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News Release

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City reluctantly cancels annual Murphy Maize Days

MURPHY (August 31, 2020) The list of canceled events due to the COVID-19 pandemic has now included the 2020 edition of Murphy Maize Days, the City of Murphy's premier community event, as the City Council has regrettably decided to forego holding the event this year.

The event was scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 26 at Murphy Central Park with a full array of food, games, entertainment, exhibitors, and vendors. The festival serves as the traditional welcome to the fall season in Murphy and has drawn larger crowds each of the 11 years it has run.

After consultation with staff, which presented a variety of possible options, and with Dr. Mark Gamber, the City's health authority, the Council voted, with five votes in favor and two votes opposed, to cancel this year's event. It was the second such cancelation in the event's history, having the 2010 version called off because of rain.

Caitlyn Mullins, Manager of Recreation Services, says even though it's a day that many residents look forward to every year, employees and volunteers also express a high level of eager anticipation.

"Employees and volunteers begin looking forward to connecting with our community at Murphy Maize Days as soon as the previous one ends," she said. "The entire City staff was hopeful that the pandemic would be behind us in time to host our biggest event of the year. It was not to be."

Council's decision was not taken lightly, but in the end, the health and safety of both Murphy residents as well as Murphy employees took priority over any other consideration.

"Knowing that it was the right decision to make certainly did not lessen the pain of making it," she added.

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ABOUT MURPHY -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 20,010, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income well above the state average. With more than 80 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a family-oriented community with a strong sense of place. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27th Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.