

P.O. Drawer 1132
King, NC 27021-1132

229 S. Main Street
Telephone (336) 983-8265
Fax (336) 983-4675

Press Release
For Immediate Release
[October 29, 2020](#)

The City of King and King Masonic Lodge #722 announce the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 King Christmas Parade. Although the City and the Masonic Lodge recognize that the parade is a time-honored tradition, decision-makers must place public health as our number one priority. The parade usually draws over a thousand people, and with other area parades cancelled, holding this event would draw in even larger numbers, putting it exponentially above the Governor's current gathering mandate of 50 people or less.

After long deliberation, it was determined that an event this large posed too great a risk of COVID-19 exposure to participants, especially at a time when case numbers and deaths continue to increase in Stokes and surrounding counties. An event of that size would also risk exposure to public safety personnel, whose departments cannot withstand large outbreaks and continue to maintain the safety functions of our city.

King Masonic Lodge #722 A.F. & A.M. and the City of King have worked closely over the past few weeks discussing the logistics of holding the Annual King Christmas Parade. Several ideas were discussed to minimize exposure of COVID-19 to participants and bystanders. If these measures were put into effect, they would substantially alter what makes our city's parade so special. In reviewing the most current CDC Guidelines pertaining to COVID-19, we have jointly decided to cancel the 2020 King Christmas Parade. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding and share in your disappointment at the cancellation of this year's Christmas Parade. We look forward to a time when we can come together as a community to celebrate again. We encourage everyone to do all that we can to keep each other safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

King Masonic Lodge has sponsored the King Christmas Parade since 2013, to which they collect donations from Parade Participants that is given directly to King Outreach Ministry. The parade generates significant food and cash donations for King Outreach Ministries each year. We encourage everyone who is able, to extend support to King Outreach Ministry. KOM is providing even more support to families in 2020 than in years past during these hard times. Donation info can be found at <http://www.kingoutreach.org/make-a-donation.html>.

COUNCILMEN

Charles Allen - Wesley Carter – Terri Fowler – Mayor Pro Tempore Rick McCraw