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**NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of the Mayor**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 12, 2021

THE 59TH ANNUAL VALLEY OF FLOWERS HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR

After meeting with the Valley of Flowers organizers and the St. Louis County Department of Public Health it has been decided to cancel the 59th Annual Valley of Flowers festivities and the parade that was previously scheduled to start on Friday, May 7th.

Many of the restrictions in place in 2020 are still in place for 2021. The Festival Committee began work on 2021 activities in conjunction with the City of Florissant and the Saint Louis County Department of Health. It became apparent that the ongoing issues and restrictions of Covid-19 would cause the Festival activities to be drastically reshaped. After an initial meeting with the Saint Louis County Department of Health, we were informed that they will not authorize the Grand Parade for 2021.

In subsequent meetings with the County Department of Health, the County Health Department has indicated that the restrictions of social distancing, of requirement for masks and of limits on the number of attendees will have to be enforced if a Festival is to be approved by them. As a result, the Festival Committee and the City of Florissant regret that the Valley of Flowers Festival for 2021 has to be cancelled for the safety and well-being of the community.

The current pandemic situation remains fluid. Mayor Lowery and the Valley of Flowers organizers made this decision because keeping everyone safe and healthy is the ultimate priority.

Over the next two months the Festival committee will work with the City of Florissant to determine whether there are opportunities for “virtual Festival events” so that the spirit of the Festival weekend can be kept alive in the face of the pandemic limitations. For updated information please either visit www.florissantvalleyofflowers.com and/or www.florissantmo.com and all of the city’s social media outlets.