



For Immediate Release-September 3, 2021

The Barbecue Festival announces the postponement of the 38th annual event until October 22, 2022.

LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA--After months of consultation with local officials, sponsors, and official festival restaurants, the 2021 Barbecue Festival set for October 23, will be postponed. Says Festival Director Stephanie Saintsing Naset, "It was a difficult decision, but one we ultimately concluded was the responsible and necessary decision to make."

Currently the BBQ restaurants are facing significant labor and supply chain challenges. The restaurant owners unanimously decided that they could not meet the enormous challenge of preparing and serving thousands of pounds of BBQ for the festival this year, and we respect that decision. They remarked, "With our deepest regret, due to supply chain challenges, the current labor shortage, and concerns with the ongoing pandemic, we will not be able to participate in The Barbecue Festival this year. We look forward to celebrating our World Famous BBQ Heritage again in 2022. -Smokey Joe's, Barbecue Center, Speedy's and Stamey's Barbecue."

Says Saintsing Naset, "Compounding the problem, is the current exponential surge of COVID-19 cases within our community. Based on current trends, we feel it would not be in the best interest of our community to invite more than 100,000 people from across the country to converge on our city, when the Delta variant is so prevalent."

So that we can continue to shine a spotlight on our amazing community, we do plan to host a few smaller scale opportunities to celebrate. Details will be released in the coming weeks. On behalf of our sponsors, partners, volunteers and the hundreds of people that make the festival happen each year...we want to say THANK YOU for your understanding and continued steadfast support.

Please save the date for the 38th annual Barbecue Festival...we fully intend to host the most exciting Barbecue Festival ever on Saturday, October 22, 2022! #BBQFest #LexingtonNC #WorldsBestQ

About the Festival:

Established in 1983, the Lexington Barbecue Festival has achieved regional, statewide and national recognition for its excellence. Accolades and recognitions include: Top Ten Food Festivals in America by Travel & Leisure Magazine, Top 20 October Event by Southeast Tourism Society, Library of Congress Local Legacies project, 50-plus awards through the N.C. Association of Festivals and Events awards program, Pinnacle Award Recipient from the International Festivals & Events Association, Top Ten Great Places to Celebrate Food by USA Today. To obtain more information visit our official website at <http://www.barbecuefestival.com/>

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