



LEGAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Taylorsville City Council
FROM: Taylorsville City Attorney's Office
DATE: April 21, 2026

SUBJECT: *Legal Justification for Resolution Designating Valley Regional Park as an Area Where Orders to Disperse Are Authorized and Gang Loitering Is Prohibited During Taylorsville Dayzz 2026*

This memorandum provides legal analysis supporting the proposed City Council resolution designating Valley Regional Park as a restricted area for enforcement of orders to disperse and the prohibition of gang loitering during the Taylorsville Dayzz festival (June 25–27, 2026). The resolution is authorized by, and fully consistent with, Utah law. It is narrowly tailored to address documented concerns at this specific family-oriented event while protecting constitutional rights.

Legal Authority

Utah Code § 11-48-104 expressly authorizes a municipal legislative body to designate public places within its jurisdiction as areas where gang loitering is prohibited and subject to dispersal orders. Designation is permitted when criminal street gangs have been able to, or are attempting to: (a) establish control over the areas; (b) intimidate other individuals from entering the areas; or (c) conceal illegal activities conducted in the areas. Before designating an area, the legislative body must consult, as appropriate, with knowledgeable individuals, including members of local law enforcement agencies with training or experience related to criminal street gangs, other agency personnel familiar with gang activities in the proposed area, elected and appointed officials, and representatives of community-based organizations. The statute also requires procedures for periodic review and update of designations.

The proposed resolution satisfies these statutory requirements. It identifies Valley Regional Park—the traditional site of Taylorsville Dayzz—as the specific public place to be designated, limits the designation to the precise three-day period of the 2026 festival, and recites the required consultations with the Taylorsville Police Department, the gang task force, City Administration, and members of the City Council themselves. The resolution further directs the Police Department to conduct a post-event review and report back to the Council, fulfilling the statutory mandate for periodic review.

Enforcement procedures outlined in the resolution mirror the requirements of Utah Code § 53-25-602 and the penalties established in § 76-9-805. Officers must first inform the group of the prohibition, order dispersal, and advise of the consequences of noncompliance (including potential arrest and additional penalties for returning within eight hours). These steps ensure measured, step-by-step enforcement. Importantly, both the statute and the resolution expressly preserve individuals' constitutional rights to engage in protected collective advocacy activities.

Factual Basis and Public Safety Rationale

Taylorsville Dayzz is a long-standing, family-oriented community festival. Over more than twenty years, however, law enforcement has observed repeated instances in which individuals with known gang affiliations have sought to establish control over portions of the event at Valley Regional Park through fighting, intimidation, and other disruptive conduct. These activities have historically threatened the peaceful atmosphere and the safety of attendees. The designation of the park during the festival period is a targeted, time- and place-specific response to this recurring pattern at this particular event.

The Salt Lake Area Gang Project and Metro Gang Unit operations, we have identified consistent and escalating pattern of gang-related activity at public events throughout Salt Lake County, including events similar in nature to those hosted in Taylorsville.

A significant example illustrating the danger of gang presence occurred at WestFest in West Valley City last year. There was a gang-related quadruple homicide occurred during the event. An innocent infant bystander was killed. The incident also triggered multiple retaliatory shootings following the event.

Law enforcement intelligence also indicates that criminal street gangs sometimes time or escalate activity around symbolic dates—such as anniversaries of prior violent incidents, or other significant dates. Such dates can serve as internal triggers for commemoration, status-seeking, or retaliatory actions within ongoing cyclical disputes. Designating the festival period enables proactive, narrowly tailored enforcement to help maintain a safe environment for families and the broader community without broader or permanent restrictions on public spaces.

The Salt Lake Area Gang Project and Metro Gang Unit concluded that “there is a clear and compelling need for Taylorsville City to designate appropriate public areas where gang loitering is prohibited, and implement enforcement procedures consistent with Utah law.”

The resolution is content-neutral, limited in duration and geographic scope, and directly advances the substantial government interest in public safety, crowd control, and the prevention of violence at a major civic event. It imposes no restrictions on lawful expressive or associational activity beyond the specific prohibition on gang loitering as defined by statute.

Recommendation

The City Council may lawfully adopt the proposed resolution. Adoption will provide clear legal authority for the Taylorsville Police Department to utilize the dispersal procedures

authorized by state law during Taylorsville Dayzz 2026. City Administration and the Police Department should continue to coordinate with the City Attorney's Office on implementation, public notice, officer training, and the required post-event review.