



EVANSTON FOURTH OF JULY ASSOCIATION

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Dear Mayor and City Council,
2026

February 18,

We stand before you with good news and bad news. The good news is there will be a great July 4 celebration this year as always. The bad news is we need help to fund future celebrations.

The Evanston Fourth of July Association is a volunteer, nonprofit organization working in tandem with the City of Evanston to provide the largest annual celebration on the North Shore. For more than 100 years we have dutifully and faithfully brought the most diverse groups together to enjoy a day of spectacle, entertainment and amazement on July 4. We are proud of our accomplishments and the relationship with the City.

Despite our many efforts to raise money each year, you can see from this spreadsheet that over the last five years the Association has steadily depleted our investment fund to pay for the annual Fourth of July Celebration. As it stands now, we will be completely unable to fund the Celebration in only three years without large, sustainable donations or sponsorships.

Many participants/attendees believe that the City of Evanston - and thus their tax dollars - pay for the Celebration, no matter how many times we tell them in person and through the media that the Celebration is donation-funded and run only by the Association. While Evanstonians are often generous in their donations, we have yet to receive enough corporate and individual donations to cover the Celebration costs.

We have said before that we may have to cut part of the Celebration or even cancel the entire event if we cannot establish more sustained donations and sponsorship. That deadline is now looming; the question now is, "Will we have a Celebration at all by 2030?"

It is heartening to hear every year how much the City and Evanstonians appreciate the Association's dedication and unique purpose, the Celebration's longstanding value to the community and the Association's efforts to uphold the highest ideals of freedom, democracy, fairness and social justice. That gratitude keeps us inspired and motivated.

But the answer to the above question is clear; without additional financial support, there will *not* be a Celebration in 2030. We need the City's assistance in securing long-term, sustainable sponsorship to keep this going, and we humbly ask for your help in doing so.

Thank you for your time and continued support,

by the people, for the people
The Evanston Fourth of July Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation

Tracy Alden, President
Evanston Fourth of July Association