



## CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: 10/07/2017  
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers  
FROM: Police Lieutenant Lance Roberts  
CC: Josh Copley, Shane Dille, Leadership Team  
SUBJECT: Tequila Sunrise October 28, 2017



This report is in response to a request for further information on preparation for Tequila Sunrise 2017

### DISCUSSION

Tequila Sunrise is an unsponsored/unsanctioned tradition that has coincided for 30-plus years with homecoming activities at Northern Arizona University. This year's event will take place on Saturday October 28, 2017. Students and alumni celebrate in the downtown and Southside business areas at the local liquor establishments. The event starts at 06:00 am, and usually disperses by 12:00 or 1:00 pm. Tequila Sunrise is not considered a special event, No license or permit is required for liquor establishments to open and by State law businesses are allowed to open as early as 06:00 am.

The police department has historically provided a high police presence due to the large volume of people who patronize the liquor establishments in the area. Prior to and during the event, the Flagstaff Police Department has partnered with several other city departments and outside agencies and organizations to ensure the safety of the event.

### BACKGROUND

In 2016, the Tequila Sunrise crowd in the downtown area appeared to be less than in previous years largely due to the opening of "The Mayor" on South San Francisco Street which hosted hundreds of patrons. The following liquor establishments in the downtown area were open for business in 2016 and have been confirmed for 2017: Collins, Monsoons, Majerles Bar & Grill, McMillan Bar & Grill, The Green Room, Hotel Monte Vista and Hops on Birch. The following liquor establishments were open on the south side: Altitudes, Lumberyard, Southside Tavern and The Mayor.

During Tequila Sunrise 2016, between 6:00 a.m. and approximately 3:00 p.m., the Flagstaff Police Department took nine (9) reports regarding criminal damage, assault/disturbing the peace, loud party, theft and found property. Two (2) calls involved loud music, one at Hops on Birch and another at the Mayor. Both businesses voluntarily complied when contacted and shut off or turned down the music. Officers made four (4) arrests during the event. The following is a breakdown of the arrests that were made:

- 3 arrests for illegal/underage consumption/ urinating in public
- 1 arrest for trespassing (a person refusing to leave at the Mayor).

In preparation for Tequila Sunrise 2017, the Flagstaff police Department has already started planning efforts. On October 26, 2017 a liquor establishment owners meeting has been scheduled at 2 pm in City Hall Council Chambers. The meeting will feature a presentation from the Arizona Department of Liquor on liquor law violations including overserving, and serving an intoxicated person. There will also be a presentation by Northern Arizona Care and Services After Assault (NACASA) on sexual assault awareness.

City of Flagstaff Streets Department was contacted and will provide barricades for downtown should a public safety concern arise, and the streets need to be shut down. In 2016, streets were shut down at 7:35 a.m. due to 1,500 - 2,000 people in the roadway on Leroux St. and Aspen Ave. The Flagstaff Police Department occasionally closes city streets for emergency operations or life safety concerns. It is not uncommon for FPD to temporarily close streets at 2:00 a.m. for bar closing many times during the year.

Flagstaff Fire Department will have a 2-person rescue team assigned to the footprint of the event for any medical calls.

Downtown Business Association is reaching out to business owners in an attempt to provide portable toilets for patrons to use while waiting to get into liquor establishments. They will also distribute additional trash receptacles to the downtown area.

To date, the Flagstaff Police Department has identified the following resources to dedicate to the event:

- 1-Incident Commander
- 22-Officers divided into two (2) teams North and South of the railroad tracks. These Flagstaff Police Officers will be responsible for liquor establishments and parties in housing complexes.
- 4-Arizona Department of Public Safety GITTEM Officers.
- 2-Arizona Department of Liquor Officers

This report is for information only.