



CITY OF ANNISTON, ALABAMA

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Anniston city leadership urges all of its citizens to continue social distancing practices and to adhere to the health and safety guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the State of Alabama's Health Orders. Furthermore, be it known that in an effort to adhere our community to the safest practices recommended by both the CDC and the Alabama Dept. of Public Health, the City of Anniston has taken the following precautionary measures for the health and safety of our residents:

CANCELLATION OF 2020 HERITAGE FESTIVAL & UPDATE ON CITY PARK RENTALS

Due to the continuing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, event organizers and City of Anniston officials have both confirmed the cancellation of the 2020 Heritage Festival. Efforts were made to reschedule the event for a date later this Summer, yet those efforts were unsuccessful. However, event organizers were able to maintain the 2020 Heritage Festival's featured artists, Evelyn "Champagne" King and Ronnie Bell. Thus, we greatly look forward to both artists performing at next year's Heritage Festival, which will take place on June 19, 2021.

In addition, the City of Anniston would like to thank the Heritage Festival's sponsors for their patience and understanding. The success of this uplifting event is largely due to the generosity of local sponsors, who have gone above and beyond to support this wonderful quality of life experience for the deserving citizens of Anniston.

The City of Anniston understands that our annual Heritage Festival celebrations honor the Juneteenth holiday, a day of deeply significant meaning. Yet, it is out of an abundance of caution, concern, and consideration for the health and well-being of our community that the decision to cancel the Heritage Festival was made. Furthermore, some of you may have seen advertisements for another Juneteenth event; however, please know that said event was organized without having followed the appropriate city channels for park rentals as established by our city's Parks & Recreation Department. This is why that event will not be allowed to take place this Saturday, June 20, 2020.

It is out of this same consideration for the health of our community that the City of Anniston has yet to make its parks available to rent for the purpose of large gatherings. Alabama's recent increase in COVID-19 case counts has given our state one of the highest rates of spread in the nation for the disease ([Link: https://bit.ly/37EnG5E](https://bit.ly/37EnG5E)). Therefore, we appreciate the public's understanding and patience at this time as we strive to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens, which is always our top priority.

**2020 Heritage Festival
& City Park Rentals**