined celebration that will give us an opportunity to celebrate Independence Day in a way that honors our United States veterans and medical professionals who have emerged as heroes during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

In lieu of the 4th of July parade along Pacific Coast Highway and Main Street, this year’s parade will tour various neighborhoods, as a salute to the 2020 front yard 4th of July celebration, while honoring the tradition that the 4th of July Board has made quintessential. Aptly named the OneHB Neighborhood Parade, this year’s parade will include two different routes and smaller caravans that will travel throughout the City between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM. The exact routes and times will be formally announced on the morning of July 4th at www.hb4thofjuly.org and the City’s social media platforms.

The parade caravans will showcase our veterans, high school seniors, front line medical personnel, live entertainment and other community dignitaries within their individual vehicles. Other celebration highlights include the 4th of July Decorating Contest, based on the theme of “Surf City Dreaming”, and includes prize categories for best decorated business and best front yard float. Detailed guidelines will be available on www.hb4thofjuly.org. Also, this year, the City will ask the public to help vote for the best entries via the City’s social media platforms.

Please note that the Festival at the Pier, 4th of July Run, and Fire Works Show will remain canceled. However, residents may celebrate at home by purchasing Safe and Sane fireworks from one of many fireworks stands operated by non-profit organizations that use a share of their proceeds toward charitable causes, such as youth sports and public services.

Regardless of how we as a community celebrate Independence Day in Huntington Beach, we remind everyone to remain mindful of the State’s order to continue to maintain social distancing measures to continue to flatten the curve of COVID-19. For more information on our Front Yard 4th of July celebration, visit www.hb4thofjuly.org. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook (@cityofhb) for more updates.