

SPLL Board Statement #2 on the Proposed Parade Ordinance

Thanks to the efforts of all Spanish Town supporters, several Metro Council members have responded to your e-mails and have decided to support us in defeating the parade ordinance, so, Elvis and the Flamingoheads will not have to appear *en masse* at the Metro Council in August. Councilman Ourso has wisely decided to pull the proposed parade ordinance draft for more study. He has requested a meeting with the SPLL board and we have agreed to meet with him. The date is not fixed yet, but it will be sometime in early August before the ordinance committee meets again on August 15th.

The SPLL Board is still for NO ORDINANCE at all and continues to negotiate to that end.

Here are new developments you may not be aware of:

1 - The insurance requirement has been clarified in the proposal - the \$1 million "PER FLOAT" coverage will be changed to \$1 million "PER PARADE"! The \$1 million insurance will not result in a substantial increase, since that is what we have been doing all along and represents no change from the *status quo*. The SPLL Board directly contributes this change to the vocal support of Spanish Town parade supporters.

2 - The BR Police Department and DPW (and in effect the Mayor's office, since he's their boss) are behind removing the Spanish Town Parade from Spanish Town Road and Third Street. Mr. Ourso was not the author of this idea. Nevertheless, as the point man on the ordinance, he immediately began receiving heavy fire on the route change. He has now written the board an e-mail indicating he would support the use of barricades as a safety measure to keep the parade on Spanish Town Road. When Mr. Ourso communicated the barricade idea to the chief of police, as a possible compromise that would insure safety of spectators on Spanish Town Road, it was rejected. He and the SPLL Board are now at odds with the BRPD/DPW on this point.

Thanks again for your overwhelming response and please continue to e-mail or phone your councilman asking them to vote against the ordinance (if and when it comes up for a vote) and contact the Mayor's office explaining that the proposed route changes off Spanish Town Road and Third Street will not just destroy the tradition, charm, and unique character of this cultural event, they will kill it. Also ask the question who's behind this ordinance in the first place (Mr. Ourso says it isn't him) and why do they think it's necessary. The SPLL Board has never had this question answered to our satisfaction.

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Please go to www.spanishtownmardigras.com for more information and use the forum to voice your opinions.

SPANISH TOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

AND

SPLL BOARD OF DIRECTORS