

October 1, 2020

Mayor Christopher Taylor
Council Member Anne Bannister
Council Member Jeff Hayner
Council Member Jane Lumm
Council Member Kathy Griswold
Council Member Zachary Ackerman
Council Member Julie Grand
Council Member Jack Eaton
Council Member Elizabeth Nelson
Council Member Chip Smith
Council Member Ali Ramlawi

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Mayor Taylor and City Council Members:

I write to respectfully request your approval of a plan to mitigate public safety and security risks during the four University of Michigan home football games at Michigan Stadium this fall 2020. Specifically, a temporary closure of northbound South Main Street between Stadium Boulevard and Pauline Boulevard. Southbound Main Street will remain open.

The dates of the University of Michigan home football games are October 31, November 14 and 28, and December 5. The request is for the closure to be in effect one hour before the start of each game through one hour after the conclusion of each game. The football games are expected to begin at either noon, 3:30 p.m., or 7:30 p.m.

This year's street closure plan has been modified from previous years to account for the limited number of people in the stadium, while still maintaining security enhancements for public safety. Football games played inside Michigan Stadium will be nationally televised events with a large remote viewing audience. Maintaining public safety and security at Michigan Stadium and the surrounding area remains our highest priority. In addition to the improved stadium security, the closure of this portion of Main Street will enhance pedestrian safety and control to better limit people who may be circulating within the stadium area during games.

Advance communication is always conducted and no significant negative impacts have been observed or reported with previous street closures during events at Michigan Stadium.

In spring 2010, a collaborative and comprehensive vulnerability assessment of Michigan Stadium and game-day operations was completed. This was part of the National Critical Infrastructure Protection Program coordinated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Providing a vehicle-free zone around the perimeter of the Stadium during events is one of the recommendations of the assessment. The establishment of the zone would significantly reduce the opportunity for attack by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device or an assault using a motor vehicle, thus directly enhancing the safety of participants of the events as well as community members in the surrounding neighborhoods.

We have continued our assessment by collaborating with the Ann Arbor Police Department. I have also discussed this request with Police Chief Michael Cox. This temporary closure for northbound traffic is recommended as one of our security measures. In addition, the temporary soft closure of Keech Street would provide for another layer of security by restricting vehicle access on the north side of the stadium.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Seto
Deputy Director
Division of Public Safety and Security

c: City Administrator Tom Crawford
c: Chief of Police Michael Cox
c: Public Services Area Administrator Craig Hupy