

TO: Mayor Althoff and City Council

FROM: Jeffrey L. McCormick, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: High School Graduation Requests

DATE: May 19, 2020

BACKGROUND

This year the High School has had to make changes to the normal routine for the Graduation Ceremony to be held on May 29, 2020 because of COVID-19. The School District will be holding a parking lot Graduation, where the Graduating students will remain in their vehicles. The event will take place in the student parking lot. Because of parking limits, it presents some challenges for the School District to make this work smoothly. I have consulted with the School District and provided recommendations that I feel will ease some of the traffic concerns, however, because the location entrance is on Highway 19, there is an increased risk of traffic issues because the congestion will occur during a time of day that highway users would not expect.

The School District will have all attendees entering at the main entrance, driving to the bus drop off area and then coming back to enter the student lot. Because parking is limited, the District will be controlling the number of vehicles allowed per student. While I expect that about 50-60 vehicles could be in the que line to enter the student parking lot, there may be times that additional vehicles would not be able to enter the school campus and create congestion on Highway 19 because they would be arriving during this small period of time. The School District is requesting two Cannon Falls Police Officers between 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm to handle traffic control for Highway 19, which would allow for an Officer to focus on traffic from a single direction, like the Police Department does during community events like the Trick or Trot on Highways 19 and 20.

The School District is also requesting that parking in and access to the 700 Block of Minnesota be restricted on May 29, 2020 from 3:00 pm until 8:30 pm. That request is to allow a setup area for staging, sound, and video board placement for the parking lot ceremony.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Request motion and approval of the traffic control and parking/access restrictions requested by the School District as outlined above.