



Saint Patrick's Parade Committee of Manchester, Inc.

*PO Box 3567, Manchester, NH 03105
e-mail – saintpatsparadenh@gmail.com*

City Clerk's Office

JAN 15 2026

RECEIVED

January 14, 2026

Honorable Board of Mayor and Aldermen,
(Care of City Clerk)
CC: Ryan Cashin, Peter Marr, Tim Clougherty

In November, the members of the Manchester St. Patrick's Parade Committee became aware of a change, going forward, to the track of City parades, shortening the Veterans Day Parade, the Holiday Parade, the St. Patrick's Parade and the Memorial Day Parade to a length of approximately 2/5 of a mile. As a Committee, we later met with the Mayor, the Fire Chief, the Police Chief and their staff in this regard.

At conclusion, our Committee members said we would review and observe the Veterans Day Parade and the Holiday Parade, noting the number of their participants, their line ups and the staging of their units in the new designated areas. Many of our members did so, noting these aspects of the Holiday Parade. We all came away with similar feelings. Putting on a parade like ours, with up to 2,000 participants, using only the designated staging areas on and near Bridge Street, would represent many safety hazards and a logistical nightmare.

In December, after lengthy discussion, the Parade Committee agreed and so voted that unless we are given permission to utilize our original parade route, beginning at Salmon/Elm and ending at Central/Elm, we will not hold a 2026 St. Patrick's Parade. Not long after a letter to this effect was sent to the City Clerk, we were asked to again meet with those we met with previously.

In a January 8 meeting with the Mayor and the Fire Chief, the Police Chief and their staff, three options were presented for the conduct of the St. Patrick's Parade. The first and second options, which envisioned using the original Elm St. route from Salmon to Central, were not operationally and financially feasible, so the third option came into focus. The route was Bridge St. to Central St. on Elm, with larger staging areas in the vicinity of that intersection. While we do appreciate the recent planning efforts of those we met with and its graphics of related streets and assembly areas, we believe the short time frame now involved and the Parade Committee's lack of experienced volunteers to handle such a unique undertaking, we cannot safely and in an organized manner put on a parade the size and complexity of our St. Patrick's Parade.

Affirming what was decided in December, our Committee recently voted that we will not hold a 2026 St. Patrick's Parade. We would like to continue painting the shamrocks on Elm St., as well as supporting placement of the Irish flags all along Elm St., during the month of March.

Our Committee thanks the Mayor, the Fire Chief, the Police Chief and their staff for the time and effort recently expended and hopes the City of Manchester will again experience a St. Patrick's Parade in the future.

Sincerely, *D. Power For The Committee*

The Manchester St. Patrick's Parade Committee

(Daniel O'Neil, William Biser, Michael Dolphin, Brigit Ryan-Souza, James Walsh, Sean Markey, Yolande Walsh, Caitlin Curran, Dennis Walsh)