

Grounds Policy

Event Center grounds are defined as the Event Center parking plaza on Bowen Avenue, green areas, the perimeter of the building, the parking lots and the buildings. The Event Center strives to provide an environment that encourages all patrons to use its facility, services, and resources in a respectful manner. The Event Center believes in providing free access to, and communication of, ideas and information that reflect the broad range of interests in the community we serve. This policy prohibits certain activities and imposes reasonable restrictions on certain activities to prevent unreasonable interference with patrons' enjoyment of the Event Center.

Parking Lots Event Center parking lots are provided for Event Center users and staff for the use of the Event Center facility, services, and programs. Commuter and overnight parking, overnight sleeping in a vehicle in an Event Center parking lot, and any other use of parking lots by individuals who are not actively engaged in using the Event Center facility are prohibited. Misuse of the Event Center parking lots will result in ticketing and/or towing of the vehicles.

Sales and Solicitation Individuals, groups, or organizations are prohibited from selling or distributing any goods or services or soliciting funds anywhere on Event Center property, except in association with rental of the Event Center, Event Center partnerships, or as a component of an Event Center-sponsored program or event.

Signs and Posters All outdoor signs, other than those produced by the Event Center, are prohibited on Event Center property. Signs posted on Event Center grounds will be removed and disposed of by Event Center staff. Applying graffiti anywhere on Event Center property is prohibited. Artistic mediums, e.g. sidewalk chalking, are allowed on Event Center property only if sponsored or produced by the Event Center.

Camping Sleeping, camping, or utilizing Event Center grounds for activities not related to Event Center services are prohibited. "Camping" refers to the use of Event Center grounds for lying down and sleeping, use of Event Center grounds that interferes with Event Center services and usage of the grounds and facility, use of Event Center grounds to store belongings, or use of Event Center grounds as a temporary shelter or living quarters. If Event Center employees or security personnel observe people acting in violation of this policy, they will be told to leave. Police will be summoned if they fail to leave, and they will be trespassed from Event Center property.

Petitioners The Event Center is mandated by federal and state law to permit individuals to gather signatures, display hand-held signs, pass out fliers, and engage in other expressive activities protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, so long as the passage of Event Center patrons to and from the facility is not impeded and these activities are conducted outside only. These individuals shall be referred to as

“petitioners.” This section outlines basic and reasonable content-neutral guidelines for petitioners on Event Center grounds.

A petitioner must not act in such a manner so as to hinder ingress or egress to the Event Center or to in any way intimidate, confront, or accost an Event Center patron entering or exiting the building. A petitioner shall not call out or shout to draw attention to the petitioner. All activity shall be conducted in a normal tone of voice, and the use of identifiable signage is encouraged. Petitioners must limit literature distribution and petition circulation to defined locations to control the flow of the crowds and to provide a safe and orderly environment for Event Center patrons

Any petitioner utilizing a table and/or chair, which must be furnished by petitioner, shall be set up in the area on the Northwest corner of Parking Lot D at the intersection of Bowen Avenue and Fifth Street, so as to not hinder ingress or egress to the building from any direction. This allows direct access to Event Center patrons without blocking or impeding patron traffic flow.

Any standing petitioner (without the use of a table and/or chair) is free to move about the outside grounds. However, a petitioner must not solicit in an area that hinders ingress or egress to the building from any direction, which includes that they will not be closer than 100 feet from any facility entrance nor will they be in the parking lot area where cars can drive. Distribution of literature, petition-gathering informational protests and/or demonstrations are not permitted inside a leased area or building. These spaces are under contract with the client and therefore are no longer considered public spaces.

Anyone violating this policy will first be warned by an Event Center staff member. If the conduct continues, the petitioner will be required to leave the Event Center grounds. Petitioners must comply with all other applicable ordinances, laws, and regulations. The presence of petitioners does not constitute an endorsement from the Event Center of the opinions or points of view expressed or espoused by the petitioners, and petitioners will not suggest such is the case.