



## TOWN OF FREEPORT, MAINE

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OB #1 HALLOWEEN

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Freeport Town Council  
FROM: Peter Joseph, Town Manager   
DATE: 10/01/20  
RE: Halloween Safety Discussion at 10/06/20 Council Meeting

Earlier this week, Visit Freeport announced that the traditional 'Trick or Treat' run by downtown retailers will not happen this year due to concerns about drawing large crowds to the event which would not allow safe social distancing procedures. Town and Police Department staff agrees with Visit Freeport and the various retailers' assessment that the traditional trick or treat event would not be safe this year and supports their decision completely.

During this conversation, the topic of trick or treating outside of the village area also came up. As the various neighborhood trick or treats are not organized or sponsored by the Town or any other organized group, there is not anything that can be officially "cancelled" by the Town. Staff feels that the recent CDC guidance issued surrounding Halloween would support not participating in any face to face trick or treating, and would therefore discourage any organized trick or treating by neighborhoods, as it would not be safe in the current pandemic situation. However it should be noted that it does not appear that decentralized trick or treating would violate the standing executive orders related to events, so there would not be any regulation to enforce, even if the Town wished to actively discourage neighborhood trick or treating.