

# City Council Briefing 2026 Saint Patrick's Day Parade and Events



City of Savannah / Special Events, Film and Tourism / City Council Briefing 2026 St. Patrick's Day

## EVENT ORDINANCE ZONE

- Extended area designated for the consumption of beverages on the public ROW on March 17<sup>th</sup> ONLY
- No permits issued for activities in the Festival Ordinance Zone, including outdoor entertainment and alcohol sales.
- No outdoor dispensing of alcoholic beverages
- No out-of-town motorcoach permits.



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CONTROL ZONE RESTRICTIONS



PROHIBITED

- Coolers
- Multiple cups per person
- Unruly animals
- Exotic animals
- Fireworks, bangs, and snaps
- Smoke bombs
- Skates
- Bicycles
- Dangerous, disruptive behavior

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River Street and Bay Street Ramps

- River Street Closure – Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday – ramps will be closed both at River Street and at Bay Street.
- Water barricades will be placed at the bottom of each ramp and at both ends of River Street to prevent vehicle as a weapon style attacks – Emergency Services will be able to get through and access River Street.
- SPD will initiate closure on Friday evening. River Street will re-open for deliveries - 4AM through 10AM - Friday night through Tuesday morning. Ramps will remain closed for the duration of the event.
- AWP will have presence in EOC throughout event

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## City Market and Ellis Square Area

- Water barricades will be placed around City Market blocking access to certain areas of the Market. Barricades will be placed:
  - Montgomery St between Congress and Bryan on the East side of the Square (Between Belford's and Vinnie's)
  - Jefferson St between Congress and Bryan
  - Barnard St Between Congress and Bryan on the WEST side of the Square (between Wexford and Woof Gang – access is provided to the Wexford's stage for set up and tear down as well as the bands.
- Water Barricades will remain in place until end of the event.
- Traffic will be free to flow on Bryan and Congress during the morning for deliveries but will close as needed based on crowd size and dynamic.

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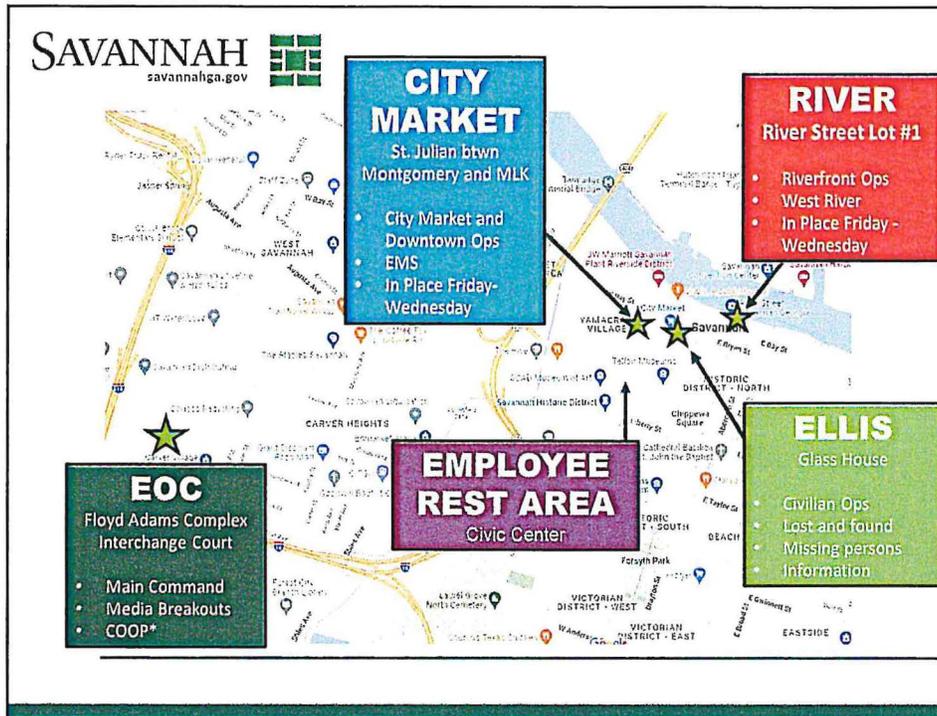


## SPD – Security Measures

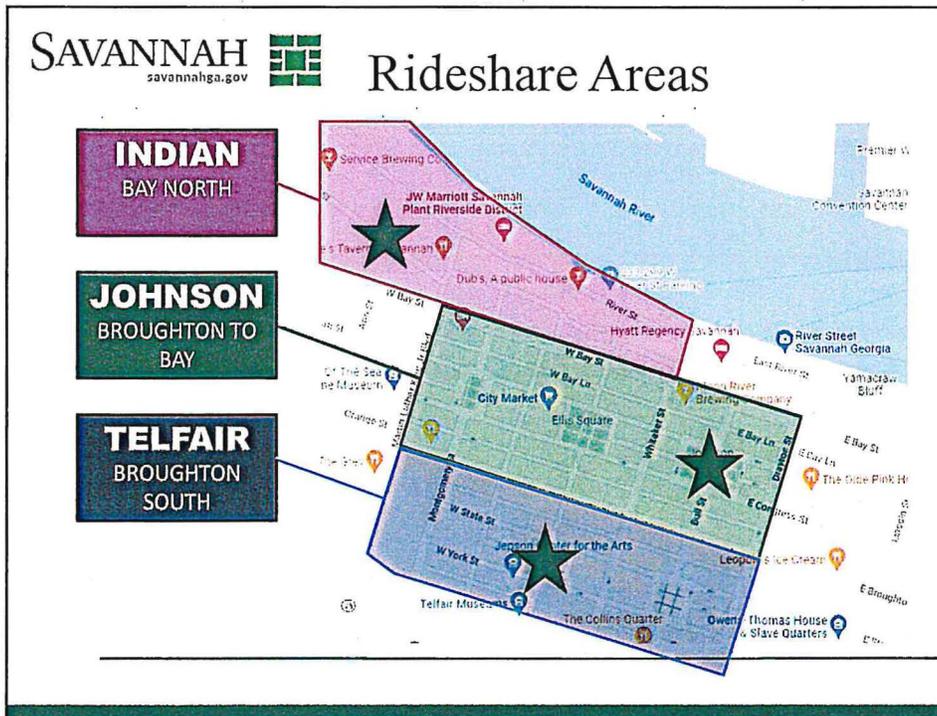
- All-hands-on deck operation.
- Misdemeanor and felony arrests will be taken to the Chatham County Detention Center.
- Traffic Units HEAT Units and GSP Nighthawks will be in the area to deal with traffic violations and DUIs.
- Control Zone Officers will be present from 6:00 p.m. Friday until 04:00 am Saturday and from 10:00 a.m. through 4:00 a.m Saturday – Wednesday morning.
- A skeleton crew will keep the closures of the ramps and River Street as well as security at the Command Posts for the overnight hours Friday through Wednesday.
- A group of officers in Marked Patrol Units will be assigned to work the Control Zone at large as well as Eastern Wharf and Indian Street.
- Area Command Posts (City Market and River Street) will begin setup at noon on Friday to be ready for evening operations Friday Night.

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## Food Truck Locations

### Vendor Operations Period

- Friday, March 13, 2026 - 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. (*SET-UP ONLY*)
- Saturday, March 14, 2026 - 10:00 A.M.-1:00 A.M.
- Sunday, March 15, 2026 - 12:00 P.M.-12:00 A.M.
- Monday, March 16, 2026 - 11:00 A.M.-12:00 A.M.
- Tuesday, March 17, 2026 - 8:00 A.M. -11:00 P.M.

*4 locations: Cotton Sail, St. Julian (East of Whitaker), St. Julian (West of Whitaker), Jere's Antiques (the strand)*

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- Special Event Threat Assessments have been requested from several Federal, State, Local Intelligence Units. This includes FBI, DHS, GEMA/HS, SARIC.
- A full review of the SPD Operations and Security Plan was conducted by representatives of GEMA/HS and GBI on 2/10/25. In addition, representatives from the MSETF, GEMA/HS and the GBI conducted a Physical Security Assessment of the entire Parade Route, Staging Area and Disband Area. After action recommendations from this review and assessment have been incorporated into the Security Plan for this year's event.
- Construction sites along the route have been informed that dumpsters and site trailers must be moved prior to parade day.
- SETF staff met with the Parade Committee to address any concerns with the route and security.

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## PARADE SECURITY MEASURES

- All-hands-on deck operation. Additional support from Partner Agencies.
- Water barricades will be positioned at high speed avenues of approach to the parade. 100 additional water barricades will be placed along the route this year. SFD and Water Resources will assist SPD with placing and filling these barricades on parade day.
- Officers will be present along the route at major intersections as well as in the squares and tree lawn.
- Police vehicles will be utilized to block intersections and streets along the route as well.
- A full EOD K-9 Sweep of the Route along with a Nuclear Radiation Detection Team and a Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Detection team will sweep both the route and the airspace before and during the parade.
- A SWAT Quick Reaction Force as well as SPD and GBI Bomb Squads will be present to handle suspicious packages.
- FBI, GBI and GSP will all be present in the ECC during the Parade

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## SQUARES

**11:30PM – Monday, March 16th - MARSHALS IN SQUARES ON ROUTE**

**12:00AM until 5:59AM – Tuesday, March 17th – No one allowed in squares.**

**6:00AM – Squares can be occupied.**

**10:00AM - 4:00PM– ongoing cleanup during parade.**

**4:00PM - 6:00PM– City Teams clean up squares.**

**6:00PM – Squares released to the public.**



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# PARADE / EVENT TIMELINE



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## St Patrick's Day

- 1:00AM – TOWING ALONG PARADE MAY BEGIN
- 6:00AM – PARADE STAGING AREA CLOSED
- 6:00AM – PARADE UNITS BEGIN TO ARRIVE
- 6:00AM – SQUARES OPEN TO PUBLIC
- 9:00AM – ROUTE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC
- 10:15AM - PARADE STARTS
- 11:30AM – FIRST PARADE UNIT TO DISBAND
- 2:30PM – LAST PARADE UNIT CLEARS STAGING
- 4:00PM – SQUARES CLOSE FOR CLEANING
- 4:30PM – LAST PARADE UNIT TO DISBAND
- 6:00PM – SQUARES REOPEN TO PUBLIC
- 3:00AM – BARS CLOSE
- 4:00PM FRIDAY through END OF EVENT WED MORNING-  
EMERGENCY COMMAND CENTER OPERATIONAL

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## Purchasing Items

- **AWP** will be providing the barricades- crowd control and traffic control as well as water barricades. – Under Piggy-Back Contract with Sandy Springs – Requisition is Complete - \$161,282
- **Sunbelt** will be providing Light towers and Utility Vehicles (Mules) for SFD, SPD, Sanitation and Park & Tree. – State Contract. – Requisition Complete - \$13,609
- **Reddy Ice** providing Ice and Ice Pins for SPD Command Post – Requisition Complete -\$2,000
- **Low Country Golf Carts** will be providing golf carts – Requisition Complete - \$24,760
- **Ardsley Station** will be providing hot meals – Under Contract – a contract modification is required – will need to go to Council – contract price was set for a two-day event in 2024 \$40,000 – Inflation and 5-day event cost is \$89,750. Modification has been submitted. (2 renewals remain on this contract)
- **Hotel Rooms for GSP** are reserved and final procurement will be made once room assignments are made.

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## Purchasing Items

- **United Site Services** will be providing Port-a-Lets for parade and event area as well as Comfort Restrooms for the Food Truck Locations (DPH Requirement) – Under Contract (2 renewals left) - \$104,860
- **Royal Restrooms** will be providing Comfort Restrooms for SPD Command Posts – Requisition Complete - \$4,912
- **Chick-Fil-A** will be providing boxed breakfasts and lunches for parade staff – Requisition Complete \$9,683
- **Kennickell** is making the No Parking Signs for the route- Requisition Complete. \$2,746
- **Cleanliness** - this is handled by Park and Tree through an existing contract for cleanup. Requisition will be entered later this week – \$49,500

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